

paragraph (b) of this provision in an attachment to that contract.

(End of provision)

252.227–7041 Additional Postaward Requirements for Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

As prescribed in 227.7104–4(c)(2), use the following clause:

Additional Postaward Requirements for Small Business Technology Transfer Program (JAN 2025)

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this clause—

Research institution means an institution or entity that—

(1) Has a place of business located in the United States;

(2) Operates primarily within the United States or makes a significant contribution to the U.S. economy through payment of taxes or use of American products, materials, or labor; and

(3) Is either—

(i) A nonprofit institution that is owned and operated exclusively for scientific or educational purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual (section 4(3) of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980); or

(ii) A federally-funded research or research and development center as identified by the National Science Foundation (<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/ffrdclist/>) in accordance with the guidance at Federal Acquisition Regulation 35.017.

United States means the 50 States and the District of Columbia, the territories and possessions of the Government, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

(b) *Preaward submissions.* Attached to this contract are the following documents, submitted by the Contractor pursuant to Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 252.227–7040, Additional Preaward Requirements for Small Business Technology Transfer Program:

(1) The written agreement between the Contractor and a research institution.

(2) The Contractor's written representation that the Contractor is satisfied with that written agreement, which does not conflict with the clause at DFARS 252.227–7018, Rights in Other Than Commercial Technical Data and Computer Software—Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program, or this clause.

(c) *Postaward updates.* The Contractor shall not allow any modification to its written agreement with the research institution, unless the written agreement, as modified, contains—

(1) A specific allocation of ownership, rights, and responsibilities for intellectual property (including inventions, patents, technical data, and computer software) resulting from performance of this contract;

(2) Identification of which party to the written agreement may obtain United States or foreign patents or otherwise protect any inventions that result from a Small Business Technology Transfer Program award;

(3) The Contractor's written, dated, and signed representation that—

(i) The Contractor is satisfied with its written agreement with the research institution, as modified; and

(ii) The written agreement, as modified, does not conflict with the clause at DFARS 252.227–7018, Rights in Other Than Commercial Technical Data and Computer Software—Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program, or this clause; and

(4) No terms and conditions that conflict with the clause at DFARS 252.227–7018, Rights in Other Than Commercial Technical Data and Computer Software—Small Business Innovation Research Program and Small Business Technology Transfer Program, or this clause, including the rights of the United States, the Contractor, and the research institution regarding intellectual property, and regarding any right to carry out follow-on research.

(d) *Submission of updated agreement.* Within 30 days of execution of the modified written agreement described in paragraph (b)(1) of this clause, the Contractor shall submit a copy of that updated written agreement and the updated written representation described in paragraph (b)(2) of this clause to the Contracting Officer for review and attachment to this contract.

(End of clause)

[FR Doc. 2024–29226 Filed 12–17–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001–FR–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Acquisition Regulations System

48 CFR Part 216

[Docket DARS–2024–0023]

RIN 0750–AL80

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Task Order and Delivery Order Contracting for Architectural and Engineering Services (DFARS Case 2023–D007)

AGENCY: Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: DoD is issuing a final rule amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to implement a section of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 that provides directions for awarding architectural and engineering service task orders and delivery orders under multiple-award contracts.

DATES: Effective December 18, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Kimberly R. Ziegler, telephone 703–901–3176.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

DoD published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** at 89 FR 60853 on July 29, 2024, to implement section 802 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 (Pub. L. 117–263), which amends 10 U.S.C. 3406. Section 802 added a requirement at 10 U.S.C. 3406(h)(1) for DoD contracting officers to use qualification-based selections when awarding task orders and delivery orders for architectural and engineering (AE) services in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) subpart 36.6 and 40 U.S.C. chapter 11 (The Brooks Architect Engineer Act). Section 802 also added, at 10 U.S.C. 3406(h)(2), direction that prevents contracting officers from routinely requesting additional information regarding qualifications when awarding task orders or delivery orders under a multiple-award contract. Two respondents submitted public comments in response to the proposed rule.

II. Discussion and Analysis

DoD reviewed the public comments in the development of the final rule. A

discussion of the comments is provided, as follows:

A. Summary of Significant Changes From the Proposed Rule

There are no significant changes from the proposed rule.

