Office of the Senior Procurement Executive OST/M-60
U.S. Department of Transportation

The Acquisition Connector

Announcing the New Department of Transportation Senior Procurement Executive

After experiencing a vacancy for some time, the position of Senior Procurement Executive (SPE) has been filled. The Senior Procurement Executive has acquisition specific corporate oversight responsibility for the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Head of Contracting Activity (HCA) responsibility for the Office of the Secretary (OST). On Monday, July 7th Joanie Newhart, of Mt. Vernon, VA, became the new Senior Procurement Executive for DOT. Ms. Newhart arrives at a time that Executive Branch agencies are preparing for transition as a result of the close of a Presidential term. Recently serving as the Senior Procurement Executive at the Small Business Administration (SBA), she brings over 25 years of experience in Federal Government acquisitions. As the Senior Procurement Executive, Ms. Newhart will have numerous du-

ties. Among them is to lead acquisition oversight efforts and develop and execute innovative business outcomes for the entire Department, with respect to acquisition, financial assistance, and commercial services activities. When asked what the challenges will be for OSPE moving forward, Ms. Newhart said that she is working toward acquisition providing more strategic value to the DOT. OSPE will do this by implementing the One DOT PRISM solution; by right sizing the staff to be able to provide better oversight and guidance throughout the Department; and by ensuring the Contracting Officers, COTRs and Program Managers are certified in accordance with the new federal certification programs. Ms. Newhart stated that her focus will be on customer service, technical excellence and finding great business solutions for DOT. Ms. Newhart looks forward to meeting and working with the acquisition staff throughout the Department.

ONE-DOT PRISM Update

ONE DOT PRISM – is the Departmental Procurement Platform strategy of migrating to a standard consolidated procurement system, which integrates each Operating Administration (OA) on a one to one basis with the DOT's Delphi financial system. This effort strategically aligns the Department's resources to:

- Reduce cost by combining the Departmental PRISM spend for software license maintenance, system hosting, operation, and support;

- Enable better performance management through business intelligence;

- Produce efficiency, accuracy and quality in procurement reporting;

- Automate the entry of procurement-related financial data into Delphi;

- Strengthen internal controls; and more.

This is a Department-wide strategic initiative coordinated and led by senior staff within the Offices of the Senior Procurement Executive (SPE), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and Chief Information Officer (CIO). In addition, coordination extends to the Procurement Management Council, CFO Council, and CIO Council having representation and influence from each OA. PRISM, or Procurement Requisition Information System Management, is the Commercially Available-off-the Shelf (COTS) product which serves

as the application DOT uses to administratively manage its acquisitions and acquisition related data. PRISM, as used within DOT offers a wide variety of modules and tools.

Background

Beginning in 2003, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) migrated to a version of PRISM that integrated with the DOT's Delphi financial system. This was important because this effort led the way for other OAs within the DOT to begin to think about integrating with the DOT financial system. In October 2007 the Enterprise Services Center (ESC), an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved Shared Service Provider and a Federal Financial Center of Excellence within DOT, began Phase 1 of integrating the GAO PRISM with the already present Delphi financial system. The DOT's Office of the Senior Procurement Executive (OSPE) (M-60) and Federal Highway Administration representatives aided this process by providing DOT procurement requirements so that the GAO version of PRISM would provide a viable model for our future integration. Phase 2 of the GAO integration will be implemented this summer.

Current State

Consistent with the adoption of ONE DOT PRISM, the OSPE/M-60 continues to assemble managers Department-wide to strategize, collaborate, and conduct analysis to ensure that the ONE DOT PRISM will successfully integrate with Delphi financial system in an effective and efficient manner.

Presently, OSPE/M-60 is conducting negotiations with Compusearch. It is anticipated that beginning October 1, 2008, the Department will noticeably usher in a new era of acquisition strategic alignment under the Departmental Procurement Platform moving closer to the ultimate goal of a totally integrated acquisition and financial environment. With this contractual agreement with Compusearch, DOT will have the first ever comprehensive PRISM license consolidation, creating an enterprise license arrangement. The contract award will represent a foundation for calculating savings across the Department, including FAA.

What is the One-DOT PRISM Model?

- FY 08-FY 09 ONE DOT PRISM is an Enterprise License Agreement (ELA).
  The ELA will consolidate all DOT licenses under one contractual vehicle providing cost, schedule, and performance savings through standardization and support maximizing the total DOT spends.

