JOINT BASE MCGUIRE-DIX-LAKEHURST, N.J. - Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD) Lakehurst joined approximately 120 members of small business for the fourth annual Lakehurst Small Business Roundtable Industry Day at the Ocean County Library in Toms River, New Jersey Oct. 11.

The industry day, hosted by the Lakehurst Small Business Roundtable, focused on opportunities in Support Equipment (SE) and Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE), two of NAWCAD Lakehurst’s mission areas.

NAWCAD Vice Commander Capt. Craig Lee opened the event with an overview of NAWCAD and examples of how small businesses have contributed to naval aviation technology programs.

Lee discussed the reasons government and small businesses should work together, citing the competitive advantage they can bring, and the importance for small businesses to get their foot in the door.
“I encourage you to work at it. My personal experience with programs is that it [working with small business] has been very powerful,” said Lee. “Think about what you might offer and then look for ways to attend their industry day and develop some connections.”

NAWCAD Lakehurst Site Director Mauricio Borrero provided an overview of NAWCAD Lakehurst’s mission and facilities.

“We are what we call cradle to grave,” said Borrero. “We do from basic design in some of our labs all the way to in-service engineering for ALRE and for some SE.”

Representatives from NAWCAD Lakehurst then provided an overview of its SE and ALRE-related laboratories and upcoming opportunities for small businesses in those areas.

“Events like this are important because they give small businesses the opportunity to see what future procurements NAWCAD Lakehurst is considering and a chance to network with NAWCAD Lakehurst personnel,” said NAWCAD Lakehurst Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) Deputy Director Dawn Chartier.

The event ended with networking between the government and small business representatives.

“This event is important to all of us,” said Chair of the Lakehurst Small Business Roundtable Brad Mead. “All us small businesses are trying to do our best, getting contracts, doing the work well, putting a good foot forward for small businesses. If we can get everybody together, the industry and the government together in the room on this day is a great benefit for everybody.”
NAWCAD Lakehurst Site Director Mauricio Borrero provides an overview of NAWCAD Lakehurst during the Lakehurst Small Business Roundtable Industry Day in Toms River, New Jersey Oct. 11. (U.S. Navy photo)