

INTEGRATED ACQUISITION ENVIRONMENT IAE QUARTERLY

WWW.ACQUISITION.GOV

FROM THE EDITOR

WELCOME

Welcome to the redesigned IAE (Integrated Acquisition Environment) newsletter "IAE Quarterly" — your source for information about the IAE E-Gov initiative. This edition includes updates on all systems, current regulatory changes, an article on IAE's visit to the Senior Procurement Executives of most of the major agencies, and the latest on other developments in IAE.

As reporter Trudy Walsh wrote in the November 2005 issue of *Government Leader*, "E-Government...that is transforming government from a wart-covered frog trapped in a stovepipe into a handsome, service-delivering prince,

is no fairy tale." Since its inception, IAE has been delivering improved services to the acquisition workforce, helping them to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. Through the work of a dedicated team of acquisition professionals from across the federal enterprise, IAE is achieving its goal of streamlining the intricate processes that are needed to buy and track \$350 billion in goods and services annually.

We invite comments and suggestions. E-mails, remarks and contributions from readers are welcome. Contact us at integrated.acquisition@gsa.gov.

NEWS FROM THE PMO

IAE Talks to Senior Procurement Executives

One of the best ways to assess a program is to talk to the end user - which is exactly what the directors of IAE have done over the past six months. Since the beginning of the year, Teresa Sorrenti and Earl Warrington have met with the Senior Procurement Executives (SPEs) of 21 of the 24 Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act agencies. These agencies are not only users but also fund IAE. Many sent representatives to the initial planning meetings and subsequent work groups so that their agencies' specific requirements would be included in the development of IAE.

IAE was always intended to help facilitate acquisition government-wide in every phase of the acquisition lifecycle. User involvement was a key component when defining the strategy and new directions. Everyone's voice was heard. As goals were refined and objectives set, every agency had the opportunity to provide input. Now that all the systems are up and running, the IAE directors wanted to ask the users "How is IAE doing and is it helping you do your job better?" They wanted to hear it directly from the collective expertise of the acquisition community represented by the SPEs.

The SPE meetings were held at each agency. In many cases, the agency representatives involved in the initial IAE planning attended. Other interested parties were

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THE ABC'S OF IAE

CCR - Central Contractor
Registration
EPLS - Excluded Parties List
System
eSRS - Electronic
Subcontracting Reporting System
FBO - Federal Business
Opportunities (Fedbizopps)
FedReg - Federal Agency
Registration
FedTeDS - Federal Technical
Data Solutions
FPDS-NG - Federal
Procurement Data System-Next
Generation
ORCA - Online Representations
and Certifications Application
PPIRS - Past Performance
Information Retrieval System

ACQUISITION CENTRAL

The website www.acquisition.gov-
Acquisition Central - is a website
dedicated to providing the acquisition
community with the tools and
information it needs to do its job
efficiently. It contains resources for
government buyers as well as
government vendors. If you are a
government buyer looking for a
supplier, you can go to the CCR. If
you are a vendor looking to provide
the government with needed goods or
services, you can go to FedBizOpps
after registering in CCR. The drop
down menus under Acquisition
Workforce and AcqNet give you instant
access to the FAR, the GSAM, Defense
Acquisition University, links to assist
small businesses and more. The
Acquisition Advisory Panel's website
is accessible from the Acquisition
Workforce dropdown and you can read
more about the Panel on page 3.



SYSTEM UPDATES

FAR CHANGES

ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS TEAM

- Received over 1,600 comments on "Internal Draft of the Acquisition System Requirements"

CCR AND FEDREG

- Final rule published adding the process of the IRS validating a CCR registrant's TIN to improve the quality of data in the CCR

EPLS

- Requirements for new EPLS completed as scheduled, including use of DUNS numbers to share CCR data
- ISC on schedule with 4th quarter release

ESRS

- eSRS continues to offer training to government and industry
 - Presentation to Department of Interior OSD/BU Directors
 - On-line training for Congressional staffers
- FAR Council discussing change to FAR Clause 52.219-9 Small Business Subcontracting Plan
- Training HHS OSD/BU and agency coordinators
- Loading 2004 legacy data from FPDC (1999-2003), GSA and NASA

