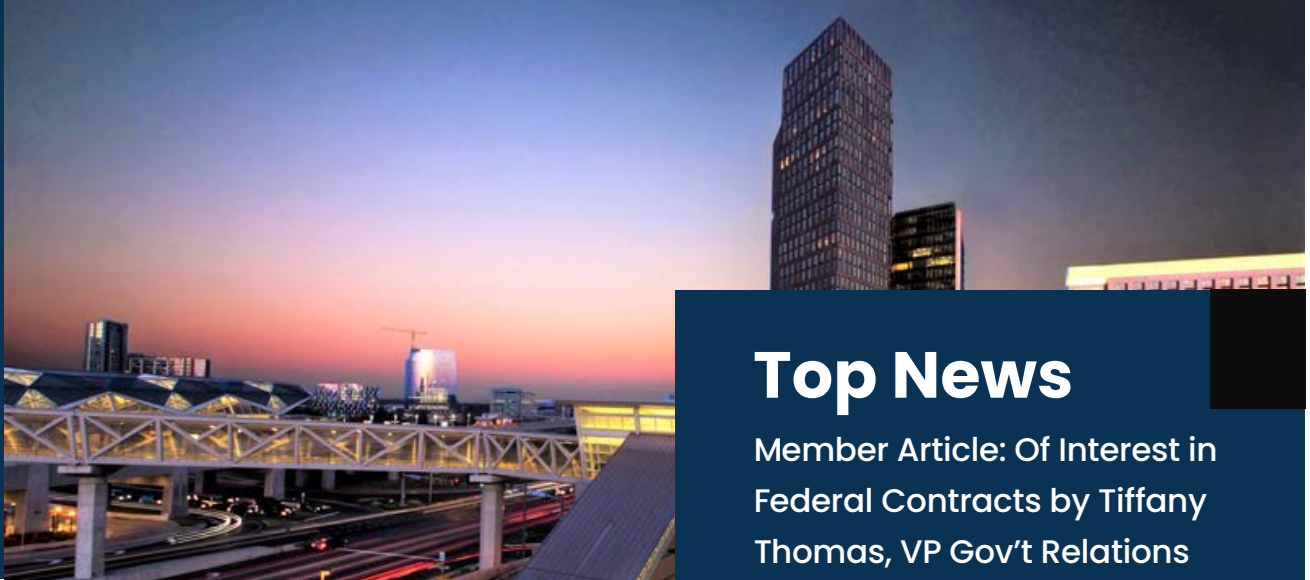


NCMA TYSONS NEWSLETTER

WWW.NCMATYSONS.ORG



October 2025



NCMA Tysons Monthly Talks

Welcome to the October 2025 edition of our chapter newsletter! This month is packed with exciting updates, highlights, and events.

We'll recap our recent get-togethers, shine a light on some of our amazing members, and share details on upcoming events. Read on to discover member achievements, upcoming events, and more!

Top News

Member Article: Of Interest in Federal Contracts by Tiffany Thomas, VP Gov't Relations

Announcing New Members, Call for Sponsors, and Call for Volunteers.

Event Recaps, Chapter Updates, and More!





✨ NCMA Tysons: Celebrating Our New Members ✨

Welcome New Members!

We're thrilled to have you join our community! Your membership connects you with a network of professionals, resources, and opportunities to learn, grow, and lead. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and engaging with you as we continue to strengthen our chapter together.

Jennifer Jenkins

Moira McLaughlin

Zachary DuBose

Zahidullah Safi

Monica Hernandez Arevalo

Teresa Bond

Everyone, please give a warm Tyson's Chapter welcome to the new members of our community. We cannot wait to see what great things you will do! Cheers!

Team Tysons Flies Past Our Fundraising Goal!

On September 8th, NCMA Tysons proudly surpassed a significant milestone—**raising \$2,725** in support of the Special Olympics! Not only did we meet our \$2,500 goal, but **we exceeded it by \$225**.

A Special Thank You

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Al Lister, whose remarkable donation pushed us over the finish line. Al's consistent dedication and generosity exemplify the values of leadership and service that inspire us all.

Beyond the Celebration

While this is undoubtedly a time to celebrate, it's also a time to remember the greater purpose: the funds raised directly benefit the Special Olympics, creating opportunities and experiences for athletes and families. As a chapter, we're not only building professional excellence, but also giving back to our community in a lasting way.



