



IAE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER MAY 2006

Welcome to the second edition of “The Quarterly IAE Newsletter”—your source for information about the Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE) e-Gov initiative. In addition to updates on all systems, this month’s “Quarterly” includes an in-depth article on the FPDS-NG “facelift,” an article about eSRS achieving full operational capability, and a brief article about FedTeDS being presented as a finalist at FOSE in addition to being published in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Be sure to check out the article about “Professor Earl” teaching at American University.

Through effective leadership, input from the federal community, and successful management of IT and people resources, IAE has built a path to the future. The service IAE provides helps acquisition professionals be more efficient and effective in their daily jobs. To learn more about IAE and get access to readily available resources, check out our website at www.acquisition.gov. We welcome your comments and suggestions. We are working to ensure that this newsletter becomes a valuable tool for communicating and keeping you informed. Please contact us at integrated.acquisition@gsa.gov. And finally, let us be the first to congratulate our own Teresa Sorrenti on being one of 12 winners of the Government Computer News (GCN) IT Leadership Award as well as the winner of the 2006 IRMCO Award! Congratulations on the 4th anniversary of IAE!

Don't be Afraid of the Buzzwords!

A complete list of IAE acronyms and associated websites is available at acquisition.gov/acronyms_urls.cfm.

SYSTEM UPDATES!

FPDS-NG
CCR
ORCA
EPLS
ESRS
FBO
FEDTEDS
WDOL

**ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS TEAM
PERFORMANCE DATA**

CHECK IT OUT!

**FPDS-NG Gets a Facelift
ESRS Achieves FOC
FedTeDS at FOSE & in the FAR
“Professor Earl” at AU
And the winner is...!**

New Additions to Acquisition Central!

Hosted by IAE, Acquisition Central (www.acquisition.gov) provides an array of products for the acquisition community and government business partners. The FAR and GSAM websites are the latest additions to your acquisition “one-stop-shopping” center:

FAR: <http://www.acquisition.gov/comp/far/index.html>

GSAM: <http://acquisition.gov/comp/gsam/gsam.html>

FPDS-NG: Bringing Transparency and Visibility to Government

FPDS-NG (Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation) is a critical tool that the acquisition community uses to gather and report contract data. "Next Generation" designates that it is an updated version of the original 25 year-old Federal Procurement Data System that has been transformed into an integrated business process receiving contract accomplishment data real-time from contract writing systems. FPDS-NG now reports on contract accomplishment data in a self-service model across the entire federal enterprise. Now in its third year, FPDS-NG (<https://www.fpds.gov>) continues to evolve and transform to respond to the growing needs of the government user community and the general public.

Data Collection. With about 65 departments and agencies now reporting the data directly to FPDS-NG, the civilian agency integration process has been a success. The Department of Defense (DoD) is now in the process of integrating in real-time with FPDS-NG and has several pilot sites active. The DoD roll-out will continue throughout FY06 with complete real-time integration anticipated for 1st Quarter FY07.

Improved Access and Visibility to Data. FPDS-NG is focusing on improving access and visibility into the data. With a new reporting tool, FPDS-NG is undergoing a major facelift to enhance access to its contents. Currently, four of the most commonly used reports – Contractor Search, Federal Contract Actions and Dollars, RCRA, and the Small Business Competitive Demonstration Program Reports-- have been upgraded and are now available online. With the new reporting tool, users can now easily "slice and dice" the data and drill down into the information to get a more refined look into the

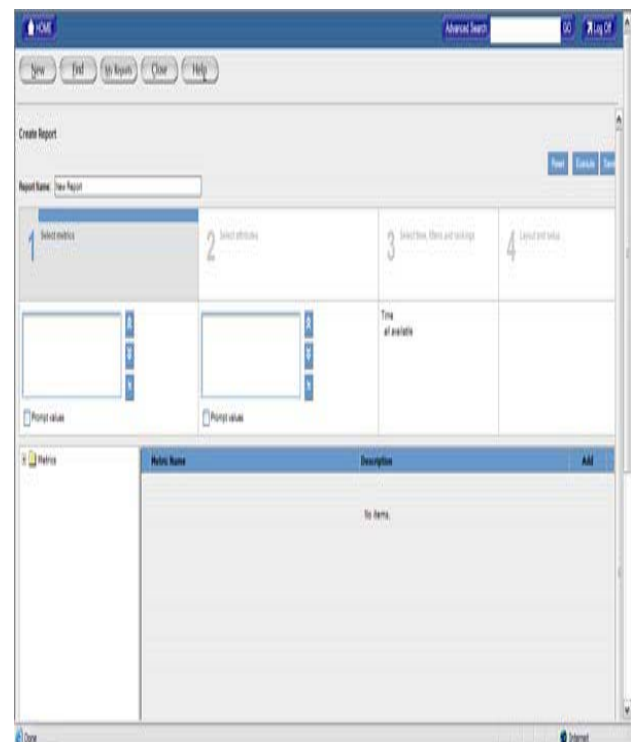
data with quicker, more reliable results. Users can customize the results by sorting columns, adding/removing columns, and charting the results in over 20 different ways.