FBO

- Awaiting protest resolution
- Richard Clark announced as new Program Manager

FedTeDS

- Mike Dalida named new Program Manager
- Grown to over 3,300 Government Users and over 28,200 Vendor Users
- Training at USDA and DISA
- FBI recently brought onboard

FedTeDS (FEDERAL TECHNICAL DATA SOLUTIONS)

Effective May 19, 2006, FAR Part 5 was changed to support the use of FedTeDS. The final rule amends the FAR and requires contracting officers to use FedTeDS to securely distribute sensitive acquisition related information. This eliminates the need to create and distribute CDs or paper documents. As a rule of thumb, sensitive data is any piece of information that should not be available to *anyone* in the world to access and maintain on file such as construction drawings of federal buildings; drawings of bridges and dams; command and control system specifications; Continuity of Operations Plans; schedules, work hours, or security clearance requirements. To comply with this new ruling, follow these steps:

- 1) define what you consider to be sensitive information
- 2) evaluate whether any business opportunities require vendors to access such sensitive information and, if so
- 3) register to obtain a FedTeDS Username and Password.

These actions will give you a head start on incorporating FedTeDS into the acquisition process and protecting sensitive data. For information go to www.fedteds.com.

WDOL (WAGE DETERMINATIONS ONLINE)

Effective June 28, 2006, an interim rule was published that amends FAR Part 22 (FAR case 2005-033). This rule implements www.WDOL.gov as the source for contracting officers to obtain wage determinations issued by DOL for service contracts that are subject to the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act (SCA) and for construction contracts subject to the Davis-Bacon Act (DBA). In August 2005, DOL issued a final rule that permitted contracting officers to use WDOL.gov in place of paper form SF-98. The new FAR interim rule is requesting comments on whether the FAR policy that implements this ruling is clear. The public can submit comments on or before August 28.

As with other IAE systems, the government is taking advantage of current electronic communication and information sharing technologies to streamline the federal procurement process. Rather than waiting for a response from a paper request, contracting officers, as well as the public, can go directly to WDOL.gov and access the appropriate wage determination for a contract action. [WDOL](http://WDOL.gov) also provides guidance on how to select the correct wage determination. For information go to www.wdol.gov.

CCR (CENTRAL CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION)

Since October 2005, the IRS has been validating the TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number and Taxpayer Name) for each new and updating CCR registrant. Effective June 28, 2006 FAR parts 2, 4, and 52 were changed to include the validation process as part of the contractor's registration. Once the contractor enters their TIN, the IRS ensures that it agrees with the one that is in their database. Every contractor is required to register in the CCR if they want to get a contract with the federal government.

Some of the data is used by other electronic acquisition systems included in IAE. IAE's goal is to improve the quality of data and avoid duplication. Adding this additional validation has been made possible due to a joint effort between the GSA, DoD, and the IRS.

For information go to www.ccr.gov.



To search the FAR: www.acquisition.gov/far

NEW PROJECT MANAGER BRINGS HIS EXPERTISE TO FEDBIZOPPS

Rick Clark was recently named the new Project Manager of FedBizOpps. He was formerly the Program Manager of FedTeDS. In addition to moving from DoD to GSA, Rick has moved to the IAE PMO office in Crystal City, Virginia.

Since 1981, Rick has been dedicated to government work as a Contracting Officer with the Air Force on F-111,

A-10, and KC-10 Aircraft, Program Manager of Department of Defense Business Opportunities (DoDBusOpps), Department of Defense Technical Data Solutions (DoDTeDS), Federal Technical Data Solutions (FedTeDS) and Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS). He pioneered the procurement systems DoDBusOpps and DoDTeDS, and was instrumental



BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR “CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE IN THE ACQUISITION PROCESS”

Applying the latest technology and streamlining processes is typically the goal of web applications. Under the auspices of IAE, a representative group from the acquisition community has been studying how to apply this concept to collecting contractor performance information. By increasing the types of reports, expanding the number and content of reviews,

and providing a broader range of tools to accomplish this, the ability to access, review, collect and share performance information on contracts across many agencies can be improved. When performance information is collected, it provides oversight and enhances confidence to support source selection decisions. The federal government is committed to

achieving this in the most effective way possible.

Watch acquisition.gov for the FAR case with proposed rules and new draft guide. Public comments will be solicited.

