

APD ALERT

Government-wide Acquisition Contracts (GWAC): VETS, 8(a) STARS, and HUBZone Delegations of Ordering Authority



Purpose

The purpose of this Alert is to make you aware of special ordering authorities available from the General Services Administration (GSA) that can assist offices in accomplishing their socio-economic goals when purchasing information technology products and services. Delegations will only be granted to Contracting Officers (CO), but all individuals involved in ordering are encouraged to complete the training.

Some of the advantages to using these GWAC's include:

- Ease of use.
- Client agencies receive small business and other socio-economic category credits.
- Orders may not be protested unless the order increases the scope, period of performance, or maximum order value of the contract.

Training to use each of the GWAC's is easy and may individually be accomplished in as little as 15 to 20 minutes. GWAC training helps CO's use the contracts most effectively. After training is complete, a contract-specific delegation memorandum will be sent to the CO. Upon bilateral execution, the CO will be able to buy from the individual GWAC. Please note there are specific training requirements for each GWAC as outlined in this Alert.

Veterans Technology Services (VETS) GWAC

Executive Order 13360 was designed to strengthen Federal contracting opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) technology firms. The Veterans Technology Services (VETS) Government-wide Acquisition Contracts (GWAC) are small business set-aside contracts for SDVOSB technology firms.

These easy-to-use contracts are designed to help Federal agencies achieve the 3 percent goal for contracting with SDVOSB's through the purchase of information technology (IT). (The Department of Agriculture has a 5 percent goal for SDVOSB IT purchases.)

How can I buy on the VETS GWAC?

Federal buyers must receive training on the proper use of VETS contracts and be granted written delegation of ordering authority signed by the VETS GWAC Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO) prior to competing for and issuing VETS GWAC task orders. Requesting a delegation of ordering authority for VETS GWAC is easy and is routinely handled by a brief call with a VETS GWAC PCO providing the parties have access to the Internet during the training.

CO's interested in a delegation of ordering authority should submit the following information via e-mail to vetsgwac@gsa.gov.

1. Agency name
2. Individual's name
3. Contact Information (street address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address)
4. A copy of the CO's warrant may be scanned and e-mailed to vetsgwac@gsa.gov or faxed to 816-823-1608. Please place "VETS GWAC Delegation" in the subject line.

Upon receipt of this information, a VETS GWAC PCO will contact the individual to set up a training date and time. For additional information, visit the GSA VETS GWAC web site: <http://www.gsa.gov/vetsgwac>

8(a) Streamlined Technology Acquisition Resources for Services (STARS) GWAC

The 8(a) Streamlined Technology Acquisition Resources for Services (STARS) GWAC are set-aside contracts for technology solutions designed to promote small business utilization. 8(a) STARS GWACs are multiple award, indefinite delivery, and indefinite quantity contracts with eight functional areas based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

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

How can I buy off of the 8(a) STARS GWAC?

Federal buyers wanting to use the 8(a) STARS GWAC must receive training on the proper use of 8(a) STARS contracts and be granted written delegation of ordering authority signed by the 8(a) STARS GWAC PCO prior to competing for and issuing 8(a) STARS GWAC task orders.

Requesting a delegation of ordering authority for 8(a) STARS is easy, either through an online training seminar or through a brief call with an 8(a) STARS GWAC PCO. The preferred method is to take the Center for Acquisition Excellence online training seminar because 8(a) STARS PCO's are not always available to provide telephone training. The online training is self-paced and available 24 hours a days, 7 days a week. To take the online training:

1. Access the Center for Acquisition Excellence's Web site at <https://fsstraining.gsa.gov/>
2. Request a login and password (if you do not already have one)
3. Log in to the Web site
4. Click on "Learning Center"
5. Click on "Course Information and Enrollment"
6. Select "8(a) STARS Delegation of Order Authority Seminar"
7. Complete the seminar
8. E-mail a copy of the certificate of completion, CO's warrant, and contact information (name, agency, address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address) to delegations@gsa.gov or fax to 816-823-1608. Please place "8(a) STARS GWAC Delegation" in the subject line.

To request training via a brief conference call, CO's should submit the following information via e-mail to delegations@gsa.gov.

1. Agency name
2. Individual's name
3. Contact Information (street address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address)
4. A copy of the CO's warrant may be scanned and e-mailed to delegations@gsa.gov or faxed to 816-823-1608. Please place "8(a) STARS GWAC Delegation" in the subject line.

Upon receipt of this information, an 8(a) STARS GWAC PCO will contact the individual to set up a training date and time. For additional information, visit the GSA 8(a) STARS GWAC web site: <http://www.gsa.gov/8astars>.

Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) GWAC

The HUBZone GWAC's are set-aside contracts that enable Federal agencies to fulfill their technology requirements and promote HUBZone businesses when purchasing technology solutions. The HUBZONE GWAC's are multiple award, indefinite delivery, and indefinite quantity contracts covering four NAICS functional areas:

- NAICS 514199 – All Other Information Services
- NAICS 514210 – Data Processing Services
- NAICS 541511 – Custom Computer Programming Services
- NAICS 541512 – Computer Systems Design Services

How can I buy on HUBZone GWAC?

Federal buyers wanting to use the HUBZone GWAC must receive training on the proper use of HUBZone contracts and be granted written delegation of ordering authority signed by the HUBZone GWAC PCO prior to competing for and issuing HUBZone GWAC task orders. Requesting a delegation of ordering authority for HUBZone GWAC is easy, and is routinely handled by a brief call with a HUBZone GWAC PCO.

CO's interested in a delegation of ordering authority need to submit the following information via e-mail to delegations@gsa.gov.

1. Agency name
2. Individual's name
3. Contact Information (street address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address)
4. A copy of the CO's warrant may be scanned and e-mailed to delegations@gsa.gov or faxed to 816-823-1608. Please place "HUBZone GWAC Delegation" in the subject line.

Upon receipt of this information, a HUBZone GWAC PCO will contact the individual to set up a training date and time. For additional information, visit the GSA HUBZone GWAC web site: <http://www.gsa.gov/hubzone>

If you have any questions regarding VETS, 8(a) STARS, or HUBZone GWAC's, please contact Angelia Fleming Loggie at 301-504-1730 or via e-mail at angelia.flemingloggie@ars.usda.gov.