



Federal Acquisition Insight

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Editor: Judy Steele

Featuring the Latest Acquisition Workforce News and Events

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From the Desk of the Director -- by Gloria Sochon

FAI is just back from hosting the 2003 Federal Acquisition Conference (FAC 2003) June 12th – 13th at Tysons Corner, Virginia and June 17th – 18th at in Huntsville, Alabama. We thank all the speakers, presenters, and attendees who helped make the conference a great success. We will share more news on the conference program in our next newsletter.

This month's newsletter provides several updates on the changing status of FAI and FAI products. We discuss the award of the contract to run FAI to SRA, Inc., an update on the ACMIS rollout, and the latest IPCMC meeting. We have our regular columns with the latest on JWOD, e-Gov Corner, and green government. We also point your attention to training opportunities available through CITA and the ongoing GSA 101 seminars provided by GSA's Federal Supply Service.

This is the last edition of the newsletter to be edited by Judy Steele. She will be moving on to the Intellectual Capital Management Division in GSA. We'd like to thank Judy for her excellent work putting out an informative and interesting newsletter for the past few years and wish her well in the future.

We hope you find this information useful. And be sure to share it with your colleagues. We welcome any comments and suggestions for articles for publication in *FAI Insight*. If you'd like to submit an article for publication in the newsletter, please contact julie.gummo@gsa.gov.

GSA Awards FAI Contract to SRA International, Inc.

On May 12th, 2003, GSA awarded SRA International, Inc., a local management consulting, training and information technology (IT) service provider, a five-year contract to make FAI the premier source of Federal acquisition career development and management expertise. The contract covers researching acquisition practices, developing a competency-based acquisition career model, developing collaborative partnerships with academic and professional associations, designing and developing training, sponsoring training events, and conducting communications outreach to inform the acquisition workforce about FAI products and services.

This new contract will enhance the current FAI Online University available at www.faionline.com. Coordination with stakeholders will be a key feature of the project and will include collaboration with the Defense Acquisition University (DAU), the Interagency Procurement Career Management Committee, and various Federal agencies, among others.

“This is an exciting time for FAI.” said Gloria Sochon, Director, FAI, “We look forward to operating with more flexibility and efficiency as we move to contractor-supported services. This will improve our support to acquisition professionals across Federal agencies in gaining the skills they need to perform successfully in a changing business environment.”

SRA is the prime contractor for GSA’s Acquisition Career Management Information System (ACMIS) skills tracking system development and implementation. SRA is sub-contracting with Bowie State University, a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Bowie State University will provide support in collaborative partnerships, educational design, outreach, and accreditation. This award supports GSA’s goal to enhance the participation of HBCUs. Other partners on this winning team include Windwalker Corporation, Development InfoStructure (devIS), and Jefferson Solutions. For more information on FAI or this contract award, contact Gloria Sochon, FAI Director, at (202) 208-6726 or Gloria.Sochon@gsa.gov.

IPCMC Update

The Interagency Procurement Career Management Committee (IPCMC) held a quarterly meeting on May 1st, 2003. This session was held at GSA's new Applied Learning Center located at 1776 G Street, NW. Gloria Sochon, Director of FAI, began the meeting by sharing news on the competitive sourcing of FAI—a contract was awarded to SRA International. Gloria introduced the SRA Program Manager, Debbie Kochubka, who briefly addressed the group and provided handouts illustrating the union of the SRA team with FAI.

Following this discussion, Al Matera, Director of GSA's Acquisition Workforce Transformation Division, briefed the group on GSA's Applied Learning Center (ALC). Al provided background on the ALC's continuing development of an assessment tool. Developed for GSA's 1102's, the ALC's assessment tool is a method for demonstrating a person's applied learning from education and training courses. According to Al, the pilot group's feedback was beneficial in identifying areas for improvement.

