

SMALL BUSINESS CROSS-CUTTING WORKING GROUP

Findings adopted by the Panel:

F-1 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Contracting officers need definitive guidance on the priority for applying the various small business contracting preferences to particular acquisitions.

F-2 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Contracting officers need explicit guidance on how to exercise their discretion in selecting the appropriate small business contracting method for a procurement.

F-4 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Cascading procurements fail to balance the Government's interest in quick contracting with the requirement for the maximum practicable small business contracting opportunities.

F-5 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

The contracting community does not properly apply and follow the governing contract bundling definition and requirements in planning acquisitions.

F-7 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Agency officials need targeted training to better acquaint them with the requirements and benefits of contracting with small businesses.

F-8 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

The strategy of reserving prime contract awards for small businesses in full and open multiple award procurements may be effective in providing small business prime contracting opportunities.

F-10 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

The contracting community needs explicit guidance on utilizing small business reservations for orders against multiple award IDIQ contracts.

Recommendations adopted by the Panel:

R-1 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Amend the Small Business Act to provide consistent statutory language governing the applicability of the various small business preference programs.

R-2 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Provide guidance clarifying that contracting officer discretion in selecting small business contracting methods should be based on small business goal achievements and market research.

R-4 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Amend governing statutes and regulations to expressly preclude cascading procurements as an acquisition strategy.

R-5 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Provide additional training and create an interagency group to develop best practices and strategies to un-bundle contracts and mitigate the effects of contract bundling.

R-7 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Require that OFPP coordinate the development of a government-wide training module on small business contracting and subcontracting with small businesses.

R-8 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Provide express statutory authorization for small business reservations of prime contract awards in full and open multiple award procurements that are not suitable for competition exclusively by small businesses.

R-10 [Adopted 31 January, 2006]

Provide a statutory and regulatory amendment granting agencies explicit discretion to limit competition for orders to small businesses.

Findings and Recommendations
Tabled for revision and further discussions by the Panel:

F-3 [Tabled 31 January, 2006]

Agencies need accurate, real-time FPDS-NG data to assess small business goal achievements.

F-6 [Tabled 31 January, 2006]

The Government needs more data on contract bundling to be able to assess and quantify its impact on small businesses.

F-9 [Withdrawn by Working Group Chair, 31 January, 2006]

Contracting officials need guidance on how to apply the limitations on subcontracting requirements to small business prime contract reservations in full and open multiple award vehicles.

R-3 [Tabled 31 January, 2006]

Direct GAO to conduct a review to determine the accuracy and timeliness of FPDS-NG data.

R-6 [Tabled 31 January, 2006]

Revise the FPDS-NG data fields to allow for the collection of specified information concerning contract bundling.

R-9 [Withdrawn by Working Group Chair, 31 January, 2006]

Provide a statutory and regulatory amendment to clarify that the limitations on subcontracting provisions do not apply to contracts that are reserved for small businesses in full and open multiple award procurements.