IAE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2006

■ Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Quarterly IAE Newsletter – Your source for news, updates, and information about the Integrated Acquisition Environment E-Gov Initiative. Since 2002, IAE has been collaborating across the Federal Government to promote competition, integrity, and efficiency throughout the federal acquisition life cycle. The FAR now incorporates use of IAE systems, and to date IAE has successfully launched or expanded 10 centralized shared systems. IAE seeks to ensure that the federal acquisition community and its partner vendors have a shared services environment providing fair opportunity and transparency.

■ Please visit **www.acquisition.gov** to access all IAE systems and for additional information and resources for the federal acquisition community and its business partners. This site grants immediate access to the shared systems and tools that help you conduct business more efficiently. It is also your source for up-to-date information about regulations, systems and training. Check out Changes in Progress and IAE FAQs.

■ If you are new to IAE, don't let the acronyms throw you. A complete list of acronyms and associated web sites is available at http://acquisition.gov/acronyms_urls.cfm.

■ There have been some staffing changes at IAE that former team members may find of interest. Tom Dumouchelle was promoted to Vice President at SiloSmashers of Fairfax, VA and Annette Shinafelt was tapped to fill his position. Ken Sall has moved on and IAE's new XML expert is Chuck Hince. Tim Cousar, Budget and Finance Analyst moved to another project and his position is being filled by John Darnell.

■ Over the next few months, Teresa Sorrenti and Earl Warrington are visiting every Senior Procurement Executive of the 24 CFO Act Agencies. The purpose of the visit is to have a frank discussion on what the experiences with the various components of IAE have been. Other interested parties are invited to attend such as Bureau Procurement staff, System Administrators, etc. This is intended to be an opportunity for the Senior Procurement Executive to educate IAE on the agency's use of IAE services. If your agency would like to schedule a visit, send an email request to integrated.acquisition@gsa.gov.

QUICK REFERENCE

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT IAE?

CCR

ORCA

EPLS

sSRS

FBO

WDOL
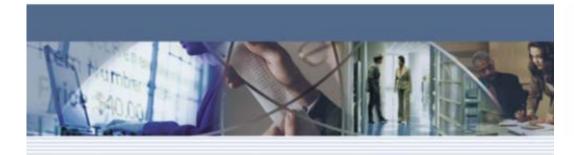
FPDS-NG

ART (Acquisition Requirements Team)

IGTE

FedTeDS

IAE UPDATES

WHAT'S BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT IAE?

■WHAT'S HAPPENING AT IAE HEADLINES 2005-2006

CCR

FY 2005

Implemented interface with the SBA for authoritative source validation

- Certified HUBZone firms
- Certified 8(a) firms
- Certified Small Disadvantaged Businesses
- Calculated Business Size status per NAICS

FY 2006

IRS TIN matching implemented for all new registrants and renewals (see p 4)

D&B updates to add prior DUNS (April)

ORCA

FY 2005

Won the E-Gov Institute's Pioneer Award

Began using XML to obtain CCR information on a real-time basis to eliminate the delay between registering in CCR (or making changes) and entering ORCA

FY 2006

Outbound XML to provide agency Contract Writing Systems with transactions for Reps and Certs real-time scheduled for June 06

EPLS

FY 2005

Completed preliminary matches with D&B to facilitate incorporation of DUNS numbers under new contract awarded December (see p 4)

ESRS

FY 2006

Launched 10/28/05

Stats as of 1/06:

- 1,642 agency contacts registered
- 4,858,298 hits
- 4,028 individual and summary subcontracting reports entered

Press release issued by SBA 11/1/05 (http://acquisition.gov/articles.cfm)

See p 3 for more stats

FBO

FY 2006

New contract awarded 12/05; awaiting protest resolution

Transition team convening in Spring

FEDTEDS

Change to the FAR to cover use of FedTeDS approved by the CAAC and DAR Councils. Final rule to be issued by OMB. (FAR Case 2004-007)

WDOL

FY 2005

2005 Intergovernmental Solutions Awards Finalist from American Council for Technology

8/05, DOL published final rule in Federal Register authorizing use www.acquisition.gov/whats_new.cfm

FY 2006

FAR change expected

FPDS-NG

FY 2005

Generated Small Business Goaling Report for FY 2004 to SBA (see p 5)

45,000 government users

8,000 public users

Added National Interest field to flag items such as Hurricane Katrina relief (see p 5)

FY 2006

New reports software will be phased in

ART (ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS TEAM)

FY 2005

Team established under joint sponsorship by CFO and CAO

FY 2006

Team published draft requirements (see p 3)

IGTE

FY 2005

Prototype ended by OFFM 7/05 and responsibility transferred to CFO Council

FEDREG

FY2005

CFO Council indicated they will continue to require registration for intra governmental transactions

FY2005

Search and extracts will be consolidated with CCR
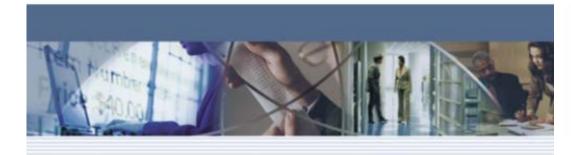
■ IAE Updates

By January 2006, stats on the IAE systems increased significantly and continue to grow.

