

Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the eye of the private industry

Dr. Qassim Abdullah

VP & Chief Scientist, Woolpert, Inc.

Adjunct Faculty at PSU and UMBC

HSRP Member

NOAA Hydrographic Services Review Panel

Public Meeting, September 20-22, 2022, The Prince Waikiki Hotel, Honolulu, HI

HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES REVIEW PANEL



noaa

PPP as I and others understand it

- There are many forms of PPP that represent all different types of long-term contracts between public and private institutions.
- PPP must combine the best of the public and private sectors with an emphasis on value for money and delivering quality services.
- We do not have to limit ourselves to a one definition as there is no size fits all, but it is important to define and clarify the terms for each PPP arrangement such as:
 - The risk allocation for all parties
 - Funding and revenue arrangements
 - transparency requirements
 - intellectual properties protection
 - Conformance to a performance standard

PPP as I and others understand it

- Over the years, PPP evolved to mean:
 - Private capital financing government projects and services up-front, and then drawing revenues from taxpayers and/or users over the course of the PPP contract** ** <https://en.wikipedia.org/>
 - A partnership between the public and private sector for the purpose of delivering a project or service traditionally provided by the public sector or it is too big to be handled by the private sector alone.

- The **National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP)** describe its role as:

“To facilitates partnerships between federal agencies, academia, and industry to advance ocean science research and education. Through this collaboration, federal agencies can leverage resources to invest in priorities that fall between agency missions or that are too large for any single agency to support.”

Why PPP?

1. Partnerships between private companies, the government is a win-win situation to all parties.
2. PPP goals are **to lower costs** for taxpayers and consumers and/or offer improved services.
3. Private sector technology and innovation help provide better public services through improved operational efficiency.
4. The public sector provides, science resources, financial support, and incentives for the private sector to deliver projects on time and within budget.
5. PPP contributes to economic diversification resulting in a stronger economy
6. When PPP is aimed towards utilizing assets, government and private alike, significant cost savings can be realized along with higher productivity in acquisition efforts.

PPP: its incentives and costs for private industry

Incentives:

- It provides business opportunities that may not exist outside PPP
- It provides access to the public sector vast resources:
 - Financial
 - Scientific
 - Technical
 - Public outreach
- It builds trust and facilitates better relationships with public agencies

Costs

- In some PPP, the private sector provides public service and assumes huge financial, technical and operational risk in the project
- In some PPP, feeling of lack of control due to leadership agreements
- In some PPP, the risk of clashing goals and visions
- The possibility of going over budget and time

Examples for NOAA on Great Partnerships

- **Brennan Matching Fund** – We are finding opportunities in aligning the goals of the private industry (users) with that of NOAA/OCS charting/navigation mission using current and future fleet mobilizations.
- **Unformal PPPs:**
An innovation happening between NOAA and private sector contractors

Example 1: Multibeam surveys in remote Alaska:

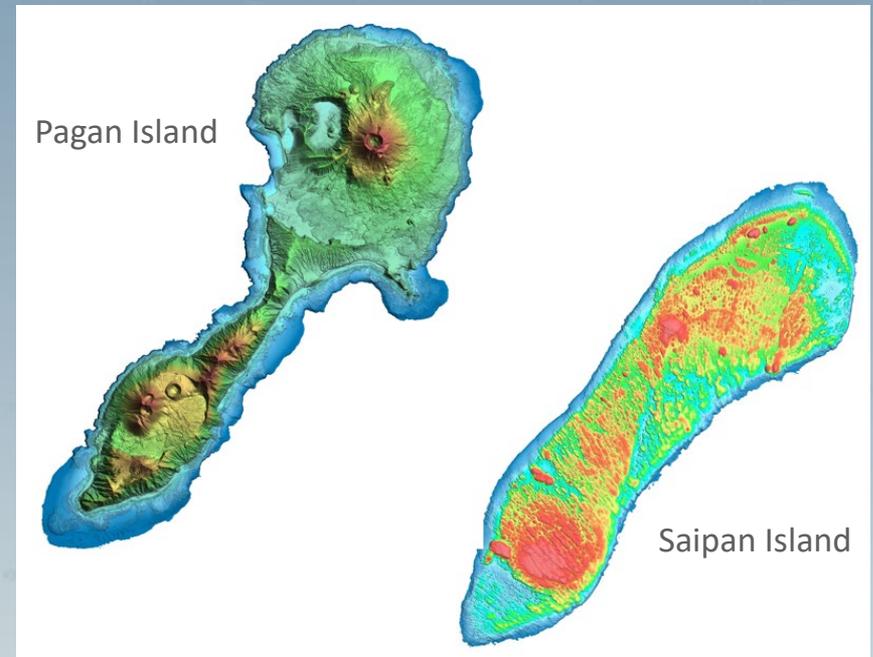
eTrac's 70 ft. vessel was mobilized from Homer to conduct NOAA's task, after NOAA's task was completed, the vessel immediately transited to Kotzebue to perform a cable crossing survey for a private client (GCI), saving tremendous amount of money by eliminating second mobilization.

