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Comptroller General  
of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20548

# Decision

*1119*

**Matter of:** Assessment & Control International, Inc.

**File:** B-262101

**Date:** November 28, 1995

## DECISION

Assessment & Control International, Inc. (ACI) protests the cancellation of request for proposals (RFP) No. 1PI-R-0233-94, issued by the Federal Prison Industries (UNICOR), Department of Justice, for the award of a joint venture (UNICOR and the awardee) contract to manufacture, deliver, install, and maintain an estimated yearly requirement of 15 electronic perimeter fence intrusion detection systems and to provide employment for approximately 70 federal prison inmates. After the receipt of proposals, UNICOR canceled the RFP because the system was more expensive than expected, because there were insufficient customers for its purchase, and because, after examining the proposals submitted, purchase of the estimated 15 systems would not provide, as required, work for 70 inmates.

We dismiss the protest.

ACI contests any lack of a sufficient number of customers willing to purchase this type of system. Instead, ACI believes that UNICOR simply prefers to buy an alternative microphonic system because of the initial low contract award prices obtainable for those systems. ACI also contends that if producing the desired number of systems will result in the employment of an insufficient number of inmates, UNICOR should simply increase the number of systems that are produced in 1 year.

The RFP shows that UNICOR's requirement was both for an estimated 15 systems per year and for sufficient work to permit the employment of approximately 70 inmates. After reviewing the proposals submitted under the RFP and concluding 20 inmates at best would be employed per year under any award, UNICOR concluded that the RFP did not fulfill its minimum needs. As a general rule, a sufficient reason to cancel a solicitation exists where the specifications do not reflect the agency's actual minimum needs. P&C Constr., B-251793, Apr. 30, 1993, 93-1 CPD ¶ 361. Since it was impossible to obtain under this solicitation the number of systems requested and also to provide the required employment for approximately 70 inmates, cancellation of the RFP was reasonable and proper. The protester was furnished the agency's supplemental report dated September 26

*Control Inc*

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which contained a more detailed explanation for the agency's decision to cancel. The protester has not rebutted the agency's September 26 submission, which further supports its above-stated position and provides no reason to question the cancellation decision.

The protest is dismissed.

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