

# Orlando Sentinel

## Orlando defense firm lands \$5 million deal with U.S. government



Local tech firm Athena-Tek could earn as much as \$5 million under a new deal with the U.S. government.

**A**n Orlando defense contractor that specializes in helping companies gather data related to communications and other networks has entered into a five-year deal with the U.S. government that could eventually be worth as much as \$5 million.

Under the agreement, Athena-Tek has offered its services, which include designing a 5G network, optimizing network design and monitoring mobile network performance.

Athena-Tek will essentially be on call to establish and maintain a portion of the government's networks devoted to its training and weapons systems.

The consulting firm tests these networks before they are installed to see if they can be used effectively in a specific training exercise.

For example, Athena-Tek has helped design operational testing modules for the Apache helicopter and Humvee vehicles.

“When a weapons system is approved by Congress, you have to do operational testing with the new weapons,” he said. “We design the technology to capture the data so that the testers can determine whether the systems meet requirements.”

As government agencies start testing a new network, they must first be certain that it will support the expected level of activity.

That’s where Athena-Tek comes in and, using simulations, gathers data for its clients on how much an exercise would weigh on a network.

The Athena-Tek contract is technically with the government’s General Services Administration, which manages and supports basic functions of federal agencies.

The deal is known as an “indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity” deal, which means the company is essentially on call for the U.S. government for the next five years.

Athena-Tek employs 15 people at its 5,000-square-foot office near University of Central Florida. It has been in business since 2010.

The company has tried to establish itself as a leader in 5G communications, the high-speed network classification that many industries expect to grow in 2019.