



U.S. General Services Administration

Federal Acquisition Service

Incorporating GSA's Small Business GWACs into Your IT Acquisition Strategy

**NOAA GWAC Industry Day
October 9, 2008**

**Presenter:
Jean Oyler**

Strategy Considerations

We recommend asking these questions about your IT requirement

- Is it in scope?
- How do I find contractors that provide what I need?
- What about small business?
- What kind of pricing can I expect?
- What value is there for my organization?
- How do I minimize risk and stay on schedule?

Due Diligence Activities

- Include capability research in market research
- Obtain training and delegation of procurement authority
- Review scope, terms and pricing data posted online
 - www.gsa.gov/vetsgwac
 - www.gsa.gov/8astars
 - www.gsa.gov/commits
- Contact us for up-front review of task order scope
- Report task into FPDS-NG for socioeconomic credit
- Record past performance
- Contact us for questions

Federal Acquisition Service

COMMITTS NexGen

Overview

- [COMMITTS Ordering Guide](#)
- [Capabilities Statement Request](#)
- [Delegation of Procurement Authority](#)
- [List of COMMITTS NexGen Contract Holders](#)
- [Scope Reviews](#)
- [Socioeconomic Credit](#)
- [COMMITTS NexGen Library](#)

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COMMITTS NexGen Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC)

NEW! The COMMITTS NexGen Delegation of Procurement Authority training course is now available online. Please visit the COMMITTS NexGen [Delegation of Procurement Authority page](#) for more information.

A revised COMMITTS NexGen ordering guide is now available. Access the [COMMITTS NexGen Contract Library](#) to view the guide

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) interim rule, effective 9/17/08, addressing FAR 16.505 resulting from the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 has been posted in the [COMMITTS NexGen Contract Library](#). Look for the "COMMITTS NG Ordering Guide Addendum GSA-01."

COMMITTS NexGen

COMMITTS NexGen, (Commerce Information Technology Solutions-NexGen) is an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity Governmentwide Acquisition Contract, previously managed by the U.S. Commerce Department. Under the direction of the Office of Management and Budget, GSA assumed responsibility for managing COMMITTS NexGen on March 14, 2008.

COMMITTS NexGen is a task order contract designed to offer information technology (IT) solutions to Federal customers. The COMMITTS NexGen program's objectives are to:

- Deliver top quality, performance-based IT services and solutions that meet government mission requirements;
- Deliver IT services and solutions with a streamlined acquisition methodology; and
- Provide competitive IT solutions from a pool of exceptional small, disadvantaged, 8(a), women-owned, veteran-owned, service disabled veteran-owned, and HUBZone businesses.

Questions

Questions on the COMMITTS NexGen GWAC may be submitted to commits@gsa.gov or by calling the Small Business GWAC Center toll free at (877) 327-8732.

Please note: The solicitation on this contract is closed; no additional vendors can be added to this contract at this

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• [Organization Page](#)

ACQUISITION SOLUTIONS

Technology Contracts

- [8\(a\) STARS GWAC](#)
- [Alliant Small Business GWAC](#)
- [VETS GWAC](#)

GSA EVENTS

- [Small Business GWAC Center Planned Events](#)

RELATED GSA TOPICS

- [Small Business GWAC Center](#)

GOVERNMENT LINKS

- [Small Business Administration](#)

Contact Us

[GSA Staff Directory](#)

GSA Organizations

Choose... **GO**

Mitigating Risk

- Streamline/simplify your selection process (FAR 16.505)
 - Keep submission requirements to a minimum
 - Limit the number of evaluation factors to those that are meaningful discriminators
 - List your evaluation criteria and their relative order of importance
 - Use Oral presentations when applicable

- Allow sufficient time for evaluation and award

Mitigating Risk

- Ensure that the evaluation is consistent with the terms of the solicitation
- Provide debrief on Orders over \$5M*; otherwise not required but strongly encouraged
- Bottom Line “Do What You Say You Are Going to Do”

* Reference National Defense Authorization Act 2008 Section 843

Task Order Protests

➤ **Ombudsman process**

In accordance with FAR 16.505(b)(5) [and 10 U.S.C. 2305c(3)], complaints related to matters affecting order award may be directed to the ordering agency's Ombudsman.

➤ **FAR 16.505**

No protest under FAR 33.1 is authorized for task orders except for a protest on the grounds that the order increased the scope, period of performance, or maximum value of the contract (FAR 16.505(a)(8)).

