

PERFORMANCE-BASED SERVICES ACQUISITION WORKING GROUP

1. The following Findings were adopted by the Panel (3/17/06 and 3/29/06):
 - a. Despite OMB Target, Agencies Remain Unsure When to Use PBSA
 - b. PBSA Solicitations & Contracts Continue to Focus on Activities and Processes, Rather than Performance and Results
 - c. PBSA's Potential for Generating Transformational Solutions To Agency Challenges Remains Largely Untapped
 - d. Within Federal Acquisition Functions, There Still Exists a Cultural Emphasis on "Getting to Award"
 - e. Post-Award Contract Performance Monitoring and Management Needs to Be Improved
 - f. Most Contract Incentives Are Still Not Aligned to Maximize Performance and Continuous Improvement
 - g. FPDS Data Are Insufficient and Perhaps Misleading Regarding Use and Success of PBSA

Recommendations adopted by the Panel:

1. OMB's government-wide quota of requiring 40% of Acquisitions be Performance-Based should be adjusted to reflect individual agency assessments and plans for using PBA. [Adopted by Panel 3/17/06]
2. OFPP should issue more explicit guidance and create a PBA "Opportunity Assessment" tool to help agencies identify when they should consider using performance-based acquisition. [Adopted as revised by Panel 3/17/06]
3. [Recommendation 3 was withdrawn by the working group]
4. Publish a Best Practice Guide on development of measurable performance standards for contracts. [Adopted as revised by Panel 3/17/06]
5. Modify the FAR to include an identification of the government's need/requirements by defining a "Baseline Performance Case" in the PWS or SOO. OFPP should issue guidance as to the content of the Baseline Performance cases. [Adopted as revised by Panel 3/29/06]
6. Improve post-award contract performance monitoring and management, including methods for continuous improvement and communication through the creation of a contract-specific "Performance Improvement Plan" that would be appropriately tailored to the specific acquisition. [Adopted as revised by Panel 3/29/06]
7. OFPP should provide improved guidance on types of incentives appropriate for various contract vehicles. [Adopted as revised by Panel 3/29/06]

8. OFPP should revise the seven step process to reflect the Panel's new PBA Recommendations. [Adopted by Panel 3/29/06]
9. Contracting Officer Technical Representatives (COTR's), in PBAs receive additional PBA training and be re-designated as Contracting Officer Performance Representatives (COPR's). [Adopted as revised by Panel 3/29/06]
10. Improved Data on PBA usage and enhanced oversight by OFPP on proper PBA implementation using an "Acquisition Performance Assessment Rating Tool" (A-PART). [Adopted by Panel 3/29/06]
11. OFPP should undertake a systematic study on the challenges, costs and benefits of using performance-based acquisition techniques five years from the date of the Panel's delivery of its final report. [Adopted by Panel 3/29/06]