INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
PUBLIC KEY INFRASTRUCTURE (PKI)

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                    Notice of Intent to establish Qualified Bidders List
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Description: Under the authority of FAR Subpart 9.2 it is the intent of the Federal
Identity Credentialing Committee to establish a Qualified Bidders List of entities
providing PKI services that 1) meet the X.509 Certificate Policy for the Common Policy
Framework and 2) can demonstrate the ability to place and use certificates on smart-cards
under the Government Smart Card Interoperability Specification Version 2.1.

Pursuant to its responsibilities under the Electronic Government Act of 2002, OMB has
determined that beginning in FY 2006, absent unusual requirements, Federal Agencies
that intend to use PKI services will be buying PKI services from qualified managed
service providers operating under the Federal Common Policy Framework rather than
establishing their own internal PKI. Agencies with PKI operations that are cross-certified
with the Federal Bridge Certification Authority will not be required to migrate to these
new managed service providers, but as time goes on it may become desirable to migrate
to these new providers.   It is the expectation of the Federal Identity Credentialing
Committee that this two step process will result in cost savings to both industry and
government; first by insuring that PKI services are developed to meet a common policy,
rather than having each agency developing its own idiosyncratic policy, and secondly by
having a common contract against which task and delivery orders may be placed by
federal agencies (and other authorized users of GSA Schedules.)

The first step will be conducted by the Federal Identity Credentialing Committee to
determine whether or not companies providing commercial PKI services can do so
meeting the requirements of the Common Policy Framework X.509 Common Policy.
After this is determined, the companies will be invited to demonstrate the capability of
placing and using their PKI certificates on smart cards that meet the Government Smart
Card Interoperability Specification (Version 2.1). Once these capabilities are
successfully demonstrated, the company will be placed on the Qualified Bidders List for
the Common Policy Framework. It is anticipated that the first round of vendors will be

placed on the list no later than June 30, 2004. To facilitate this, companies should submit their information to the FICC no later than April 15, 2004. Thereafter, the Federal Identity Credentialing Committee will evaluate other companies on a rolling open season. The Qualified Bidders List will remain in effect for five years, after which GSA will re-evaluate whether continuation of the list is necessary or desirable.

The GSA Federal Supply Service will conduct the second step. Companies on the Qualified Bidders List will be invited to submit proposals for newly established Special Item Numbers (SINs) on the Group 70 Schedule.

Entities that are placed on the Qualified Bidders List and already provide PKI services under a GSA Schedule Contract or other GWAC will not be required to obtain another contract to deliver services, but depending upon the scope of the existing contract, contract modifications may be necessary to provide a complete solution under the Federal Common Policy. If the necessary contract modifications exceed the scope of the already awarded contract, the companies will be invited to submit a Group 70 Schedule proposal.

An Industry Day to address questions from potential bidders will be held on March 11, 2004 at the GSA Central Office Auditorium, 1800 F Street, NW, Washington DC, beginning at 9:00am. Please visit the website at http://www.cio.gov/ficc/pki.htm for directions and to register for the Industry Day.

Detailed Information: The Federal Identity Credentialing Committee Shared Service Provider web page <<http://www.cio.gov/ficc/ssp_documents.htm>> has documents of interest to companies desiring to be placed on the Qualified Bidder's list, including, but not limited to:

- Shared Service Provider Roadmap: Navigating the Process to Acceptance

- X.509 Certificate Policy for the Common Policy Framework

- Shared Service Provider Repository Service Requirements Matrix

- CPS Evaluation Matrix for Evaluation against the Requirements for the Common Policy Framework

- Registration Authority Requirements

- FICC Audit Standards for PKI Shared Service Provider Entities

- Operational Capabilities Demonstration Criteria for Shared Service Provider Candidates

- X.509 Certificate and CRL Extensions Profile for the Common Policy

- Archive Requirements for Managed PKI Service Providers

References: Government Smart Card Interoperability Specification v. 2.1
(NISTIR 6887) <<http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistir/nistir-6887.pdf>>
Policy Issuance Regarding Smart Cards Systems For Identification and
Credentialing of Employees
<<http://www.smart.gov/smartgov/information/scpfinal2004.doc>>

Place of Performance: (Policy evaluation and demonstration of GSCIS capability)
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