➤ **NDAA 2008**

NDAA 2008 established new ordering requirements, thus ensuring fair treatment of contractors. NDAA requires:

- Debriefs for orders \$5M and above (FAR 16.505(b)(4))
- Reasonable solicitation times
- GAO protests for task orders greater than \$10M

Client Feedback

Client Feedback on STARS

- **Client**

- GSA

- Scope**

- FA 3

- **Objective**

- Consolidation of the 39 separate contracts and 15 different help desks providing the same information technology support to various GSA offices.

Client Feedback on STARS

- **What was the selection process you went through?**
 - Market research on various small business vehicles during summer 2006. Capabilities statement requests yielded over 15 responses from capable sources on STARS
- **What was the problem to be solved?**
 - Consolidation of the Infrastructure support contracts (39 separate contracts) into one contract with Enterprise focus for IT infrastructure Delivery
- **What solution did the Contractor provide?**
 - An effective transition plan and process for consolidation of the support contracts as well as expertise of infrastructure and technical requirements

Client Feedback on STARS

- **What were the cost savings?**
 - Operational efficiencies, modernization efforts that make GSA more secure, up-to-date, agile and better able to support key initiatives. Costs have decreased 10 to 15%
- **What did you like most about using a GWAC?**
 - The efficient process utilized through the capabilities review and fair opportunity process
- **Would you use a GWAC again?**
 - Yes

VETS Task Order Example

- Contract: VETS, Functional Area 1
- Requirement: Web Technical Services (existing system)
- Contract Length: 12 month base period with four, one-year options
- Contract Type: Performance Based/Labor hour
- Offers Received: 9
- Total estimated dollar value: \$74.5 million (with options)

Client Feedback on VETS

- **Client**

- USDA

- **Scope**

- I-Web Technical Services and Support, FA 1 on VETS (O & M)

- **Objective**

- The I-Web Program provides a single centralized database that offers a more efficient data usage for field users and decision makers via a central nationwide data repository.

Client Feedback on VETS

- **What was the selection process you went through?**
 - The use of VETS and posting on E-Buy to solicit was extremely efficient and effective
- **What was the problem to be solved?**
 - Maintain existing applications and modules by developing and implementing changes & fixes, as well as implement new modules through a performance based QASP
- **What solution did the Contractor provide?**
 - Custom fit management improvements into an already high-performing I-Web team, including seamless transition and uninterrupted performance

Client Feedback on VETS

➤ What were the benefits?

- Critical to receiving a clean audit Opinion and consolidation of multiple contracts into one

➤ What did you like most about using a GWAC?

- The use of the GWAC and posting on E-Buy was an extremely efficient and effective method to obtain the needed services. All inquiries by the VETS firms were extremely professional and knowledgeable. The use of VETS resulted in excellent competition.

➤ Would you use a GWAC again?

Yes: "I have been extremely impressed with all the vendors I have been in contact with on this contract and the GSA folks I have talked to. This is definitely a good way to go with IT procurements."

Value to the Customer

- Solutions-based contracts for information technology services and related products
- Shortened procurement lead time
- Highly qualified contractors for award of task orders
- Paths to achieve socioeconomic goals
- Offer/Acceptance to SBA not required (STARS only)
- Directed orders up to \$3.5 million (STARS only)
- Compliance with Section 803 (DOD)

Resources

- Policy Memos (see websites)
- Publications
 - 8(a) STARS listed 7th in “Top 20 contracts feds like to use,” *Federal Computer Week*, October 2007
 - 8(a) START article “The STARS are out tonight,” *Federal Computer Week*, 2005
 - VETS article “VETS Brings IT Opportunities,” *Military Information Technology*, July 2007
 - VETS Catalog (MIT published), August 2007
 - VETS article “IT Procurements Aid Disabled Veterans,” *Military Information Technology*, February 2008

In Summary

Small Business GWACs offer you:

- Streamlined acquisitions for Task Orders
- Data needed to make strategic business decisions
 - Capability research
 - Pre-award compatibility review of work statement
 - Web access to training, contract terms, contractors, ordering guides, pricing, etc.
- Small business credit
- Direct access to GSA Procuring Contracting Officer for assistance

Contact Us

Small Business GWAC Center

(877) 327-8732

www.gsa.gov/sbgwac

www.gsa.gov/8astars

www.gsa.gov/vetsgwac

www.gsa.gov/commits

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Questions?



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Thank you