Linda Neilson, Chief Learning Officer of DAU, presented information on the transformation of DoD acquisition training. The informative presentation included an outline of DAU's mission and strategic goals, an update on the modernization of the CON 100 course, and a description of the merger of online courses CON 101 and 104 (projected completion September). Linda also expressed DAU's desire to work with FAI to maintain high quality equivalency courses for the acquisition workforce.

After Linda's presentation, Gloria gave an update on the status of the Acquisition Career Management Information System (ACMIS) and its initial launch to GSA. Additional agencies will implement ACMIS in the months to follow and continuing into the next fiscal year. FAI will develop a schedule in consultation with the IPCMC.

The Committee will continue to meet on a quarterly basis, or more frequently as needed. For more information on the IPCMC, contact Gloria Sochon at (202) 208-6726 or gloria.sochon@gsa.gov.

JWOD Works for America! 2003 JWOD Catalogs! – by Annmarie Hart Bookbinder**2003 JWOD Catalog**

This comprehensive, full color catalog includes over 2,600 SKILCRAFT and other products provided by Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities under the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program. An electronic version of the catalog is available on the web site of the National Industries for the Blind (NIB) at www.nib.org and a user-friendly CD-ROM version of the catalog is also available upon request.

2003 JWOD Cleaning and Janitorial Catalog

This is the first time that the JWOD Program has produced a catalog specifically for the janitorial industry. The catalog features over 700 cleaning products, including brooms, brushes, mops and floor care products.

2003 JWOD Medical and Surgical Supplies Catalog

The full color, twenty-four page JWOD Medical and Surgical Supplies Catalog contains over two hundred JWOD products specific to the medical industry. All of the high quality Veterans Affairs-specific items shown are provided by Americans who are blind or have other severe disabilities under the JWOD Program.

Get your copies of the new JWOD catalogs by contacting NIB's customer fulfillment center (operated by ABVI-Goodwill Industries in Rochester) via email at customer-service@nib.org or by phone at (800) 433-2304. For more information on JWOD, check out the JWOD website at www.jwod.gov!

e-Gov Corner: FedTeDS (Federal Technical Data Solutions) – by Lisa Cliff

In March 2002, the Bush Administration issued direction on safeguarding classified and "sensitive but unclassified" information that established new guidance on public access to government information. The Information Security Oversight Office and the Department of Justice Office of Information and Privacy spelled out the applicable standards for controlling classified and other sensitive information that could pose a possible threat to national security if made public. One of the systems that has been fully integrated within the Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE) eGovernment initiative is **FedTeDS** (Federal Technical Data Solutions) which is an online dissemination solution designed to safeguard "sensitive but unclassified" acquisition related information for use by all Federal agencies. The system is a collaborative effort jointly led by DoD, the U.S. Coast Guard and IAE. FedTeDS.gov successfully launched on February 19th, 2003 and marks another milestone for IAE.

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Currently, over 90 Federal agencies are disseminating “sensitive but unclassified” acquisition materials during the solicitation phase of procurement via the Internet. This material includes information related to operations, weapon systems and plans, transit authority, structures, individuals and services essential to the security and management of a facility, including telecommunications, electrical power, building facility structural layout, gas and oil storage/transportation, water supply, emergency services, and the continuity of operations. There has been a critical need to provide security and maintain a record of the individuals receiving this sort of data. FedTeDS enables the distribution and diffusion of sensitive drawings and specifications and interfaces with FedBizOpps (www.fedbizopps.gov), the single government point-of-entry for Federal government procurement opportunities over \$25,000. Commercial vendors seeking Federal markets for their products and services frequently require plans and specifications to support their proposals. The FedTeDS System establishes a physical firewall between the Federal government and its public customers while providing approved users with the sensitive data that they require. The system also directly interfaces with Central Contractor Registration (www.ccr.gov).

FedTeDS uses data from other sources, including the Defense Logistics Information Service’s export controlled databases to validate users and their access to sensitive acquisition information. When a Federal user is granted access to the FedTeDS system, they can immediately begin uploading and securely distributing their sensitive acquisition material to the vendor community. As Federal users begin disseminating their data, registered vendors can begin accessing their secure technical drawings for use during the solicitation phase of the procurement cycle.

