



Marine Industries &

# MIST

Science & Technology

# Cluster

Northern Gulf of Mexico – Stennis Space Center



# Context

- Inaugural Oceans In Action, 2011
  - Industry Cluster details provided to audience
  - Commitment cards from interested parties collected
- Oceans In Action continues annually to serve as routine meeting of cluster stakeholders
- MTS continues to hold brown bag lunches as Active Section of International professional organization
- USM holds Marine Technologies Economic Forum in June 2014
- USM Economic Development Class focuses on quantifying Blue Economy in capstone project

# USM Project Highlights

- Historical difficulty in identifying just what is the Blue Economy in economic terms
  - No specific NAICS codes
  - Segmented collaborations
- National Oceans Economic Program Data
  - Database using NAICS codes and geography
  - Relevant coastal MS jobs account for \$15B contribution to GDP
- Blue Economy is key industry sector for coastal Mississippi
  - Secondary data sources show Blue Economy at 35% of the coastal workforce
  - Indications that better data may increase this percentage to >50%

# SBA Opportunity

- June 2014 – Small Business Administration
  - RFP supporting existing Regional Innovation Clusters (RICs)
- Support proposed
  - Direct Services
    - Business training
    - Business counseling/consulting
    - Mentoring
    - Technology Transfer counseling
    - Commercialization of R&D Results
    - Engagement with SBIR/STTR programs
    - Supporting Facility Clearance and holding personal clearances
    - Export readiness counseling/consulting
    - Support to underserved communities
    - Annual MIST event
    - Dedicated website with analytical tools

# SBA Opportunity

- Support proposed (continued)
  - Linking Services
    - Build customer base with federal agencies
    - Build networks and partnerships
    - Provide opportunities for showcasing and demonstration
    - Assist in market development in region and beyond
    - Assist in ascertaining federal agency technology development requirements and priorities, matching; and/or operationalizing cluster technology and capabilities to best meet these needs
    - Facilitate opportunities for accessing new resources and markets

# SBA Opportunity

Proposal selected for award based  
on SBA email received  
**YESTERDAY!!!!**

Team

MSET – Lead

USM – Key Partner

LTTO – Supporting Contractor

Innovate Mississippi – Supporting Contractor

# Cluster Stakeholders

- MSET Companies with any involvement in Marine S&T
- Any agency that had a representative speak at Oceans In Action
- Any agency participating in Oceans In Action matchmaking
- Relevant state and local organizations
- Not sure?
  - Contact us!

# Next Steps

- Open stakeholder meeting
- MTS brown bag lunches
  - USM Economic Development Master's Class invited to present their findings
- Collaboration with The Maritime Alliance (San Diego industry cluster)
  - Best practices
  - Lessons Learned
- Oceans In Action 2015 – Bigger and Better