

Business Digest

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Fulton company gets NIH contracts
Quality Associates Inc., a provider of document management, imaging and archiving services, has announced that the company has been awarded two large contracts by the National Institutes of Health.

The company, based in Fulton, is converting nearly 2 million pages of printed grant applications into searchable electronic PDF files. In the fall, when the work is expected to be completed, authorized NIH staff members will be able to search and access nearly 35,000 paper-based grant applications.

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The project is valued at about \$500,000.

The work is being done on behalf of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, research institutes of the NIH that receive thousands of grant applications each year, said Lora Martin, marketing manager at Quality Associates.

Older "legacy" grant applications are available only in printed form and must be converted to digital form and archived.

"We have a long history with NIH," Martin said. A representative of the company works at NIH headquarters, and a manager and team focused on NIH business works at Quality Associates headquarters, she said.

Quality Associates announced this year a project for the NIH's Information Technology Acquisition and Assessment Center to design and implement a document management and archiving system to hold more than 500,000 pages of information technology government-wide acquisition contracts between the NIH and federal agencies.

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About 55 employees of Quality Associates work at its headquarters and at its offices in Rockville and elsewhere.

Seminar Sept. 12 for entrepreneurs

The Maryland Small Business Development Center and Howard County Economic Development Authority's Business Resource Center will sponsor a seminar for first-time entrepreneurs, "Smart Start To Business Success," from 8:30 a.m. to noon Sept. 12 at the Center for Business & Technology Development, 9250 Bendix Road, Columbia.

Topics will include selecting an appropriate legal business entity, financial records, getting start-up money, insurance options and Howard County's resources for business development.

The cost is \$39. Registration is required.

Information: 410-313-6550.

The resource center and its affiliates provide assistance with business management, including planning, financing, marketing and networking.

Information: www.thecenter.biz.

