

Kennedy team earns NASA's small business award

By Frank Ochoa-Gonzales

Editor

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The Kennedy team has a lot to be proud of and it recently added another accomplishment to its list: winner of the NASA Small Business Administrator's Cup Award for Fiscal Year 2009.

On April 5, NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden and Office of Small Business Programs Associate Administrator Glenn Delgado presented the cup to Center Director Bob Cabana, Small Business Specialist Larry Third and Procurement Office Director Dudley Cannon.

"The NASA Office of Small Business Programs is extremely proud to present the 2009 Administrator's Cup Award to the Kennedy Space Center and to recognize the center's small business program, which consistently develops and implements innovative practices in support of the agency's small business initiatives," Delgado said.

VIPs who attended the event in the Operations and Checkout Building's mission briefing room included NASA Associate Administrator Christopher Scolese; Joseph Jordan, Small Business Administration associate administrator of Government Contracting and Business Development; Mitchell Morand, Area III director of the Small Business Administration's Office of Government Contracting; and Walter Wallace, SBA Procurement Center representative for Kennedy. Kennedy senior staff members, procurement personnel, prime contractors and Central Industry Assistance Office staff also attended.

"A special thanks goes out to the entire KSC team for making the small business program what it is today. With the team's continued support, I feel confident that the KSC small business program will become even stronger, which in turn, will make the agency program even stronger," Third said.

The purpose of the award is to honor the significant contributions that a NASA center has made to the agency's small business program. The award recognizes successful and innovative practices that promote small business participation in the initiatives that NASA undertakes. The innovative practices that helped Kennedy receive this award include:

- Restructuring the Joint Base Operations Support Contract, resulting in four additional awards to small business firms. These four awards alone contribute in excess of \$100 million annually toward the center's small business goals.
- Joint Counseling -- A place where vendors are able to talk with representatives from Kennedy and its major prime contractors under one roof without having to be cleared and badged into Kennedy's secured areas. The goal of joint counseling is to provide private industry the maximum opportunity to do business with Kennedy and to present the ultimate team image. Kennedy is the first in the agency to offer joint counseling, and it now is being implemented across the agency.
- Kennedy Prime Contractor Board -- Kennedy and its prime contractors are committed to increasing competition in contracting, enhancing socioeconomic programs and providing private industry the maximum opportunity to do business at the center. In order to demonstrate this commitment, Kennedy and its prime contractors joined forces to create a forum, offering "One Face to Industry." From that, the Kennedy Prime Contractor Board was formed.

The NASA Small Business Administrator's Cup recognizes the NASA center that has the best overall small business program annually and is sponsored by the NASA Office of Small Business Programs.