- FY 08-FY 09 ONE DOT PRISM adopts a FAR based uniform process archetype for deployment at ESC.

- FY 08-FY 09 ONE DOT PRISM is a Phased integrated approach to acquisition and financial management oversight, commencing with the acquisition community strategically aligning itself in preparation for ultimate linkage with Delphi.

- FY 09 ONE DOT PRISM will stand up a clean instance of PRISM at ESC supporting all OAs.

- FY 09-FY 10 ONE DOT PRISM will operate and continue to refine its processes through continual collaboration with the Financial Management Business Transformation (FMBT) to evolve into a fully integrated ONE DOT acquisition and financial environment.

Program Advantages

There are several benefits from having the OAs utilize a single data system:

- Better performance management, decision making and analysis for the OAs.

- Reduction in annual PRISM software license costs and system support costs.

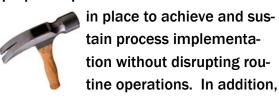- Increase DOT's efficiency when utilizing OA and Department resources.

- Provide automated entry of financial data.

- Eliminate the need for OAs to plan their IT hosting and security arrangements.

- Support broader strategic goals of the Department.

About the Acquisition Policy Advisory Working Group (APAWG)

The Acquisition Policy Advisory Working Group (APAWG) is a recently established group that is actively involved in assessing, analyzing and reviewing acquisition initiatives for the Department of Transportation (DOT), those initiatives having their genesis in statute or public policy. The purpose of the APAWG is to effectively and efficiently integrate acquisition initiatives throughout the DOT. The goal is to ensure proper acquisition internal controls are in place to achieve and sustain process implementation without disrupting routine operations. In addition, the group will continue to ensure transparency, efficiency, and accountability to the process of acquisitions within the DOT. This is significant because acquisitions are critical to the Department's ability to function and achieve its mission. The APAWG has adopted a collaborative approach to ensuring proper controls are put in place in order to establish a common flow so that initiatives and procedures on acquisitions can be followed with ease.

Group Goals

- Explore methods to streamline and increase the efficiency of existing procedures for acquisitions.

- Create internal solutions to legislation affecting the procurement community.

- Provide expertise on law or public policy pertaining to acquisitions.

- Consolidate resources to develop solutions to common problems affecting acquisitions.

- Benchmark and leverage ideas, experiences, and practices among Operating Administrations.

Membership/Meetings

The position of chairperson of the Acquisition Policy Advisory Working Group is held by a Procurement Analyst from the Office of the Senior Procurement Executive (OSPE). Presently, this post is held by Lenita Ahmadi. The membership of APAWG is comprised of representatives from each of the OAs or their alternate.

"The goal of the group is to provide transparency, efficiency, and accountability to the process of acquisitions"

Roll-out the M-60 Website

The new homepage for Acquisitions and Financial Management M-60 has recently been completed and is up and running. The page ties different aspects of Acquisitions and Financial Assistance Management together, allowing users to gain easy entry to useful, relevant information. It can be accessed either through links in the Office of Senior Procurement (OSPE) webpage or by simply going to http://www.dot.gov/ost/m60/. The homepage has many interesting features and serves as a gateway between different points of interest for those involved in Acquisitions or Financial Assistance. According to the site engineer Laverne Taylor, OSPE, the new site is more "user-friendly" and "up-to-date". She went on to say that the old website had become obsolete and the new one is an improvement because everything can be seen "at a glance". One of the first things that catches the eye is the mission statement for OSPE. This statement summarizes the overall goal of OSPE succinctly.   The rest of the page is organized by three different categories of links. The first set of links spread across the top of the homepage pertains to more general goals/tools for the website, including a direct link to the DOT, strategic initiatives and a way to contact various personnel within the OPSE. The second set of links, which is listed vertically along the left side, contains organizations pertaining to Acquisition Services and Financial Assistance Management as well as Business and Policy Strategies. The majority of the links on the website are listed vertically on the right side, and pertain to issues ranging from rules on Suspension and Debarment to Acquisition Workforce policies, to Policy DASHES. There is even a link for OSPE communications, where you can find access to previous editions of *The Acquisition Connector* Newsletter.

We're on the Web!
www.dot.gov/ost/m60/