

OBD&EO **News Alert**



A Delaware River Port Authority/Port Authority Transit Corporation
Office of Business Development & Equal Opportunity Publication

Celebrating Religious Differences Awareness Month

Spotlight

Dawood Engineering, Inc.

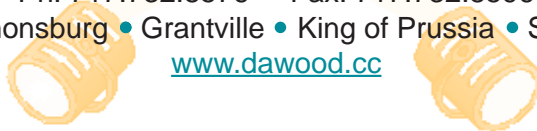
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As the youngest of three generations of engineers, determination and entrepreneurial spirit was the driving force for Bony Dawood, PE, to establish Dawood Engineering, Inc. (Dawood) in 1992. From its humble beginnings of a two person staff, Dawood has grown into a highly respected, multi-disciplinary consulting firm, spanning several offices across Pennsylvania with a staff of over 100. Dawood offers services such as Bridge Design, Highway Design, Marcellus/Energy Services, Traffic Engineering, Land Development, Municipal Services, Surveying, Environmental Services, and Geotechnical Engineering.

Because of their reputation in the industry, their experts are often called upon to solve complex problems, present at National conferences, and design solutions for everyday living. Dawood has had the opportunity to consult on several Delaware River Port Authority and Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission projects for various services, including bridge rehabilitation studies, condition surveys, right-of-way, and environmental. Dawood also routinely works with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 6-0, and played a significant role in the development of an ADA Manual for curb ramp design.

“One of our company’s greatest achievements is that Dawood has continued to grow within new service areas, markets, and regions through these difficult economic times and is well positioned for further expansion”. This sustained growth leads to additional opportunities for our staff and also attracts strong professionals from the engineering industry.” Bony Dawood, Principal.

Dawood is a certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) with the Pennsylvania Department of General Services, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the City of Philadelphia, and the City of Harrisburg.

“WE VALUE DIVERSITY”

US Labor Department seeks to improve job opportunities for Americans with Disabilities by setting Historic Hiring Goal for Federal Contractors and Subcontractors

(Reprinted with permission from the Department of Labor)

The U.S. Department of Labor is proposing a new rule that would require federal contractors and subcontractors to set a hiring goal of having 7 percent of their workforces be people with disabilities, among other requirements. The department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs invited public comment on this proposal, which will be published in the Dec. 9 edition of the Federal Register.

OFCCP's proposed rule would strengthen the affirmative action requirements established in Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 obligating federal contractors and subcontractors to ensure equal employment opportunities for qualified workers with disabilities. The proposed regulatory changes detail specific actions contractors must take in the areas of recruitment, training, record keeping and policy dissemination — similar to those that have long been required to promote workplace equality for women and minorities. In addition, the rule would clarify OFCCP's expectations for contractors by providing specific guidance on how to comply with the law.

Although Section 503 regulations have been in place for decades, the current unemployment rate for people with disabilities is 13 percent, 1 1/2 times the rate of those without disabilities. Even more discouraging, data published by the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics show stark disparities facing working-age individuals with disabilities, with 79.2 percent outside the labor force altogether, compared to 30.5 percent of those without disabilities.

Establishing a 7 percent hiring goal for the employment of individuals with disabilities would be a tool for contractors to measure the effectiveness of their affirmative action

efforts and thereby inform their decision-making. The proposed rule also would enhance data collection and record-keeping requirements — including for documentation and processing of requests for reasonable accommodation — in order to improve accountability. Additionally, it would ensure annual self-reviews of employers' recruitment and outreach efforts, and add a new requirement for contractors to list job openings to increase their pools of qualified applicants.

To read the notice of proposed rulemaking or submit a comment, visit the federal e-rulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Comments also can be submitted by mail to Debra Carr, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, Room C-3325, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. All comments must be received by Feb. 7, 2012, and should include identification number (RIN) 1250-AA02.

In addition to Section 503, OFCCP enforces Executive Order 11246 and the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974. As amended, these three laws require those who do business with the federal government, both contractors and subcontractors, to follow the fair and reasonable standard that they take affirmative action and not discriminate in employment on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, disability or status as a protected veteran. For general information, call OFCCP's toll-free helpline at 800-397-6251 or visit its website at <http://www.dol.gov/ofccp/>.

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Nearly \$35 Million to Improve Transportation Choices and Job Access for Military Families

*Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative recognizes unique challenges facing America's military on the home front
(Reprinted with permission from the Department of Labor)*

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced \$34.6 million for 55 projects in 32 states and Guam to enhance access to local, affordable transportation services for military families and spouses, and wounded warriors.

The announcement complements the Obama Administration's Joining Forces initiative led by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden. This comprehensive, national effort is mobilizing all sectors of society to give our service members and their families' employment opportunities and support.

Many military families live in suburban and rural communities where filling the gas tank

for long commutes is expensive and public transportation is limited. Projects funded by the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative will bridge the gap by enabling states and communities to build or expand so-called "one-click, one-call" centers that offer comprehensive information on local transportation options, and other community services, with just a single phone call or click of the mouse. Typically, such information is not available in one convenient place, and better local coordination will result in better services for veterans and nonveterans alike.