B. Analysis of Public Comments

1. Support for the Rule

Comment: A respondent expressed support for timely implementation of the final rule.

Response: DoD acknowledges support for the rule.

2. Concern Regarding the Text of the Rule

Comment: A respondent expressed concern that the rule text did not mirror the statutory language.

Response: The rule implements the statutory language using the drafting conventions of the FAR and its supplements, including the DFARS.

III. Applicability to Contracts At or Below the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) and for Commercial Services and Commercial Products, Including Commercially Available Off-the-Shelf (COTS) Items

This final rule does not create any new solicitation provisions or contract clauses. It does not impact any existing solicitation provisions or contract clauses or their applicability to contracts valued at or below the simplified acquisition threshold, for commercial products including COTS items, or for commercial services.

IV. Expected Impact of the Rule

DoD does not expect the final rule to have a significant impact on the public because the rule maintains the status quo regarding procedures for awarding task orders or delivery orders for AE services under multiple-award contracts. The FAR currently provides those procedures at subpart 36.6. This DFARS final rule points to those procedures.

The final rule also adds language to prevent contracting officers from requesting unnecessary information regarding qualifications. Therefore, this final rule may reduce the resubmission of qualification information when competing for AE services under multiple-award contracts. Contracting officers will request additional information only when necessary to determine the most qualified offeror for a task order or delivery order.

V. Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Executive Orders (E.O.s) 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). E.O. 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of harmonizing rules, and of promoting flexibility. This is not a significant regulatory action and, therefore, was not subject to review under section 6(b) of E.O. 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, as amended.

VI. Congressional Review Act

As required by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801–808) before an interim or final rule takes effect, DoD will submit a copy of the interim or final rule with the form, Submission of Federal Rules Under the Congressional Review Act, to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States. A major rule under the Congressional Review Act cannot take effect until 60 days after it is published in the **Federal Register**. The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has determined that this rule is not a major rule as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804.

VII. Regulatory Flexibility Act

A final regulatory flexibility analysis has been prepared consistent with the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.* and is summarized as follows:

This rule amends the DFARS to implement section 802 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 (Pub. L. 117–263), which amends 10 U.S.C. 3406. Section 802 requires DoD contracting officers to use qualification-based selections when awarding task orders and delivery orders for architectural and engineering (AE) services (10 U.S.C. 3406(h)(1)), a requirement that is already in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 16.500(d), 16.505(a)(9), and 36.600. Section 802 also prevents contracting officers from routinely requesting additional information regarding qualifications when awarding task orders or delivery orders under a multiple-award contract (10 U.S.C. 3406(h)(2)).

The objective of the rule is to ensure DoD contracting officers follow the new direction provided by 10 U.S.C. 3406(h)(2) when awarding task orders

and delivery orders for AE services in accordance with current regulations and 10 U.S.C. 3406(h)(1).

There were no significant issues raised by the public in response to the initial regulatory flexibility analysis.

This final rule will apply to small entities performing AE services under multiple-award contracts, which includes indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contracts. The final rule is expected to reduce the burden on small entities by preventing contracting officers, when awarding task orders or delivery orders, from requiring the submittal of qualification information that was previously submitted and evaluated for the award of the basic multiple-award contract. The contracting officer may now request qualification information that is necessary to determine the most qualified offer for the particular task order or delivery order.

Data obtained from the Federal Procurement Data System for FY 2020, 2021, and 2022 indicates that DoD awards an average of 4,600 task orders and delivery orders for AE services annually. Of the estimated 4,600 orders, an average of approximately 2,600 awards are made annually to an estimated 453 unique small entities. For each task order or delivery order award, DoD estimates that 3 multiple-award contract awardees will submit an offer in response to a request for proposals. As a result, it is estimated that approximately 1,359 small entities will benefit from any reduction in burden provided by the final rule.

The final rule does not impose any new reporting, recordkeeping, or compliance requirements.

There are no practical alternatives that will accomplish the objectives of the statute.

VIII. Paperwork Reduction Act

This final rule does not contain any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 216

Government procurement.

Jennifer D. Johnson,

Editor/Publisher, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

Therefore, the Defense Acquisition Regulations System amends 48 CFR part 216 as follows:

PART 216—TYPES OF CONTRACTS

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 216 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 1303 and 48 CFR chapter 1.

■ 2. