Forget Hope: TAKING STRATEGIC ACTION FOR PROPOSAL SUCCES





KRYSTN MACOMBER

CP APMP Fellow, LEED AP Summit Strategy Founder + CEO

- >> 20+ years of experience
- East Coast, West Coast, Midwest, International experience
 B2G + B2B
- >> Developed holistic sales process + infrastructure
- >> Led marketing/pursuit teams as small as 2 + as large as 20
- >> Certified proposal practitioner + APMP Fellow
- >> Competitive + driven to find the winning solutions
- >> APMP Global Chair | 2021



BANK OF AMERICA GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING GROUP CHRISTA WILLIAMS

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WHY ARE YOU HERE?

> 1. Struggling to win new business

2. Tired of writing repetitive proposals
3. Difficulty standing out from your competitors

4. Lack of business development strategy

THERE'S A BETTER (EASIER) WAY



KEYS TO A WINNING PROPOSAL

Compliant Compelling

Clear

Credible

KEYS TO A WINNING PROPOSAL

Compliant

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE RFP

even if it makes no sense 🗸

KEYS TO A WINNING PROPOSAL

Compelling

SHOULD THE CLIENT SELECT YOU INSTEAD OF EVERYONE ELSE?

COMMON MISTAKES

Providing too much information

Clients will have a hard time figuring out what you're selling Not describing value from client's perspective Failing to identify what's different about us

Why should the client care?

You'll sound just like everyone else out there.

DEFINE YOUR VALUE PROPOSITION

ISSUE

The client's challenge or problem. AKA pain point, hot button.

FEATURE

Tangible things and solutions you bring to solve those problems.

BENEFIT

Why your features are important to them. AKA the so what factor.

PROOF

Evidence your claims are true. AKA prove it or lose it.

What does the client want?



HEY! THIS IS NOT ABOUT YOU.

SAY MY NAME, SAY MY NAME



WHERE TO PUT YOUR WORDS

Give your readers as much information as possible as soon as possible. To hell with suspense.

- Kurt Vonnegut, 8 Rules for Writing a Short Story

In a single page, put the most compelling information in the first paragraph.

In a paragraph, put the most important idea in the first sentence.

Use callout boxes to summarize or highlight information.



CARES ONE CARES We are pleased to pr pro posal....





We are pleased to submit this proposal to the FAA. On the following pages, we have provided our technical proposal to address all RFP requirements. As the FAA's partner on this upcoming project, Summit will use our 32 years of experience to help you....



The FAA is tasked with a life-changing mission to As your strategic partner, Summit will use our 32 years of experience to help you



FOCUS ON WHAT THEY WANT/NEED

Dear Mr. Doe and Members of the Selection Committee:

The National Institute of Whatever (NIW) seeks a firm who can work alongside leaders to facilitate strategic change, encourage productive risk-taking, and build credibility and trust among staff. Company Gold Star's six-year partnership with NIW has given our team an exclusive perspective on the best approach to continue serving NIW on this exciting engagement. Our proven track record will serve as a guiding framework for the executive coaching we provide to improve effectiveness, sustained health, and excel as a high performing agency. Our team provides the following benefits to the NIW:

COVER LETTER FRAMEWORK

1) INTRODUCTION

Summarize client's vision, objective, and challenges State that we will fulfill client's needs Highlight why us?

2 B

BODY

Our team brings the following benefits to <client> on this project:

<Feature>: You can <improve/achieve/reduce> <benefit> by working with our team, who has the <knowledge, experience, past success> proven by <relevant experience/program> that resulted in <metric/proof>.

Repeat for 1-2 more features



CLOSING

Focus on how our mission and goals align directly with the client's Connect with the reader – inspire them to choose us Close with next steps and contact information

COMPELLING

ACTIVE VOICE





ACTIVE VOICE HELPS THE AUDIENCE PICTURE THE ACTION.

90%

of a long-form document should be in active voice.

ACTION VERBS



TAKING THE LEAD directed, executed, operated, managed, programmed

CREATING built, designed, developed, engineered, initiated

EFFICIENCY enhanced, generated, maximized, reconciled, sustained

ACHIEVEMENT integrated, refined, transformed, streamlined, strengthened

RESEARCH analyzed, assessed, calculated, explored, forecasted, modeled

communication articulated, briefed, conveyed, illustrated, reviewed, drafted

POWER WORDS



WORDS THAT CONVEY URGENCY

- Now
- Need
- Must
- Latest

WORDS THAT CREATE CONNECTION

- Join
- Help
- Discover
- Align

WORDS THAT CONVEY TRUST

- Consequently
- Results
- Secure
- Because

WORDS THAT PROMISE A SURPRISE

- Remarkable
- Amazing
- Incredible
- Unexpected

KEYS TO A WINNING PROPOSAL

Clear

3

Always

your content



WRITING FOR AN 8TH GRADER

2 3 5 4

Remember, not all your readers will be familiar with the subject matter. Use shorter words, sentences, paragraphs.

