

STAY CONNECTED WITH DIGITAL APEX

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER/VOL. 2 NO. 3/JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Stakeholders,

Upcoming Engagements

Digital APEX is currently working with Missions on the following new engagements. These timelines are tentative and subject to change, but are provided to allow Bullpen members that are interested in this work to begin planning. In each engagement we expect to require a local partner who can conduct appropriate cybersecurity training, and a mechanism to conduct network vulnerability assessments. A new element is that we will expect the winning offeror to oversee the full spectrum of KnowBe4 training – beginning with collecting the information necessary to enroll the students, assigning and monitoring the completion of the initial round of training, and determining follow on training – prior to providing any bespoke or advanced training. More details will follow as planning progresses.

OPPORTUNITY	ANTICIPATED RFP DATE
Guatemala	October 16, 2020
Bangladesh	October 30, 2020
Nicaragua	mid November 2020
Kenya	early January 2021
El Salvador	early January 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of the Digital APEX Bulletin, and happy New (fiscal) Year.

We just closed out our first year of operations and want to thank everyone who has made this year a success, beginning with our partners in the Bullpen. Your dedication, innovation, and drive in supporting the PMO and our mission has been noticed at the highest levels of USAID and is truly appreciated. We are very grateful to have each and every one of you working alongside us.

We also appreciate the Mission personnel who have shown their faith in our PMO by engaging with us and helping us develop a deeper understanding of the challenges their beneficiary organizations face, thereby helping us develop better programming to address those challenges. There's not enough space in this newsletter to list you all by name and Mission, but I will call out Chris Daly, EXO in Sri Lanka, as our very first Mission partner who truly took a leap of faith in a brand new PMO last November.

Finally, we cannot close this without thanking our sponsors in DC, most especially Harry Bader, Linda Leary, and Maurice Kent. Your vision of a program that would improve the cybersecurity posture of AID beneficiaries worldwide became Digital APEX. Thank you for trusting PMCG and for your support and guidance as we work to make it a reality.

Sincerely,
DIGITAL APEX TEAM

#PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



As you recall from the last newsletter we introduced a new section to our newsletter, each quarter we will profile a partner from the bullpen. If you are interested in being profiled please send a short description of your services suitable for distribution to USAID Washington and Missions worldwide. For the third quarter newsletter, we would like to feature Stratigos Security



Stratigos Security was founded in April 2012 to promote strategic and holistic approaches to security for its clients. This means taking a broad view across the organization, and in the long view, to see how and where security fits into the broader context. That is different from how many information security programs are run – compartmentalized internally and isolated from other parts of the organization. The mission of the company is to help our clients succeed by understanding and mitigating information security risks. Stratigos Security provides information security services to several different types of clients. They work with organizations of many different sizes and industries. Currently, Stratigos Security implementing Digital APEX's Cyber Assessment and Training Program in Kyrgyzstan.

ONGOING ENGAGEMENTS

Network Assessment and Training

KYRGYZSTAN -A series of investigations by several Kyrgyz media outlets highlighting corruption schemes in the country has resulted in increased pressure on civil society and media. These investigations have led to large public protests, cyber attacks, threats, and physical attacks against journalists. Digital APEX selected U.S based cybersecurity firm Stratigos Security to provide robust cybersecurity training and network assessments and will provide new hardware and licensed software. In addition, we have established an Emergency Incident Response mechanism for affected journalists and civil society groups. Digital APEX Program and Stratigos Security started their partnership in Kyrgyzstan on July 2020 and will continue until 31 July 2021.

COLOMBIA - With an increasing number of cyberattacks the USAID Mission in Colombia requested that Digital APEX provide training and network assessment for beneficiaries in Colombia. Digital APEX's activity will be implemented under the name CIPHER (Cybersecurity Integration for Partners and Hacking Emergency Response), per request of the USAID Mission. Digital APEX program selected U.S based firm BIXAL to work with approximately 49 programs and 149 participants for cyber training. Approximately ten of these programs will receive a detailed cyber assessment and remediation. This engagement started on 01 October 2020 and will continue until 31 September 2021.

Social Media and Disinformation

GEORGIA- Over the past few years, Georgia has been the target of high-profile cyberattacks which have affected about 2000 web pages, including those of the Government of Georgia, and leaked personal data of Georgian citizens. Digital APEX has partnered with the U.S firm Agenda Global, working to engage various beneficiaries in improving their understanding of the dangers of social media and how to minimize their risks. Our second partner, U.S based cybersecurity firm, root9B, is working with those same beneficiaries to improve their network security and basic cybersecurity hygiene practices. Digital APEX started its engagement in Georgia on July 2020 and planning to continue until 31 July 2021.

HOW TO JOIN THE APEX BULLPEN / CONTACT



If your company is interested in joining our subcontractors list send an email to: APEX@PMConsultingGroupLLC.com and request an invitation to the APEX Bullpen induction process. Be sure to include your DUNS number in the email.

All prospective companies must be registered with the System for Awards Management (SAM) (<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>)