The FedTeds system is the first example of a governmentwide system replacing an agency-specific one. The FedTeDS System was operational on February 19th and on February 20th DoD officially retired their first DoD unique system, DoDTeDS. Mark Krzysko, Deputy Director for Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy stated, “We are proud to retire DoDTeDS knowing that the improved FedTeDS is streamlining procurement processes for all Federal agencies.”

For more information on **FedTeDS**, email lkair@comdt.uscg.mil
For more information on **IAE**, email integrated.acquisition@gsa.gov

GreenGov Update: Energy 2003 Workshop and Exposition – by Cynthia Vallina, OFPP

Each year, the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) sponsors a workshop and exposition on energy management and efficiency. This year's event, **Energy 2003 Real World–Real Solutions**, will be held at Lake Buena Vista, Florida, August 17th–20th, 2003.

DoD and GSA co-sponsor the event and help develop educational sessions to highlight sustainable building design for Federal facilities, water resource management, and fundamentals for energy management. This year, tracks on Acquisition, Federal Leadership, Alternative Financing for energy savings performance contracting (ESPC) and utility energy service contracting (UESC), and Energy Security have been added to provide an excellent training opportunity for the Federal acquisition workforce. OMB staff, past and present, will be presenting some of the instruction centered on greener procurement.

All agency acquisition personnel, from procurement executives to contracting officers to program managers are highly encouraged to attend and learn how to incorporate energy efficiency into day-to-day operations. To register call 1(800)395-8574 or go online to www.energy2003.ee.doe.gov.

Below are some of the courses being offered at Energy 2003 of interest to acquisition professionals.

Building Integration: This presentation covers the design and energy conservation features employed by the Pentagon Renovation Program (PenRen). It is not only a noteworthy program for its attention to energy and the environment, but also employs a unique acquisition approach using award and incentive fees to reward innovation and problem-solving. The entire contract for this huge reconstruction project is only 16 pages long!

Getting Your Money's Worth and More through Sustainable Contracting: This session will provide hands-on training with model solicitations and contracts that you can take back to impact your agency's use of energy and sustainability criteria in contracts. Performance-based service contracting requirements and standards can be used to meet your needs AND provide new opportunities for energy and water conservation and environmental preferability.

How to Buy Green/Mandatory Products: This session will inform contracting officials and program personnel about mandatory purchasing requirements for green products and how to acquire them. Federal agencies are required to purchase energy-efficient products, electronics with the lowest watt stand-by power devices, recycled content products and bio-based products.

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Alternative Financing Case Studies: Learn from others just how ESPC and UESC projects can work and succeed. One of the projects covered, the Army Garrison and National Cancer Institute at Fort Detrick, MD, won a 2002 Presidential Award for Leadership in Federal Energy Management.

Mandates and Policies, “What You Always Wanted to Know About Energy Policy But Were Afraid to Ask:” Federal Environmental Executive John Howard will talk about the latest and greatest in emerging energy and environmental policies and requirements. This session is vital to knowing what’s required and shaping your agency’s energy and environmental program planning.

Getting the Funds You Need for Energy Efficiency and a Comprehensive Energy Strategy: Learn how to build a solid business case to support funding decisions and facilitate the budget process. The presenters from OMB and other agencies will focus on OMB requirements for budget information on buying green and implementing energy efficiency projects and capital programming guidance for planning, acquiring and managing all capital assets.

In addition to the training opportunities, Energy 2003 provides an exposition of more than 100 vendors and contractors demonstrating cutting edge energy-saving products and services. All agency acquisition staff are highly encouraged to attend! For more information on exhibiting at Energy 2003, call (410) 970-0763, or email energy@eponline.com.

This is an excellent opportunity to train your acquisition staff in green procurement issues. Executive Order 13123 on Efficient Energy Management requires Federal agencies to designate an “Agency Energy Team” consisting of appropriate procurement, legal, budget, management and technical support, to expedite and encourage implementation of the Order. Every agency is encouraged to send its entire energy team to Energy 2003 for training. Visit www.energy2003.ee.doe.gov for complete information on the energy efficiency industry's premier workshop and exposition!

