

From: Schoenberg, Alan (OS)  
Sent: Monday, October 22, 2007 9:25 AM  
To: OS - ECA

**Subject:** Approval of Synopsis Waiver for National Academy of Sciences Acquisitions

Note to ECA:

Over the last couple of decades, the Department has requested and obtained OFPP's and SBA's approval to waive the synopsis requirements for noncompetitive National Academy of Sciences (NAS) acquisitions. In light of continued OPDIV interest, we again requested that OFPP and SBA extend their approval of the synopsis waiver for an additional three years.

Attached are the OFPP and SBA responses to our request. Even though the attached responses were sent to us back in June and July of this year, I did not receive them until a few days ago. So, we apologize for the delay in transmitting them to you. More important, we're pleased to report that both OFPP and SBA have granted their approval of the requested synopsis waiver through **September 30, 2010**.

Please note that such acquisitions with NAS are still subject to the justification & approval requirements, for other than full & open competition, under FAR Part 6 and HHSAR Part 306. Moreover, as a condition of waiver approval and regardless of dollar value, all contract actions that rely upon this synopsis waiver must be reviewed by the appropriate OPDIV Competition Advocate prior to award.

Also, you need not concern yourselves with the tangential delegation of authority issue that SBA raised in the third paragraph of its June 28, 2007 memorandum to Marty (attached). Based on our discussions with SBA, this issue has been resolved. HHS' current delegation of acquisition authority provided a firm underpinning for having requested and obtained this synopsis waiver.

Please disseminate this information to your contracting staffs. Our web-based HHS Acquisition Policy Inventory will be updated in the near future to reflect this waiver approval. Any questions on this matter may be directed to Cheryl Howe at [Cheryl.Howe@hhs.gov](mailto:Cheryl.Howe@hhs.gov). Thanks!

Alan