- 403,000 vendors in CCR

- 42,360 representations and certifications in ORCA

- 3,793,095 federal civilian contract actions submitted to FPDS-NG in 2004; 1,585,082 in 2005 YTD

- EPLS averaging 1.6 million hits per month

- 116,000 active procurement documents posted on FBO

ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS TEAM

Since March, 2005 the Acquisition Requirements Team (ART) has been working on developing a set of mandatory government-wide system requirements that all commercial acquisition/contract writing COTS packages will have to satisfy in order to qualify for Federal agency use, including interfaces with finance systems. The team also surveyed relevant vendors in order to gather information that can be used to classify available products in terms of their general architecture and existing technical capabilities. The ART work culminated in the Jan 6, 2006 pre-public release of an initial "Internal Draft of the Acquisition System Requirements" for CAOC and CFOC comments. Once comments have been vetted, an exposure draft will be released to the public for comment.

IAE PERFORMANCE TEAM

The IAE Performance team was formed to redesign the process of collecting and sharing contractor performance data. In January 2006, the team completed draft guidelines entitled "Contractor Performance in the Acquisition Process." The guide is designed to help agencies know their role in addressing and using contractor performance information. It addresses the types of performance information which exists, resources for finding the data, and standards to employ. It discusses best use of performance data throughout the acquisition process, from the pre-award and planning phase, through source selection and into contract evaluation. A FAR change has also been drafted

EPLS

In December, GSA awarded Information Sciences Corporation of Silver Spring, MD the contract to develop, operate, enhance, support, manage and run the new Excluded Parties List System (EPLS). The $5.9 million contract has a base period of two years with the potential of earning three one-year options and will be managed by the Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer's IAE Project Team. The new EPLS will provide enhanced searching, reporting and downloading capabilities with additional features and functionalities as expressed by the user community. Primary among these will be making Dun & Bradstreet numbers (DUNS) mandatory to facilitate searches and allow interface with the CCR.

TIN

On October 30, 2005, CCR began validating the Taxpayer Identification Number and Taxpayer Name (TIN) of each new and updating CCR registrant with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) records in order to improve data accuracy in the federal procurement system. Registrants must indicate consent at the time of registration.

The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council have proposed to amend the FAR Regulations to include the validation of the TIN with the IRS. Comments from the public were invited per FAR Case 2005-007 in the Federal Register on October 19, 2005.

ESRS

On October 28, 2005 SBA and IAE announced the launch of eSRS (Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System), a new system to streamline reporting of small business subcontracting activity on large federal prime contracts. This web-based tool provides agencies with immediate access to analytical data on subcontracting performance. The eSRS eliminates submission of paper SF 294s and 295s, Individual Subcontracting Reports, and Summary Subcontracting Reports, and replaces them with electronic versions. Contractors no longer have to enter and compute data manually and distribute multiple paper reports to agencies. Contract data must first be entered accurately into FPDS-NG in order to process subcontracting reports through eSRS. All civilian federal agencies, contracting officers, prime contractors, and large subcontractors can register at www.esrs.gov and begin using eSRS. Register for weekly web training

sessions at www.esrs.gov.   Read the press release at http://acquisition.gov/articles.cfm

GOALING REPORT

Robert Burton, Associate Administrator, OMB Office of Federal Procurement Policy issued a memorandum to the federal acquisition community on October 27, 2005 stating that they are no longer required to submit small business procurement data manually to SBA. This is in response to FPDS-NG's successful delivery of the Small Business Goaling Report for FY 2004. Next year's FY2005 report will be based solely on the data pulled from FPDS-NG.

HURRICANE KATRINA'S IMPACT

The Fall 2005 GSA Acquisition Workforce Forum featured the article "Hurricane Katrina's Impact on IAE Systems" on page 2. You can access the article at: **http://acquisition.gov/articles.cfm**. FPDS-NG posted a daily file of hurricane support contracts within a few weeks of Katrina. Following Hurricanes Rita and Wilma, the need to identify to which disaster contract actions were applied became obvious. FPDS-NG responded by incorporating a new field to flag and identify contracts for such special efforts.

IGTE

Effective July 31, 2005, the Office of Management and Budget terminated the Intragovernmental Transaction Exchange (IGTE) system. The system had been utilized by several agencies to conduct transactions for payment of both rent and IT services. Those agencies reverted back to entering intra-governmental buy/sell transactions directly into IPAC. The Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Council created a

sub-committee for intragovernmental transactions, under the Financial Statement Acceleration Committee, chaired by Mary Sally Matiella. The committee has the responsibility for determining what changes to Business Rules, IPAC or other requirements, may improve the intra-governmental process. The FedReg, or Federal Agency Registration System (https://www.bpn.gov/far), will continue to operate. For more information, please contact Mary Sally Matiella, CFO, USDA Forest Service, 202-205-1784.

■ WHAT'S BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT IAE

Visit **www.acquisition.gov** to follow media coverage, newsletters and news releases on IAE systems. Recent stories include: Winter 2006, GSA Acquisition Workforce Forum Newsletter *EPLS: Identifying Suspended and Debarred Companies and Individuals* on page 18. You can read it at http://acquisition.gov/articles.cfm

We welcome any comments or suggestions on this newsletter. Please contact IAE at integrated acquisition@gsa.gov.