ACQUISITION POLICY

ACQUISITION ADVISORY PANEL RECOMMENDS IMPROVEMENTS TO ACQUISITION POLICY

As the end of summer approaches, the Acquisition Advisory Panel nears the finish line for recommendations to improve acquisition laws, regulations, and policies in a number of key areas. Some of the topics the Panel is examining include the use of commercial practices in federal contracting, performance-based contracting, performance of acquisition functions across agency lines of responsibility, governmentwide contracts, small business access to government contracts, acquisition workforces, and the appropriate role of contractors supporting the government. The Panel, which has been meeting publicly since February 2005, has heard testimony from over 100 witnesses on acquisition related matters. The Panel's statutory charter is to review and recommend any

necessary changes to acquisition laws and regulations as well as governmentwide acquisition policies with a view toward ensuring effective and appropriate use of commercial practices and performance-based contracting. While work remains, the Panel has already adopted recommendations in four areas under their charter with a view toward:

- improving small business access to government contracts
- increasing accountability and transparency in interagency contracting
- providing improved guidance to agencies on the use of performance-based acquisition
- improving the management of the government's acquisition workforce

See the Panel's web site (acquisition.gov/comp/aap/index.html) for complete details of their recommendations and draft reports.

The Panel continued to meet publicly through July to address the other procurement issues under their statutory charter including commercial buying practices and the appropriate role of contractors in the federal workplace.

The Panel was authorized by Section 1423 of the Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2003, Section 843 of Title VIII of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (Pub. L. No. 109-163). On February 1, 2005, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) formally announced the Panel's members, all recognized experts in government acquisition law and policy who represent a wide variety of backgrounds from both the public and private sectors.

SYSTEM UPDATES

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FPDS-NG

- Migration of DoD data progressing at a high success rate
 - Batch 1 migrated at 99%
 - Batch 2 migrated at 98%
 - Batch 3 migrated at 99%
 - Batch 4 migrating at 97% and when complete, may be even higher
- Air Force test data migration successful with a migration rate of 97%
- FY 2005 Small Business Goaling Report completed and received accolades from SBA Administrator, Hector Barreto
- Reports converted to new software that adds:
 - Visibility of governmentwide reports logically grouped by general categories
 - Drill down capability to the contracting office or transaction

ORCA

- Implemented web services that allow contract writing system authorized users to obtain real-time data using XML to query a DUNS number, bringing the data to their desktop
- Finalized requirements for DFARS provisions to be implemented Dec 2006

Performance Data

- Final revisions made to best practices guide for “Contractor Performance in the Acquisition Process”
- FAR case to be published on acquisition.gov with proposed rules and draft guide. Public comments will be solicited

WDOL

- FAR interim rule published in the Federal Acquisition Circular, June 28, 2006. Contracting agencies are already using the program under the Department of Labor's 8/05 memorandum authorizing use
- Planned XML interface for contract writing systems targeted 4th quarter

CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

PPIRS (Past Performance Information Retrieval System) is a web-based system that consolidates reports on how well government contractors do their work. It consolidates contractor report cards collected from across the federal government into a single searchable database. These report cards offer federal source selection officials the performance information they need to help them make sound best-value procurement decisions. OMB has advocated the use of PPIRS since a July 2002 memo announced the roll-out of the system and encouraged the acquisition community to use it to access timely and pertinent contractor performance information.

PPIRS has grown to contain 75,000 detailed report cards which provide contractor performance ratings and supporting narratives for many business sectors including major systems, information technology,

services, hardware, architect-engineer, and construction. Government source selection personnel can search records by contract, contractor, agency, dates of performance, dollar value, and other criteria. In addition, contractors can see the information about themselves to ensure that the government has accurate, up-to-date performance information for them.

A statistical reporting module of PPIRS (PPIRS-SR) aimed at simplifying past performance evaluation in low-dollar value procurements is currently deployed on a pilot basis at several Department of Defense (DoD) sites and has recently completed testing for a planned DoD-wide deployment.

PPIRS is administered by the Naval Sea Logistics Center, Detachment Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

For information go to www.ppirs.gov.

