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U.S. Small Business Administration

For StormCenter Communications, Inc. mapping out and achieving success through the SBIR program seems like a natural fit. In 2010, a Phase I SBIR award provided R&D funding for early stage, high-risk technology development based on emerging map and GIS technologies that allow for big data analysis on interactive maps. As a result of work by Rafael Ameller, CTO at StormCenter who was responsible for the company's SBIR efforts, and the SBIR award, which provided R&D funding for early stage, high-risk technology development, StormCenter was able to develop GeoCollaborate™, a patent-pending tactical collaborative geospatial intelligence solution. The technology is not only focused on incremental advances to the map and GIS technologies in place today; it also revolutionizes how humans interact with maps, data and people at the same time.



STORMCENTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Phases I, II and II-E NASA and Phase III NOAA SBIR funding has allowed StormCenter to continue to add strategic talent to support its growth and innovations long-term - since receiving its SBIR award, the company has doubled its staff. StormCenter is now in Phase III of the SBIR program, which allows federal agencies to contract for work in several areas on a sole-source basis with no further justification or approval required. These areas include collaborative cross-platform virtual globe collaboration; visualization of earth science data using 3-D virtual globes; real-time collaboration using geobrowsers; and innovation, training, and support related to any of these topics. The company sees a broad spectrum of applications for GeoCollaborate™ in fields as diverse as homeland security, weather forecasting, transportation, energy management, and education.

In 2013, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) awarded StormCenter a 5-year indefinite delivery indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract with an initial task order for a proof-of-concept project to allow the NWS Sterling, VA Weather Field Office to collaborate with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) operations center while each used its own common operating picture. In 2014, StormCenter contracted with the United Kingdom's Meteorological Office (in Essex, England) for a similar demonstrator employing the Met Office's Hazard Manager. By making mapping platforms more relevant and usable, not only is the company benefitting from having a competitive edge against larger well-established forms, strong industry players such as Northrop Grumman are partnering with StormCenter for future efforts. The company is also a small business graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) incubator program and currently occupies a suite of offices in UMBC's bwtech@UMBC: Research and Technology Park.

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