

## CONTRACT AWARDS

- **Does NCI have a contracting Web site?**

Yes. Go to the NCI [Office of Acquisitions](#) (OA) web site.

- **Is there a resource for general information on NCI contracts?**

For general information on contracts on the NCI acquisition process, see "[Understand NCI Contracts](#), A Guide for Principal Investigators and Project Directors" at: <http://rcb.cancer.gov/rcb-internet/reference/PI%20Handbook.pdf>.

- **What percentage of the NIH and NCI budgets are spent on contracts?**

In FY 2007, 10% of the NIH extramural budget, \$2.8 billion, went to R&D contracts. About 8.4% percent of the NCI extramural budget, \$404 million, went to R&D contracts.

- **Where are the current Requests for Proposals (RFPs) solicitations published?**

You can find NCI's current [RFPs](#) on the [NCI Request for Proposals List](#). In addition, all Federal Government RFPs are required to be published on the [Federal Business Opportunities](#) (FedBizOpps) web site.

- **Is the list of current and past NCI contract awards available?**

Yes. A searchable database of contracts awarded by the NCI Office of Acquisitions is available on the NCI OA Internet site under Reference Materials/OA References, *NCI Contract Awards* at: <http://rcb.cancer.gov/rcb-internet/award.htm>.

- **How does NCI decide to award a contract instead of a grant?**

Contracts are used procure research, supporting services and products for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government. All contracts have a [Statement of Work](#), which specifies the Government's requirements. A grant is an assistance mechanism used to stimulate research when the Government does not anticipate being substantially involved in the project, thus allowing a grantee considerable flexibility in determining the research direction. No fixed service or product is expected.

- **Are requirements and administrative processes more stringent for contracts?**

Yes. Contracts describe in detail the report(s), product(s) and/or service(s) the Contractor must deliver to satisfy the contractual requirement identified in the [Statement of Work](#). The contract document stipulates exactly what is to be delivered, how it is to be delivered and when it is to be delivered. In addition to technical deliverables, contracts also require terms and conditions mandated by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), the submission of financial and administrative reports, i.e. invoices, invention reporting, and documentation to close out the contract. See [Section III](#) of [Understand NCI Contracts](#) for more information.

- **Do academic scientists generally apply for NIH R&D contracts?**

Yes. Principal Investigators and research scientists from academic institutions, non-profit organizations and businesses "propose on" NIH R&D contracts requirements.

- **Does NCI support R&D contracts for small business concerns similar to the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) grants?**

Yes. Every fall, NCI participates in the NIH/CDC Solicitation for SBIR Contract Proposals. Current and past research topics can be accessed at NCI's SBIR & STTR web site at: <http://sbir.cancer.gov/funding/contracts/>

- **Do contracts undergo a rigorous peer review?**

Yes. For details on the process, go to "[Proposal Submission and Evaluation Process](#)" of [Understand NCI Contracts](#) for more information on the proposal submission and evaluation process.

- **Are contract proposals reviewed by the National Cancer Advisory Board?**

No. R&D Contract proposals are peer reviewed by a [Technical Evaluation Panel](#). The technical evaluation will be conducted solely on the basis of the evaluation criteria set forth in the Request for Proposal.

- **Is merit the primary criterion for awarding contracts?**

Yes. NCI makes awards based on technical merit, though cost and past performance may also be factors in funding decisions.

- **Do offerors in the competitive range answer scientific and other questions?**

Yes. NCI's [Office of Acquisitions](#) conducts written and oral [negotiations](#) simultaneously with all offerors in the [competitive range](#). During negotiations, offerors may provide written responses or clarifications to business and technical concerns from the review.

- **What is source selection?**

After negotiations, the Office of Acquisitions holds a source selection meeting to review all revised proposals and select a contractor. Offerors are notified after the review.

- **Can I request a debriefing after a competition is over?**

Yes. Each offeror is entitled to one debriefing. Offerors must request a debriefing in writing within three days after receiving notification of the contract award. At this "post award" debriefing you will receive information about your proposal's strengths and weaknesses as well as some information about the award process, i.e. overall ranking of offerors and a summary of the rationale for award.

Offerors may also choose to request a debriefing prior to the award of the contract. Offerors must request a debriefing, in writing within three days after receiving a notification of exclusion from the competition. Offerors must also specify whether the request is for a "pre" or "post" award debriefing. At a "pre award" debriefing only information about the offeror's proposal will be discussed. Because the competition is ongoing, no information about the award process will be provided.

- **When can I get more information on the competition?**

Much of the information for a competition is confidential, including the identity of offerors. After a contract is awarded, all offerors are informed of the number of proposals submitted, name of the successful offeror, and dollars and period awarded. Award notices are posted on the [FedBizOpps](#) website as well.

- **How do I find NCI contracting staff?**

Go to [Mission and Structure](#) in the NCI [Office of Acquisitions](#). For RFP-specific questions, see the contact(s) listed in the individual RFP located under “Current Request for Proposals.”