NEW PROJECT MANAGER OFFERS HIS EXPERTISE

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in the transformation of these programs into the governmentwide FedBizOpps and FedTeDS. He was also influential in pushing the adoption of wireless technology within DoD. In the DoD E-Business Program Office, Rick worked with homeland defense issues to bring products used for defense of weapon

IAE TALKS TO SENIOR PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVES

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invited such as the Chief Acquisition Officers, bureau procurement staff, system administrators, and IAE system points of contact (POCs). Teresa and Earl arrived at each agency anxious to engage in discussions about what was going well, as well as what could be improved. They brought everyone up to speed on recent changes in IAE and gave them an idea of improvements that they could expect in the future. There were many agency representatives who worked

systems to other federal agencies to protect assets at home and abroad. While with FedTeDS, Rick delivered E-Gov systems to the New York Transit Authority demonstrating how adoption at the state and local level can help support our national defense efforts. The procurement process has become Rick's specialty, and IAE welcomes him as its newest project manager.

diligently on the IAE planning teams, and Teresa and Earl singled each one of them out to thank them or thank the SPE for their work. Several of the systems have POCs who act as administrators in each agency. This was an opportunity to touch base with them and also to let the SPE know if a POC needed to be designated. There was lively dialogue throughout the meetings, and Teresa and Earl found it interesting to observe the high level of interest from everyone.

Before each of the agency meetings, the IAE system project managers were asked if they had anything to report to the SPE specific to their system. Then the SPEs were asked if they had any issue with any of the IAE systems. By facilitating dialogue, important information was exchanged that will be used to guide IAE's future direction.

Each agency has distinctive aspects to their acquisition functions. Some examples are the level of contracting centralization, integrated contract writing systems versus stand-alone systems, and varying dollar amounts of acquisitions. Only by looking at each agency on an individual basis is it possible to optimize IAE's service to them. All of the agencies reported taking advantage of the current IAE functionality and agreed that it is enhancing the way they work. Many are suggesting changes that would be helpful to meet their specific needs, whether it is for additional training, information, or system changes. The feedback substantiates that IAE is enabling agencies to complete acquisition functions more efficiently and quickly than before. Teresa and Earl intend to continue this dialogue so they can help the acquisition workforce utilize the IAE environment in specific ways to assist them with localized business needs.

BUSINESS SIZE DESIGNATIONS DIFFER

This is a shortened version of an article from the next issue of Federal Acquisition Institute's *Federal Acquisition Insight* on variance of business size designations. Read full text at www.fai.gov.

First, what is a Small Business Size Standard? SBA establishes numerical definitions for all for-profit industries in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), and this numerical definition is called a "size standard." It is usually stated as the average number of employees or average annual receipts of a business concern. Both figures are evaluated for the ENTIRE enterprise, including all locations and subsidiaries worldwide. For the electric utility industry the size standard is measured in megawatt hours and for the banking industry, it is measured in total assets.

Several of the IAE systems include business size: CCR, ORCA, and FPDS-NG. This results in the business size for a particular vendor differing, depending on the system being accessed.

CCR and ORCA share size data. Initially, the total revenues and number of employees for the entire

firm are entered in CCR by the vendor. SBA's Size Logic then matches this information with the size standards for all NAICS Codes listed in the vendor's profile. CCR then indicates the vendor's small business size status for each NAICS code listed. The vendor must keep this information up to date and is used for informational and marketing purposes. (Note: At this time CCR does not maintain archive files but it will add this functionality in the first quarter of 2007). Because CCR only shows the most current information, it is not for Certifications and Representations. This is ORCA's function.

ORCA, or the Online Representations and Certifications Application, is the electronic Section K of a solicitation. CCR populates much data in ORCA, including Small Business Size information by NAICS. In order to activate in ORCA any changes made to CCR into ORCA, a vendor must go into ORCA and recertify by agreeing to the ORCA update. Because ORCA

is part of Section K of the solicitation, ORCA maintains archives. Current and archived business size is available. For a contract, size is determined at the time a firm submits its proposal with price or at bid opening. It is not determined the date the contract is signed or the date the contract information is entered into FPDS-NG.

FPDS-NG is the data system that records each contractual action. Some of the successful contractor's basic data is transferred from CCR into FPDS-NG. However, CCR does not electronically share size data with FPDS-NG. Contracting Officers manually enter the size information as of the date the firm certified its size status (ORCA archive information) for the particular solicitation. Once basic contract and contractor's data is in FPDS-NG, it does not change. It is point-in-time information, as it is tied to an existing contract.

For more information contact integrated.acquisition@gsa.gov