FPDS-NG users also wanted more flexibility in how reports can be saved. Now, in addition to export as a PDF or CSV file, the results can be exported in Microsoft Excel.

Report Consolidation. As FPDS-NG has matured, the user community appetite has grown for more and better Standard Reports, now totaling nearly eighty. Fortunately, the promises of the enhanced functionality of the new reporting tool will allow FPDS-NG to greatly reduce the number of reports currently published to approximately 30. With the new drill down capability, users can start with a government-wide report and drill down to the desired department, agency and contracting office for additional granularity into the data as required. FPDS-NG will leverage this exciting new feature to combine numerous old reports into a much more robust list of new reports.

New Ad Hoc Tool. FPDS-NG also launched a new tool for Ad Hoc Reports to help frequent users of FPDS-NG get answers to questions not already addressed in the Standard Reports.



The new Ad Hoc Tool offers users several significant improvements and new capabilities:

- **Ability to save queries.** Now users are able to save a common report query so that it can be run at any time without the need to recreate the report from scratch. This saves users valuable time and ensures consistency between reports.
- **Personal workspace.** All saved reports appear in a personal reporting workspace, similar to the My Reports feature in the Standard Reports. Again, this saves time by helping users quickly see the report templates they have.
- **Intuitive process.** Ad hoc reports are now broken down into four easy to follow steps: metrics, attributes, time and filters, and layout. Metrics refers to the numeric data in the report – contract actions and dollars. Attributes are the other pieces of information about a contract, such as vendor, competition, and purchasing agency information. Time and filters are used to narrow the search, either by a specific time period or some other characteristic, such as small business designation. The layout section of the tool allows users to customize the look of the report.
- **Interactive reports.** When the results are returned from a report, users can now refine the results. New features include the ability to sort and sum columns, add and remove columns, highlight metrics above a certain value (e.g., contracts above a certain threshold amount), apply labels, and even change fonts/colors.



- **Export in multiple formats.** Users can now export results into a variety of formats, including PDF, Microsoft Excel and CSV files.

- **More than 20 charts.** With the new Ad Hoc Tool, users can create professional reports with more than 20 available chart options without the need to access another tool. It can all be done within FPDS-NG.

We recommend that users of the Ad Hoc Tool have significant familiarity with the FPDS-NG data fields and with using an advanced reporting tool. More details about the new tool are available in the FPDS-NG “Help” files and training classes for government users are currently underway.

Data Quality. Attention is now turning to enhancing the quality of the data in FPDS-NG and providing easier access to reports and data. As the new, easier reports are released for general use and gain wider acceptance, data will be more readily visible to the public, Congress and the press. The acquisition community should be aware of this visibility and take care to ensure data quality.

FPDS-NG is always looking for opportunities to further improve data integration. One new integration process being leveraged is with DUN and Bradstreet (D&B). Now when an FPDS-NG user selects the CCR exception field, FPDS-NG will query the D&B database to validate the DUNS number and retrieve name and address information about that vendor. This new feature will greatly enhance the user experience and continue to improve the quality of information about vendors in FPDS-NG.

ESRS Version V1.7

The Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (eSRS) is the newest member of the IAE family. eSRS streamlines reporting of small business subcontracting activity by large federal prime contracts. This web-based tool eliminates the need for paper submissions and processing of SF 294's, Individual Subcontracting Reports, and SF 295's,

Summary Subcontracting Reports. With the first generation of eSRS, contractors were able to report data through their web browser of choice, visiting this site and logging on to report accomplishments using an easy data entry process. With the recent full operational capability (FOC), eSRS includes a back-office interface for those businesses collecting accomplishments electronically. The FOC version V1.7 includes a suite of management reporting tools, providing the government new visibility into the critical subcontracting reporting and compliance process.

FOC includes the following capabilities:

- interfaces with capable vendors back-office application
- reporting Commercial Plan accomplishments
- robust management / compliance reporting
- data migration of Summary Reports (formerly SF 295) data for FY2000-2003 currently maintained historically in the legacy FPDS
- data migration of Summary Reports (formerly SF 295) data from NASA and the GSA Federal Supply Service.

Specific reports include:

- Delinquent Report – provides contracting officials a listing of contractors that are delinquent in filing.
- Trend reports – provides contracting officials and Small Business Specialists with the ability to compare contractors' subcontracting performance over time, reporting periods, or years.
 - Federal Procurement Subcontract Report – automation reduces this once resource consuming reporting process-- typically taking weeks to compile - to a push of the button timely reporting.



- Ad-Hoc reporting which allows custom report development to display any data element in the eSRS database.

For more information regarding eSRS, contact Robert C. Taylor at robert.c.taylor@sba.gov or 202-205-7319 or check out the website at www.esrs.gov for access and weekly web training.

FedTeDS at FOSE

In March, Rick Clark, the FedTeDS Program Manager, presented FedTeDS, an online temporary repository of unclassified but sensitive procurement data that is linked to the FedBizOpps.gov website, as a finalist at FOSE.