FAI Launches ACMIS!

On May 27th, 2003, FAI launched the first government-wide system to track the Federal acquisition workforce's career skills and training needs. The system, called the Acquisition Career Management Information System, or ACMIS, is web-enabled and is the single location for agencies to effectively and easily update and report on acquisition employee data, and analyze the status, trends, and future requirements of the acquisition workforce.

"ACMIS is essentially the central place where the acquisition workforce employees can gain a clear picture of their education levels and training completions, the training and skills required for their job position, their individual job history, and current warrant information that they hold. It's like having an easily viewable and updateable resume at their finger tips," said Sherry Booth, ACMIS Project Manager. "For managers, ACMIS is a way for them to quickly query data and run reports, which provide detailed information on the acquisition workforce skills and training or information on retirement statistics, which will enable managers to take action in response to workforce changes. For them, ACMIS means quick access to reliable, up-to-date data to see the workforce status and how they should plan ahead." She notes that one of the system's features is the Personal Development Plan, which has been automated, web-enabled, and standardized across agencies, making it a more effective tool for both employees and managers.

GSA awarded the \$1.6 million ACMIS development task order in 2001 to the Marasco Newton Group, now the MNG Center within SRA International, Inc. The SRA team, which includes subcontractor devIS, developed the system in Python using HTML forms and dynamic reporting capabilities. The system is fully compliant with the Rehabilitation Act's Section 508 accessibility standards and can be integrated with other Federal agency systems. SRA has conducted acceptance testing of the prototype system with GSA, FAI, and pilot agencies, and conducted program administrator training Fall 2002. The system will be supported by an ACMIS Help Desk and program administrator and user guides to be available on the ACMIS site and through a second alternate site to be determined.

FAI will implement a phased approach to the ACMIS system rollout. The rollout began with the GSA launch in May. FAI will work with the IPCMC to launch two other agencies by July, then continue with additional agency implementation in the next fiscal year. OPM will provide quarterly updates on personnel changes and SRA will continue to maintain the system under the current contract. As the system is made available to agencies, acquisition employees will be able to access it using the Web URL www.acmis.gov.

For more information on ACMIS and/or to discuss your agency's ACMIS training needs, contact Gloria Sochon, FAI Director, at (202) 208-6726 or gloria.sochon@gsa.gov, or Joanne Shore, FAI, at (202) 273-4668 or joanne.shore@gsa.gov.

Center for IT Accommodation Offers Section 508 Training!

The OGP Center for IT Accommodation (CITA) is offering a free training class. "Acquiring Technology: What Every Federal Employee Needs to Know about Section 508," provides training on managing procurements to ensure Section 508 compliance. This class offers the opportunity to learn how to develop compliant requirements for procurements, acquire tools, techniques and resources for conducting market research as well as providing an understanding of how Section 508 affects procurement activities. It is not a presentation of legal requirements but rather the provision of resources and approaches that can easily be adapted to any agency's operational environment. If you are interested in attending one of the next training sessions in Denver, CO on July 16th and 17th or Atlanta, GA on July 30th and 31st, please register at www.section508.gov. Contact: Rosemary Gibert, (202) 219-1364, or e-mail: rosemary.gilbert@gsa.gov.

Federal Supply Service Sponsors GSA 101 Seminar!

Discover how GSA offers solutions to your supply needs while easing your procurement burdens knowing all FAR requirements have been met. Supply officers, contracting personnel, purchase cardholders, this seminar is for you! GSA 101 is a free comprehensive training session for Federal civilian and military personnel involved in purchasing. The seminar will be held at the GSA Auditorium in the Regional Office Building at 7th & D Streets, SW, Washington, D.C. on Thursday, August 21st, 2003 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. For more information call (215) 446-5055. To register, go to www.fss.gsa.gov/events.