The grant selection process was highly competitive, and FTA reviewed 70 eligible proposals representing \$52 million in funding requests. Examples of key projects receiving federal funds include:

- \$2 million to the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority in central Massachusetts to expand an existing one-call center by adding agencies serving local veterans. The center will offer an array of traveler and community services and act as a one-stop shop to military families and spouses who need them.
- \$2 million to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to work with the state's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to create a network of four regional one-call centers and websites that bring individual transportation providers together into a regionally coordinated system to meet the needs of area military families, veterans, and others.

(continued on page 4)

- \$1.9 million to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority to implement a one-call/one-click transportation resource center. The project will expand access to the regional scheduling system via internet and phone and give veterans access to a multitude of regional transportation, including public transit, vanpools and private transportation companies.
- \$614,000 to the Colorado Department of Transportation to create an information and assistance center and a coordinated scheduling center for the Denver region, which is home to nearly 200,000 veterans. Veterans are closely involved in the planning process.
- \$608,000 to the Indian Nations Council of Governments in the Tulsa, Oklahoma region to create a coordinated one-call transportation center covering 26 counties, including Muskogee, where a VA Medical Center veterans' transportation service pilot project is under way. The center will use technology to connect numerous rural transit and veteran transportation providers as a way to assess and address ongoing transportation needs.

A complete list of funded projects is available at <http://fta.dot.gov/grants/13094.html>.

The Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative is led by the federal Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility, a permanent partnership of federal departments working together to better coordinate federal programs on behalf of people with disabilities, the elderly and low-income individuals. The Council is chaired by Secretary LaHood.

In addition to USDOT, the Department of Veterans Affairs is contributing up to \$3 million for the VA health care network to coordinate veterans' transportation needs with community transportation systems. The Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy is contributing \$250,000 for social media tools and training to include veterans and the military in community transportation decision-making. The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense are also lending critical support, in part through their extensive networks of community-based advocates. Additional in-kind support is provided by over a dozen national veteran service organizations.

This announcement supports President Obama's Veterans Employment Initiative, an ongoing effort to win major private sector commitments to veteran and military spouse employment. To date, 96 companies have formed a public-private partnership with the Department of Defense to hire military spouses. And more than 25 individual companies have stepped up and committed to veteran hiring or training targets, including, most recently, the American Logistics Association and its affiliates, which pledge to hire 25,000 veterans and spouses by the end of 2013. For more information visit: www.whitehouse.gov/joiningforces.



ANNUAL CONTRACT LISTINGS



Most annual procurement for goods (non-professional services) at the DRPA are usually for periods of one (1) year with an option to renew for an additional year. At the end of the first year, assuming the vendor's performance has been satisfactory, a DRPA Purchasing staff member will contact the vendor to request pricing information for the second year. If all conditions are in the best interest of the DRPA, the DRPA will exercise its option for a second year renewal with the vendor. At the end of the second year, the contract will be rebid on a competitive basis. If you are interested in pursuing any of the contracts identified below, please call Susan Squillace, Acting Manager, Procurement & Stores, DRPA/PATCO at (856) 968-2163.

2012 Annual Contracts for DRPA

SERVICE PRODUCTS

CONTRACT STATUS

1) Trash Removal (Solid, Non-Hazardous) for DRPA	DRPA may exercise its 3 rd year option in July 2013 .
2) Emergency Generator Maintenance for DRPA	Bid Process - This purchase will be up for competitive bid in March 2012 .
3) Lubricants for Bulk Storage Dispensing System for DRPA	DRPA may exercise its 2 nd year option in September 2012 .
4) Hazardous Waste Removal for DRPA / PATCO	DRPA may exercise its 3 rd year option in March 2013 .
5) Office Supplies Products for DRPA / PATCO	Bid Process - This purchase will be up for competitive bid in November 2012 .
6) Unleaded Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, & #2 Heating Oil for DRPA / PATCO	Bid Process - This purchase will be up for competitive bid in May 2012 .
7) Fuel Tank Maintenance for DRPA / PATCO	DRPA may exercise its 2 nd year option in October 2012 .
8) Traffic Cones for DRPA	Bid Process - This purchase will be up for competitive bid in October 2012 .
9) Moveable Maintenance Platform Maintenance	DRPA may exercise its 2 nd year option in November 2012 .
10) Extermination Services for DRPA	Bid Process - This purchase will be up for competitive bid in February 2012 .
11) Prescription Safety Glasses for DRPA	Bid Process - This purchase will be up for competitive bid in October 2012 .
12) Measure to Fit Police Uniforms for DRPA / PATCO	Bid Process - This purchase will be up for competitive bid in August 2012 .
13) One Year Supply Bottled Water for DRPA / PATCO	Bid Process - This purchase will be up for competitive bid in February 2012 .
14) Office Paper Products for DRPA / PATCO	Bid Process - This purchase will be up for competitive bid in October 2012 .