Thank you to all who donated and participated- we could not have done it without you all!!



Event Recap

September 13th Event Recap

As federal agencies continue to raise the bar on cybersecurity, the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) has become a critical requirement for government contractors. At the same time, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming how organizations manage compliance, risk, and security.

This session, facilitated by guest speaker Eric Crusius, Partner & Government Contracts Practice Chair, explored the intersection of CMMC and AI- examining how contractors can harness emerging technologies to streamline compliance efforts, strengthen cybersecurity postures, and remain competitive in today's government contracting environment.

Attendees gained insights into:

- The latest CMMC 2.0 requirements and their impact on contractors across the Defense Industrial Base (DIB).
- How AI-driven tools can support continuous monitoring, threat detection, and compliance documentation.
- Practical strategies for integrating AI into compliance workflows without increasing risk or complexity.
- The future of government contracting in a landscape where cybersecurity, compliance, and technology converge.

The night was a total success! Thank you again to Eric Crusius for the informative presentation, and thank you to all who attended!





Of Interest in Federal Contracts by Tiffany Thomas.

FAR Overhaul:

“The goal is clear. faster acquisitions, greater competition, and better results.”

[FAR Overhaul – Part 2 | Acquisition.GOV](#)

[FAR Overhaul – Part 3 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 11, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 7 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 4, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 8 | Acquisition.GOV](#) August 29, 2025 (update)

[FAR Overhaul – Part 13 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 18, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 14 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 25, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 15 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 30, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 16 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 30, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 17 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 11, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 19 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 26, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 22 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 30, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 23 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 30, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 24 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 4, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 25 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 30, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 27 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 11, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 28 | Acquisition.GOV](#) August 28, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 30 | Acquisition.GOV](#) August 28, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 32 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 30, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 37 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 25, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 41 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 25, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 42 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 30, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 44 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 4, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 45 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 11, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 47 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 25, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 48 | Acquisition.GOV](#) August 28, 2025

[FAR Overhaul – Part 52 | Acquisition.GOV](#)

[FAR Overhaul – Part 53 | Acquisition.GOV](#) September 30, 2025

To the left is a list of links which lead to summaries of the September FAR updates for the corresponding part.

Click on each link to read



Of Interest in Federal Contracts contd.

GAO Decisions:

Enviremedial Services, Inc. | U.S. GAO

The GAO's decision in the case of Enviremedial Services, Inc. (ESI) has significant implications for federal government contracting, particularly in how agencies evaluate past performance and conduct best-value tradeoffs. From the government's perspective, the ruling underscores the need for rigorous documentation and consistency in source selection decisions. The GAO sustained ESI's protest, finding that the Army Corps of Engineers had unreasonably credited past performance to the awardee, BryMak & Associates, for contracts not clearly performed as a prime contractor or by a verified team member. Additionally, the agency's best-value tradeoff was deemed flawed for relying too heavily on adjectival ratings without a qualitative comparison of proposals. This decision signals to federal agencies that failure to follow solicitation criteria and properly document evaluations can invalidate awards, potentially delaying mission-critical procurements and increasing administrative burdens.

From the contractor's perspective, the decision reinforces the importance of clear and compliant proposal submissions, especially regarding past performance. Contractors must ensure that all referenced contracts meet the solicitation's criteria, such as being performed as a prime contractor or by a disclosed team member, and that any affiliations or joint ventures are properly explained. The ruling also highlights that even small pricing differences (in this case, 2.1%) may not justify awarding a contract if the technical evaluation favors another offeror, especially when the agency's tradeoff rationale does not support the decision.

Island Peer Review Organization, Inc., d/b/a IPRO | U.S. GAO

The GAO decision in Island Peer Review Organization, Inc., sustained a protest against the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), for awarding a task order to Superior Health Quality Alliance under the QIO program. The protest centered on CMS's evaluation of Superior Health's proposal under the QIO eligibility assessment. GAO found that CMS's evaluation lacked sufficient documentation to demonstrate that Superior Health met the eligibility requirements based on the merits and structure of its own organization, as required by the solicitation. Superior Health, structured as an unpopulated joint venture, appeared to rely on its member organizations, which were treated as subcontractors in parts of its proposal, to meet eligibility criteria, which violated the solicitation's explicit instruction to evaluate only the prime contractor's qualifications.

