



APD ALERT

Streamlined Technology Acquisition Resources for Services (STARS)

(Information Technology contracts with 8(a) Firms)

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2004

General Services Administration (GSA) has awarded over 400 Information Technology (IT) contracts to 8(a) certified Small Business (SB) concerns for hardware, software, and services.

The 8(a) STARS replaces 8(a) FAST, its predecessor contract, which expires on October 31, 2004. The program has been expanded from one to eight functional areas and the period of performance will include a 3-year base with two 2-year option periods. The contracts are pre-competeted, easy-to-use, require a short procurement lead time, and involve non-protestable task orders. Agencies that use the STARS contracts receive 8(a) and other SB credits toward their preference goals.

The 8(a) STARS GWAC is a multiple award, indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract that allows direct awards to an 8(a) concern if the project does not exceed \$3 million. Projects over \$3 million must be competitively negotiated with all of the concerns within that functional area. There is no maximum order limitation. There is a \$15 billion program ceiling.

Ordering may be accomplished through a delegation of authority from the SB GWAC Center. Ordering may also be accomplished through the assisted services offered by the GSA Federal Technology Service. A 0.75 percent user fee has been included in the contract prices. 8(a) STARS GWAC contracts are not currently available in the GSA eBuy procurement tool but plan to be in FY 2005. They will be available in GSA's eLibrary in October 2004.

Subcontract teaming arrangements are permitted under the GWAC. These arrangements are allowed as long as they comply with FAR clause 52.219-14, Limitations on Subcontracting, where at least 50 percent of the incurred contract personnel cost will be expended for employees of the 8(a) STARS concern. The amount of work to be subcontracted should be reflected in the initial quote.

Functional areas included in 8(a) STARS are designated below:

NAICS CODE	FUNCTIONAL AREA
541511	Custom Computer Programming Services
541512	Computer Systems Design Services
541513	Computer Facilities Management Services
518210	Data Processing, Hosting and Related Services
541519	Other Computer Related Services
516110	Internet Publishing and Broadcasting
519190	All Other Information Services
517110	Wired Telecommunications Carriers

Additional information on the 8(a) STARS program is located at [www.gsa.gov/8\(a\)stars](http://www.gsa.gov/8(a)stars).

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