List of Annual Contracts for PATCO

For your information, we are providing you with a list of annual contracts for **PATCO**, along with their expiration dates. If you are interested in pursuing any of these contracts, please contact Thomas J. Zamorski, Purchasing Agent, **PATCO** at (856) 772-6914 or Susan Squillace, Acting Manager, Procurement, Records and Stores at (856) 968-2163.

SERVICE PRODUCTS

EXPIRATION DATE

Rental of Uniforms, Uniform Lockers,..... June 2012
Door & Floor Mats, Laundry and Cleaning

Industrial Refuse Disposal Services for PATCO September 2013
Lindenwold Maintenance Facility

Pest Control and Exterminating at PATCO January 2012

Upcoming Purchases for 2012

for DRPA

Nothing to Report



Questions regarding these or any other **DRPA** Purchases should be directed to Susan Squillace (DRPA Purchasing) at (856) 968-2163 or (215) 218-3750 ext. 2163.

for PATCO

Nothing to Report



Questions regarding these or any other **PATCO** Purchases should be directed to Thomas J. Zamorski (PATCO Purchasing) at (856) 772-6914 or (215) 992-4600 ext. 6914.

The following events are being hosted by the Women's Business Development Center (WBDC), 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1116, Philadelphia, PA 19107-4711

Pre-registration is required for all events listed, for more information please call (215)790-WBDC (9232) or fax (215)790-9231 or visit them on the web at www.womensbdc.org.

- ▶ **Orientation and Business Assessment Workshop** – **Date:** Thursday, January 12, Thursday, February 2, and Monday, March 5, 2012 **Time:** 6:00pm – 7:30pm, **Cost: Free** – this workshop is designed for women interested in starting or growing a business. Participants will complete a business development survey tool, discuss their business needs, learn about WBDC resources and meet other women business owners.
- ▶ **JumpStart: Before You Start** – **Date:** Thursday, February 9, 2012, **Time:** 5:45pm – 9:00pm, **Cost: \$35** – the workshop will help participants assess their risks, financial issues, and commitment; evaluate their potential as entrepreneurs; and help them analyze their business skills and business ideas.
- ▶ **JumpStart: Market Research** – **Date:** Thursday, February 16, 2012, **Time:** 6:00pm – 9:00pm, **Cost: \$35** – the workshop will teach prospective business owners how to assess the feasibility of their business ideas. Market Research can be taken individually or as part of the JumpStart workshop series which runs on 5 Thursday nights, from February 9 – March 8, 2012.
- ▶ **JumpStart: Financial Analysis** – **Date:** Thursday, February 23, 2012, **Time:** 6:00pm – 9:00pm, **Cost: \$35** – The workshop provides prospective business owners financial basics critical to business success. Financial Analysis can be taken individually or as part of the JumpStart workshop series which runs on 5 Thursday nights, from February 9 to March 8, 2012.
- ▶ **JumpStart: The Business Plan** – **Date:** Thursday, March 1, 2012, **Time:** 6:00pm – 9:00pm, **Cost: \$35** – this workshop helps prospective business owners plan for growth and profitability. The Business Plan can be taken individually or as part of the JumpStart workshop series which runs on 5 Thursday nights, from February 9 to March 8, 2012.
- ▶ **JumpStart: Business Launch** – **Date:** Thursday, March 8, 2012, **Time:** 6:00pm – 9:00pm, **Cost: \$35** – understand the legal, financial, insurance, employment and tax issues of starting a business. Business Launch can be taken individually or as part of the JumpStart workshop series which runs on 5 Thursday nights, from February 9 to March 8, 2012.
- ▶ **NxLevelL for Business Start-ups** – **Date:** Tuesdays, March 13, through May 15, 2012, **Time:** 6:00 – 9:30pm, **Cost: \$340** – a 10-module educational program designed for people who want to start a business, need the skills to test the feasibility of their business concept and create a business plan which acts as a blueprint for their start-up venture.
- ▶ **Finding Your Funding** – **Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012, **Time:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm, **Cost:** \$10, provides valuable information on financing options for your business.



OBD&EO Information Corner

- ☞ All interested subcontractors, subconsultants and suppliers are welcome to attend Pre-Bid and Pre-Proposal Meetings for DRPA projects, and briefly introduce yourselves to the contractors and consultants present. Information pertaining to these meetings is made available on our website at www.drpa.org/obdeo. Information on the project planholders and short-listed firms, can be found on the Bids and Contracts section at www.drpa.org. For more information call OBD&EO at (856) 968-2270.
- ☞ Don't forget to visit OBD&EO's web site at www.drpa.org/obdeo for contract opportunities and other important information.
- ☞ For upcoming events visit the **Other Events of Interest** section of our website.
- ☞ Our next edition of *News Alert* will be published on or about:
 - March 30, 2012
 - June 29, 2012
 - September 28, 2012

Office of Business Development & Equal Opportunity

Mission Statement:

A group of committed individuals dedicated to pursuing equal employment and contracting opportunities for everyone.

Questions or comments concerning OBD&EO's News Alert may be directed to:

(856) 968-2266 or (215) 218-3750 ext. 2266

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