Use simple sentence structure. Use simple words, not jargon.

Avoid large blocks of text, and use headings, font treatment, callout boxes, and graphics to draw attention.

KEYS TO A WINNING PROPOSAL

Credible

PROVE IT or lose it

PROVE IT OR LOSE IT

Substantiate all claims with facts

Metrics are best

Don't use watered-down superlatives or platitudes



PROOF EXAMPLES

Completed more than 5,000 aviation projects in the last five years.

Employ more than 50 professionals within five miles of your site.

Completed xyz similar project two months ahead of schedule.



BOASTING WORDS TO AVOID

State-of-the-art The right choice Uniquely qualified, unique Best of breed/class Premier, worldclass, world-renowned Industry standard Leading edge, leading provider, cutting edge

USE SUCCESS STORIES AND QUOTES

has provided staff with the knowledge and experience that makes the difference in successfully serving s needs. They are an integral part of the construction process, providing exceptional services that enable contractors to safely perform their work, while minimizing disruption of airport operations."

Shutdown Control Center Manager for

23 GW	111,000 MW	\$150B+	20+	#3
renewable	HVDC	mega	years as	ENR CA
projects	capacity	projects	owner's rep	Top Design Firms

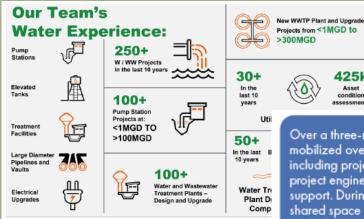


Successful Management Framework Leads to High Retention Rate

On our engagement with all employees required TS/SCI due to work in Government sensitive compartmented information facilities (SCIFs) and we had many employees deployed to Outside Continental United States (OCONUS) locations. Our framework resulted in a retention rate over five years of 96%.

425k

Asset condition



Over a three-month period, sourced and mobilized over 30 staff members fo. support, including project managers, construction managers, project engineers, office engineers and administrative support. During this rapid mobilization, the team shared space and resources with the owner's staff and other consultant teams already on site for a seamless integration.



Our team completed site excavation, grading, concrete footings, foundations, slab, masonry, and stonework for the Empire Trail Gateway and Battery Park City Authority (BPCA). In addition, the team fabricated and installed stone paver engraving and various kiosks



\$597M 1,000+

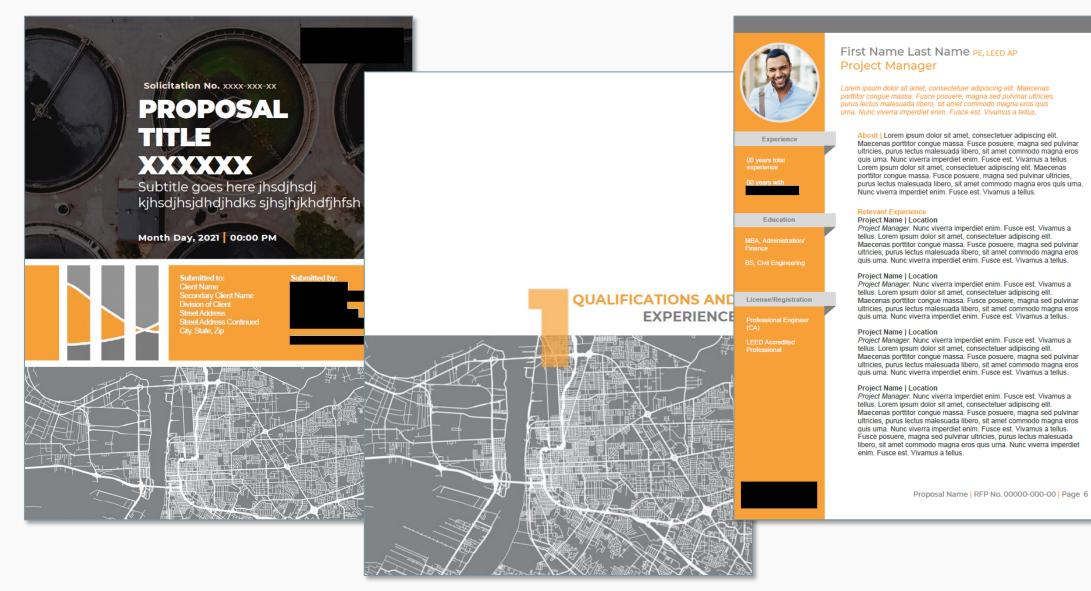
years of experience

30+

wetland delineations

federal funding managed

HAVE AWESOME TEMPLATES



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DEDICATED TO LEVERAGING INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

The Bank of America Government Contracting Group represents a dedicated team of specialists whose mission is to help our clients achieve their strategic and financial objectives through the use of our intellectual and financial capital.