Examples for NOAA on Great Partnerships

- Unformal PPPs:

Example 1: Operations in the South Pacific:

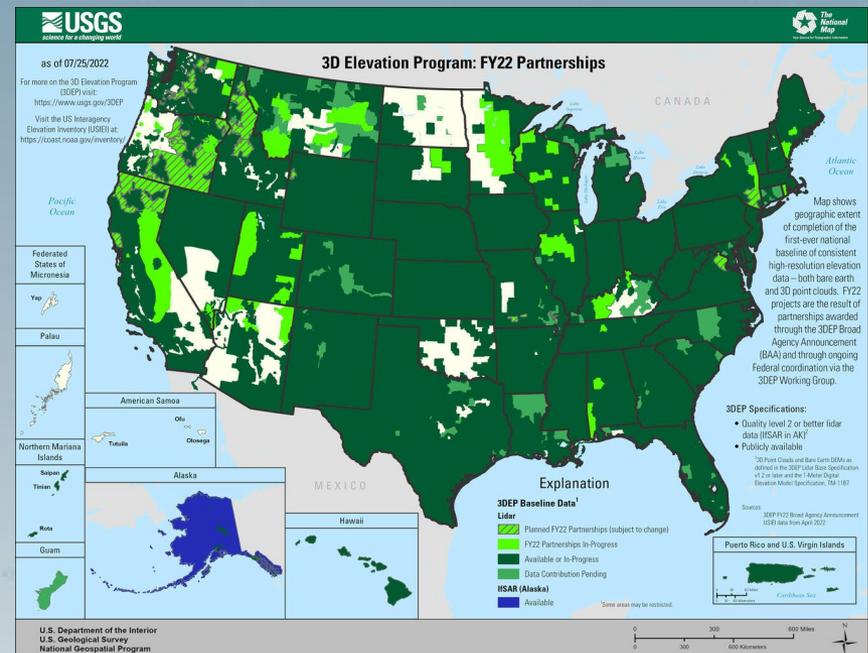
Woolpert has been operating in the South Pacific for the past several years, and we have kept our NOAA POC's informed of where we are working. So, that the Government can utilize a currently deployed aircraft and sensor, instead of mobilizing from CONUS.



Examples for NOAA on Great Partnerships

- USGS BAA for 3D Elevation Program (3DEP)

Where Federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes, academic institutions and the private sector are invited to propose a partnership with 3DEP to fund lidar data acquisition and the creation of lidar-derived elevation products



NOAA and Coastal Survey Opportunities in PPP

I. Public Services: To outsource some of NOAA services to private industries or educational institutes so NOAA's staff focuses more on science and creativity.

Examples:

- Navigation data and charts distribution
- Ports operation and management (that is the PORTS project it does not mean US ports)
- Coastal data acquisition and mapping

II. In Executing NOMAC and Alaska strategies: teaming up with other federal agencies, local governments, tribes, academic institutions and the private sector to map the US exclusive economic zone and Alaska. Consider the USGS 3DEP partnership model

NOAA and Coastal Survey Opportunities in PPP

III. Technology Research and Development: To increase NOAA participation with the private industry in the development of new methods and sensors to support hydrographic surveys and other technologies for coastal and ocean exploration.

We look at NOAA as the NASA of the hydro and atmospheric universe

This 22ft Marine Advanced Robotics WAM-V deployed from the ship and it ran alongside the ship in a force multiplication scenario to survey 1080 NM² around Cape Newenham Area in Alaska for NOAA OCS

We need more of those

