

National Ocean Service (NOS)
Contracting Policy for
Surveying and Mapping Services:
A Private Sector Perspective

MAPPS

Kurt Allen, President

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Presentation to the

Hydrographic Services Review Panel

Durham, NH

August 18, 2005

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Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors
An Association of Photogrammetry, Mapping, and Geospatial Firms

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 - Formed in 1982
 - **Active in policy advocacy, part of each HSIA effort**

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 - Has NOT supported dismantling the NOAA Corps

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- MAPPSS member firms ...
 - All NOAA hydro contractors
 - Most USACE hydro contractors
 - All NOAA shoreline contractors
 - All NOAA coastal remote sensing contractors
 - All USACE ENC contractors
 - All NGA GGI contractors (SCIF's, cleared personnel) and more than 100 subcontractors

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- **Survey backlog is being reduced**

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- **QBS is working, a cooperative public private partnership is developing**

Areas for Improvement

- NOAA still operates its own in-house capabilities in surveying and mapping that duplicate and compete with the private sector

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- NOAA still operates its own in-house capabilities in surveying and mapping that duplicate and compete with the private sector
- **Given the cost-efficiencies of new technology in the private sector, continued NOAA performance of commercially available activities siphons scarce resources from hydro/backlog/charting budget**

Utilization of the private sector gives NOAA the ability to --

- Achieve improved quality;
- Accommodate peak demand;
- Speed project delivery and meet deadlines;
- Gain access to expertise;
- Improve efficiency;
- Spur innovation;
- Better manage risks; and
- Cut or contain costs

Areas for Improvement Recommendations

- Partner with the private sector on a consistent, understood and accepted private sector utilization policy so there is not the distrust similar to what happened with private weather service community

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- Partner with the private sector on a consistent, understood and accepted private sector utilization policy so there is not the distrust similar to what happened with private weather service community
- **Partner with the private sector on defining what is commercially available, so NOAA in-house resources can be dedicated to performing truly inherently governmental functions**

Areas for Improvement Recommendations

- Inherently Governmental
 - OFPP & FAIR Act Definition
 - “Yellow Pages” Test
 - Government’s in-house capability should be intellectual, not capital (Bathy LiDAR, JABLTCX)
 - Best practices models
 - USGS NAPP
 - USDA NAIP

Areas for Improvement Recommendations

- **MAPPS presentation to National Academy of Sciences Panel on “Planning for Catastrophe: A Blueprint for Improving Geospatial Data, Tools, and Infrastructure”, e.g. National Response Teams**

Areas for Improvement Recommendations

- **Adopt a broad, up-to-date Commerce-FAR Supplement definition of surveying, mapping, charting, hydro, geospatial services subject to Brooks Act/QBS procedures, or petition FAR Council/OFPP for government-wide FAR revision, consistent with HSIA**

QBS ID/IQ Process

1. NOAA publicly announces its requirements for mapping (S/M) services in FedBizOps

2. S/M firms wishing to be considered submit Standard Form-330 to NOAA outlining experience and capabilities

3. NOAA Evaluation Board reviews and evaluates firms' qualifications on:

- Professional qualifications
- Specialized experience and technical competence
- Capacity to complete work in time
- Past performance
- Knowledge of locality of project
- Acceptability under other appropriate evaluation criteria

4. Evaluation Board develops a short list of the maximum practicable number of qualified firms for interview & selection.

5. An independent governmental estimate of the cost of services shall be prepared for each proposed contract or contract modification

6. Negotiations shall be conducted with the first selected firm(s) from the short list) to determine the scope of work and for a price that is fair and reasonable and not in excess of the government estimate.

6a. Contract is awarded

or

6b. If a price below the government estimate cannot be negotiated then the negotiations are terminated and a proposal is requested from the firm next in order of qualifications.

QBS ID/IQ Process

1. NOAA has a need for geospatial data or services.

2. NOAA contacts one of its ID/IQ firms, provides a scope of work and negotiates a task order for man hours based on fees negotiated in base contract

3. NOAA deploys the firm(s) to its area of need to provide the scope of services agreed to in the task order negotiation.



Authorized by Current Law & Regulation

- Law: “Brooks Act” QBS Process
 - 40 U.S.C. 1101 et. seq.
- Regulation – FAR Parts 16 & 36
 - FAR Part 16.5 for ID/IQ
 - FAR Part 36.6 for QBS

Areas for Improvement Recommendations

- Requirements, conditions, outside influences, and other factors vary from location to location, project to project
- Competitive bidding, best value, GSA schedule, and A-76 (or other cost comparisons) do not address this and result in apples and oranges comparisons

Areas for Improvement Recommendations

- **Build trust with the private sector on utilization of the private sector and QBS so organizations like MAPPS can expend energy on funding, not government competition and procurement battles**

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- Thank you for the opportunity to present
- We look forward to working with you
 - For further information:

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