Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2026

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Northern Virginia Chamber Announces 2026 GovCon Awards Finalists

Vienna, VA – The **Northern Virginia Chamber (NVC)** and **George Mason University**'s **Costello College of Business Greg and Camille Baroni Center for Government Contracting** announced the finalists for the 24th Annual **Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards® (GovCon Awards)** during the invitation-only GovCon Awards Finalists Reception on Thursday, August 27, 2026, at the Westwood Country Club.

The Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards® Gala in November convenes more than 1,000 industry and government leaders, recognizing the exceptional companies, executives, and rising stars whose leadership, innovation, and achievements have helped shape this critical industry.

This year's finalists include:

Contractor of the Year (Up to $25 million):

- APV
- Contact Government Services
- L.S. Caldwell & Associates
- ThinkTek
- Tridentis

Contractor of the Year ($25 to $75 million):

- Amivero
- KIHOMAC
- Procon Consulting
- Quantum Leap Research
- ShorePoint

Contractor of the Year ($75 to $300 million):

- DCCA
- **MetroStar Systems***
- Patriot Group International
- PingWind
- Steampunk

Contractor of the Year (Greater Than $300 million):

- Amentum
- **CACI International***
- **LMI***
- **MANTECH***
- **Noblis***

Executive of the Year (Up to $75 million):

- Loretta Caldwell, President & CEO, L.S. Caldwell & Associates
- Adam Grimm, President & COO, KIHOMAC
- Nick McCarter, CEO, Chartis Federal

- James “Jim” Miller, President & CEO, Quantum Leap Research
- Tim Tkacz, CEO, Blue Sky Innovators

Executive of the Year ($75 to $300 million):

- Greg Craddock, CEO, Patriot Group International
- **Gautam Ijoor, President & CEO, Alpha Omega***
- **Lawrence Melton, President & CEO, The Building People***
- Aaron Moak, CEO, PingWind
- David Popelier, CEO, Acclaim Technical Services

Executive of the Year (Over $300 million):

- Tim Borchert, CEO, Tria Federal
- **Mile Corrigan, President & CEO, Noblis***
- Matt Desch, CEO, Iridium Communications
- John Steckel, CEO, AMERICAN SYSTEMS
- **Josh Wilson, CEO, LMI***

** Members of the Northern Virginia Chamber*

The Program of the Year and Public Sector Partner of the Year finalists will be announced at the November Awards Gala. The 2026 LaFleur-Chason Hall of Fame Inductee announcement is forthcoming. ***Learn more about the award categories here.***

“Today’s finalists represent the very best of an industry that delivers mission success and strengthens our economy,” said **NVC President & CEO Julie Coons**. Federal contracting supports more than 441,000 jobs across Virginia, with nearly two-thirds of federal contract dollars flowing through Northern Virginia. As the nation's top state for federal contracting, Virginia's talent and leadership support economic growth. We are proud to celebrate this industry and congratulate all finalists and applicants whose work continues to contribute to our prosperity and support our country's most vital priorities.”

“The Greg & Camille Baroni Center for Government Contracting is proud to serve as the Northern Virginia Chamber’s strategic partner for this year’s Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards,” said **The Greg and Camille Baroni Center for Government Contracting’s Executive Director Mike Derrios**. “These finalists represent the very best of the GovCon community, and their innovation, performance, and commitment to the public mission strengthen both our region and the federal marketplace. We congratulate each of them on this well-earned recognition and look forward to celebrating their accomplishments.”

The 2026 GovCon Awards Nominating Committee, co-chaired by Jamie Graham, Director of Business Development, **KippsDeSanto & Co.**, and Mandy Wheat, Partner, **RSM**, received over 100 applications for this year’s awards. After careful deliberation by the Selection Panel, the applicants were then narrowed down to the 35 finalists recognized at last night’s reception.

“The applications we received spotlighted the people, organizations, and leaders shaping the future of government contracting,” said Graham. We saw strong growth among applicants, with several companies reporting significant year-over-year revenue gains. That reflects a broader trend of companies successfully scaling their operations and expanding their market presence despite a challenging economic climate. I encourage the govcon community to join us in November as we celebrate our finalists and recognize our industry’s exceptional achievements.”

“This year's GovCon Awards applicants made it clear that resilience drives success,” said Wheat. Organizations across the government contracting community are investing in their people and leveraging technologies such as AI, augmented reality, and automation to address real mission challenges. As we approach the GovCon Awards’ 25th anniversary, we remain committed to evolving the program alongside our industry and recognizing the leaders and organizations helping shape its future.”

The 2026 **Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards®** gala will be hosted on Thursday, November 5, 2026, at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner. To attend as a member of the press, contact NVC Vice President of Marketing and Communications **Alexis Reed**.

For more information about this year's GovCon Awards, please visit the **event page**.

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About NVC

For over 100 years, the Northern Virginia Chamber (NVC) — the largest and most influential chamber in Greater Washington — has driven innovation and economic growth. NVC has championed key developments such as Metro, Dulles Airport, and George Mason University. Representing nearly 400 members, NVC continues to lead on affordability, workforce, and regional development through NOVA Roadmap and exclusive programming and events. Learn more at www.nvcbusiness.org.