For agencies, this decision underscores the necessity of maintaining thorough and consistent documentation during proposal evaluations, especially when assessing eligibility criteria that serve as gatekeeping functions. Failure to do so not only undermines the integrity of the procurement process but also exposes the agency to sustained protests and potential reprocurement. For contractors, particularly joint ventures and consortiums, the ruling clarifies that eligibility must be demonstrated through the prime entity's own structure and experience, not through affiliated or member organizations unless explicitly permitted. This places a premium on clear organizational delineation and compliance with solicitation instructions.



Of Interest in Federal Contracts contd.

Final Rules:

Federal Register :: Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Assessing Contractor Implementation of Cybersecurity Requirements (DFARS Case 2019-D041)

The final rule published on September 10, 2025, amends the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to implement the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program. This rule establishes contractual requirements for defense contractors to verify their cybersecurity posture when handling Federal Contract Information (FCI) or Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). It mandates that contractors maintain a current CMMC status—either through self-assessment or third-party certification—based on the level of sensitivity of the data they process. The rule also introduces a phased implementation timeline, with full compliance required by November 10, 2028, and includes detailed procedures for affirming compliance, reporting changes, and flowing down requirements to subcontractors.

Key updates include clarified definitions (e.g., “current,” “CMMC UID”), streamlined reporting obligations via the Supplier Performance Risk System (SPRS), and removal of duplicative or burdensome notification requirements based on public feedback. The rule emphasizes that contracting officers must verify CMMC status before awarding or extending contracts and outlines specific clauses and provisions to be included in solicitations. It also addresses concerns about small business impacts, international applicability, and subcontractor compliance, aiming to strengthen cybersecurity across the defense industrial base while minimizing disruption and cost.

FASCSA Orders:

On September 18, 2025, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) issued an indefinite exclusion of Acronis AG (UEI=YX9GLSWJ2L34 & CAGE=SCLS4) including all subsidiaries, affiliates, and entities operating under its name, under the Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act (FASCSA). This exclusion applies retroactively to July 11, 2025 to all procurement actions within the Intelligence Community (IC). It also requires the removal of Acronis products from information systems.

The order in sam.gov reads: *FASCSA Order--Acronis and all subordinate, subsidiary, or affiliated organizations doing business under various names in support of the parent company, Acronis AG (Acronis), that the DNI has issued an order to exclude Acronis from all Intelligence Community (IC) executive agency procurement actions. It further orders the removal of covered articles provided by Acronis from information systems applicable to the IC and sensitive compartmented information systems. This order was issued pursuant to the Federal Acquisition Supply Chain Security Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-390, title II; codified at 41 U.S.C. §§ 1321-1328. The basis for this order pertains to information as was relayed to Acronis in the Notice to Source document.*



Chapter Updates

Temporarily Paused – WOSB READY PROGRAM

The VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) would like to thank all stakeholders for their ongoing participation in and support of the WOSB Ready Program, previously referred to as Operation Parachute. This initiative has been instrumental over the past few months in empowering, educating, and elevating Women-Owned Small Businesses (WOSB) in the realm of federal contracting.

As we look back on the program's progress, we reaffirm our belief in the unique value that WOSBs bring to the VA marketplace. By combining innovation, resilience, and mission-focused solutions, WOSB helps agencies fulfill their missions and deliver better outcomes for Veterans.

Due to end-of-fiscal-year obligations, we must temporarily pause the WOSB Ready Program. During this brief pause, we will take the time to reevaluate how we are doing with providing the best possible service by assessing our progress, strengthen our outreach, and ensure that the program continues to deliver meaningful results in a dynamic small business landscape.

In the meantime, we encourage you to utilize the numerous resources available through the VA OSDBU, including our on-demand training library on YouTube. These resources, available anytime at www.va.gov/osdbu, are designed to help you build procurement readiness at your own pace.

We appreciate your understanding and remain committed to supporting the success of all WOSBs. We will share updates as soon as the program is ready to resume.

If you have any immediate questions or require assistance, please contact us at OSDBUWVOSB@va.gov. Thank you for being an integral part of our community. We look forward to sharing exciting new opportunities with you soon.



Chapter Updates

Calling All Change-Makers, Business Leaders, and Community Builders

At NCMA Tysons, we don't just host events—we create robust platforms that celebrate excellence, uplift communities, and drive lasting change.

From dynamic networking receptions to youth mentorship initiatives, your sponsorship fuels real impact—and puts your brand front and center with an audience that values purpose and progress.