Mr. Clark discussed the system's history and deployment. FedTeDS also was an Information Resources Management Conference (IRMCO) 2006 Team Award finalist at IRMCO.

FedTeDS has seen increasing usage and press coverage. Eight agencies currently use FedTeDS but when the final FAR rule is effective May 19, 2006, every agency will be required to use the system where applicable. The FAR states that all federal agencies needing to distribute information that should not be made public must use FedTeDS, unless exceptions apply. To review the recently published FAC that contains this information, go to <http://acquisition.gov/comp/far/FAC/fac05-09.pdf>.

GCN published an article on the FedTeDS system and the upcoming mandate in March. In addition, "The Federal Times" asked Clark to comment on the success of the system, and his commentary will appear in an upcoming edition under the monthly feature, "CIO Viewpoint." FedTeDS helps ensure that access to sensitive data required for procurements is monitored in a controlled environment. Clark said updates to the system will occur over the next year including a secure File Transfer Protocol capability for agencies to send documents to the system. Check out the website at www.fedted.gov.

System Updates

FPDS-NG (see article pages 2-3)

CCR and FedReg

- Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) has incorporated all public comments into FAR Case 2005-007 Central Contractor Registration (CCR) – Taxpayer Identification Number Validation which is the rule that adds the process of the government validating a CCR registrant's TIN with the use of the IRS to improve the quality of data in the CCR—publication is expected soon
- Prior DUNS is being incorporated into CCR to satisfy a need of the Army Corps of Engineers

ORCA

- Online Representation and Certification Application (ORCA) XML use scheduled for June 2006 will allow agencies to bring the data into their Contract Writing Systems
 - XML information to be available in the “Help” section of the ORCA website
 - XML testing is scheduled through out May 2006
- Informational Booth at DISA Conference May 1-5, 2006

EPLS

- ISC is on schedule with the new Excluded Party Listing System (EPLS) support contract. The DUNS requirement will be in place with the deployment of the new system in 4th Quarter FY06.

ESRS

- eSRS--the Electronic Subcontract Reporting System -- continues to offer training to government and industry groups



- SBA Commercial Marketing Representatives from all SBA regions
- EEI Supplier Diversity Political and Legislative Team
- 2nd round training for all agencies- 300 to be trained in May

FBO

- Awaiting protest resolution

FedTeDS

- Finalist for the 2006 IRMCO Team Award
- Training at DHS procurement office
- 38 Army Corps of Engineers Districts recently brought onboard
- Finalist in 2006 FOSE show
- The Federal Technical Data System (FedTeDS) incorporated in FAR effective May 19, 2006

WDOL

- Task Force met with several agencies to discuss integrating Wage Determination Online (www.WDOL.gov) with contract writing systems in federal contracting agencies using XML
- Draft FAR interim ruling has been approved and awaiting publication in the Federal Acquisition Circular. Contracting agencies are already using the program under the Department of Labor's memorandum authorizing use pending regulation implementation.

Acquisition Requirements Team

- Received over 1,000 comments on “Internal Draft of the Acquisition System Requirements”

Performance Data

- The Performance Working Group made final revisions to the FAR and best practices guide for “Contractor Performance in the Acquisition Process” in preparation for public comments

FOCUS ON THE IAE TEAM



Earl Warrington Guest Lecturer at AU

Earl Warrington, Deputy Program Manager, IAE, was invited to participate as a guest speaker for a class on Acquisition Management, taught by Edward Girovasi, Adjunct Professor at American University, on April 7, 2006.

This class is part of American University's Key Executive Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree and was attended by 19 students from DoD and various civilian agencies. Earl's presentation, "E-Government: The IAE's quest to drive standardization, foster transparency and reduce administrative costs," was part of coursework for federal managers and supervisors that is academically sound, yet grounded in real-world management challenges and solutions. The presentation covered the progression of business from the industrial revolution to today's communication revolution. Earl discussed why the President included the streamlining of the procurement process as one of the 2002 President's Management Agenda e-Government initiatives and the positive changes that have resulted. He covered the background of IAE, history, vision, goals and objectives, as well as how IAE systems help buyers, sellers, and citizens. "Professor Earl's" presentation was well received and students asked many in-depth questions.



Mary Mitchell presents IRMCO award to Teresa Sorrenti

Congratulations to Teresa Sorrenti!

Teresa Sorrenti was honored April 26 with the 2006 Interagency Resources Management Conference (IRMCO) Award for creating the Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE), a cross-agency team of procurement, finance and IT experts from civilian and defense agencies. The IRMCO Award is given annually to those who have demonstrated exceptional ability to operate across organizational boundaries to improve the government's services to its citizens. This year's awards were presented at the 45th annual IRMCO conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. For more information about IRMCO, please visit www.irmco.gov.

On May 1, 2006, Government Computer News (GCN) announced that Teresa was also selected from more than 90 candidates as one of 12 individuals to receive the 2006 GCN IT Leadership Award. Teresa was honored for her inspirational leadership and exceptional accomplishments as Program Executive of IAE. A profile of Teresa, along with the other award winners, appears in the May 1 issue of GCN and online at www.GCN.com.