Industry Leading Platform

- Bank of America is the #1 lender to the industry with over \$6 billion in loan commitments globally including **\$4 billion to small and middle market government contractors nationally**
- Relationships with 82% of the top 100 government contractors (Washington Technology) and 75% of the top 200
- Bank of America has banked Aerospace Industry for over 75 years
- One fifth of the Washington Technology's Fast 50 Small Businesses in the government contracting market bank with Bank of America
- Bank of America is the only financial institution that has aerospace + defense expertise coast to coast
- Bank of America has experienced industry bankers who provide complete solutions to assist companies in meeting their requirements for working capital and acquisitions, equity raising, capital deployment (dividend recaps /share repurchase), treasury management, international expansion, and employee benefits

EXPERIENCE + EXPERTISE

- The Government Contracting group is a national practice, with a local delivery. They are deeply ingrained in the industry as a result of their active involvement with industry-related organizations, participation in industry events, and extensive relationships with agencies and intermediaries
- Bank of America's Government Contracting group is ready to support your strategic goals as you strive to grow in a changing environment.
 Whether via organic growth or acquisitions, domestically or internationally, Bank of America can help you achieve your goals
- Conducting business with the government creates unique financial challenges that are best understood by industry experts

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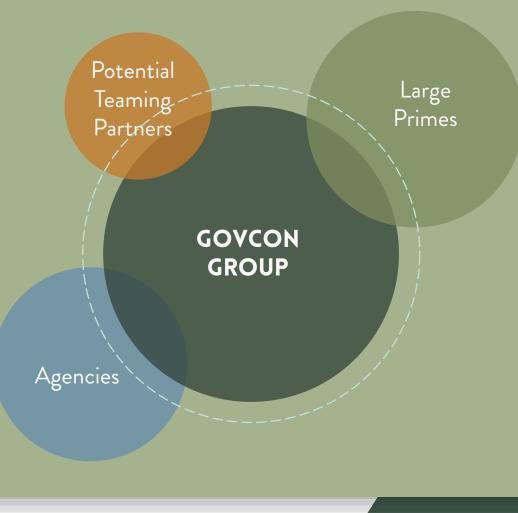
Contracting Specialist





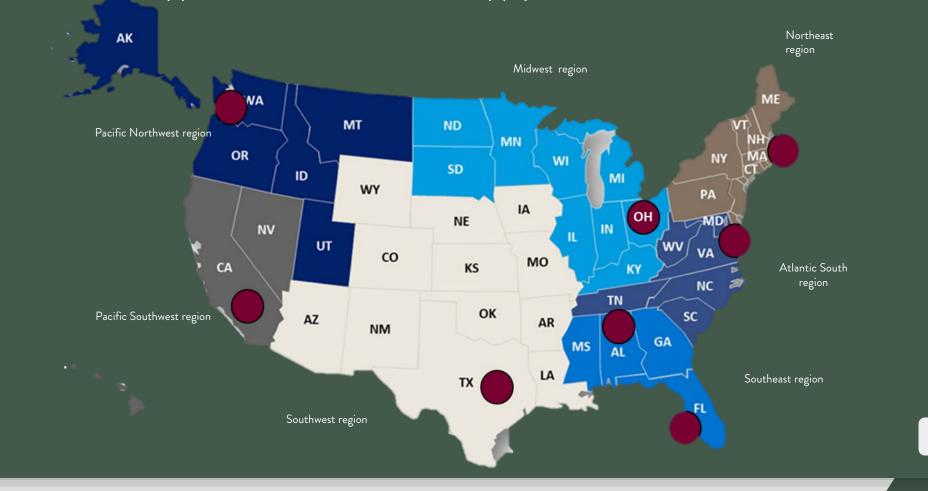


INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS



OUR COVERAGE MODEL

- Focusing on key concentrations of the industry across the country, we are establishing experienced support for government contractors.
- These subject matter experts (SMEs) leverage industry knowledge to advise on the various business opportunities or needs that apply.



GovCon SME

PROPOSAL STRATEGIES

- Know your numbers! Yesterday, today, tomorrow.
- We all have our specialties and capabilities, leverage partners when you need it. It's OK!
- Lean on your mentors and sponsors for input and lessons learned.
- Consider the broader impact on success taxes, capital needs, equipment, etc.

LEVERAGING THE RELATIONSHIPS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

- Does your bank or capital provider understand your business and the industry you serve?
- Do they know the people you need to know that deliver to the industry?
- Engage them early and often to understand the strategy of your plan and to ensure they are working together with your other providers.
- Financial feasibility understanding the numbers.



CASH FLOW MANAGEMENT BASICS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

- Forecast expenses and earnings
- Track net cash flow
- Healthy cash flow
 - positive vs. negative
- Get help from your banker

- 5 ways to improve cash flow
 - 1. Improve inventory management
 - 2. Collect receivables promptly
 - 3. Manage cash wisely
 - 4. Optimize accounts payable
 - 5. Take steps to prevent fraud

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SMALL BUSINESS INDUSTRY

ATLANTA, GA FEBRUARY 7, 2024



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Thank you for joining us!