- High-visibility sponsorship opportunities
- Connect with diverse professionals and leaders
- Support causes that matter
- Be recognized for the difference you make

Whether you're a small business owner or a Fortune 500 partner, we have a space for you at the table.

Let's talk sponsorship. Let's make an impact.

Email sponsorship@ncmatysons.org to learn more.

Partnership in Action: Supporting Our Communities

As a proud long-standing partner of the Virginia Minority Chamber, Inc., NCMA Tysons stands in solidarity with their commitment to supporting Virginia's workers, families, and small businesses affected by the federal government shutdown.

VAMC continues to provide career support, small business resources, and strong advocacy through its Workforce Development and Minority Business Readiness Programs.

Learn more and access resources here:
[Government Shutdown resources](#)





Chapter Updates

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Currently, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. Over 11 million family and friends provide their unpaid care. We need your help to end this devastating disease. YOU can make an impact.

On Sunday October 12th, NCMA Tysons will walk to raise funds and awareness for the care, support, and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association®. This walk is the largest event of its kind, held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, and our team is excited to participate!

Donate or join our team to fight to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

- Sunday, October 12th, 2025. Check in is at 8:00 AM.
- Reston Town Center | 11900 Market St Reston, Virginia 20190
- Sign Up or Donate here: [End Alzheimer's](https://www.alz.org/walk)

Your kindness and generosity truly make a difference. Thank you for your support!



Help NCMA Tysons Chapter keep the momentum going in your community!

NCMA Tysons Chapter is fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease.

Donate to support NCMA Tysons Chapter.

Scan the QR code and make an online donation today. All money raised through Walk to End Alzheimer's benefits the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association.



2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Northern Virginia
Reston, VA
October 12, 2025

Join us at alz.org/walk

For 24/7 Alzheimer's care and support, call 800.272.3900.



Call for Instructors & Facilitators

NCMA Tysons Chapter is seeking instructors and facilitators to lead upcoming dinner meetings, hybrid sessions, and virtual training sessions for the 2025 program year. We're looking for dynamic professionals who can share expertise on topics such as:

- FAR & DFARS Updates
- CMMC Implementation & Compliance
- AI, Automation, and Acquisitions
- Small Business Contracting Strategies
- Emerging Trends in Procurement & Program Management
- AI & Subcontract Management

Whether you're interested in leading a panel discussion, hosting a training session, or facilitating a specialized workshop, we'd love to hear from you.

Would you be interested in participating? Please get in touch with us at programs@ncmatysons.org to join us in advancing our contracting community through learning and collaboration.

See How the “Secret Sauce” Is Made — Join Our Monthly Board Meetings

Ever wondered how chapter initiatives come together behind the scenes? We invite **all** members to join us at our monthly board meetings to see the process in action. Participation is simple:

1. Visit our [Chapter Website](#)
2. Navigate to the Events page.
3. View the Calendar of Events to find upcoming board meeting dates.
4. Register for a free ticket that secures your spot.

By attending, you'll gain firsthand insight into how decisions are made, how programs are shaped, and how we collaborate to serve our members and the broader contracting community.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to stay informed and engaged with your chapter leadership.

Thank you to our Partners!



Thank you to our Sponsors!



unison

Upcoming

Events

- October 12, Walk to End Alzheimer's
 - Date TBD Women Giving Back
 - October 21 – Dinner Meeting (TBD)
 - October 23rd, 2025 – Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
 - October 31, 2025 – Halloween!
- More to come!

*"Move forward.
Good things are
up ahead."*

SIGN UP TODAY



Empowering Futures, Deepening Bridges, and Renewing Purpose.

 @ncmatysons

 www.ncmatysons.org

CALL TO ACTION

EMBRACE THE ERA OF RENEWAL! EMPOWERING FUTURES & BUILDING BRIDGES



Get Involved

Volunteer your time and talents to support our initiatives.

outreach@ncmatysons.org



Attend Events

Join us for our upcoming events and network with our community.

programs@ncmatysons.org



Sponsorship

Consider becoming a sponsor. Your sponsorship will enable us to continue our vital work and reach even more individual needs.

sponsorship@ncmatysons.org



Spread the Word

Repost and engage with our Social Media accounts. Share this newsletter and invite others to get involved.

Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact on our community.
We look forward to your participation and support.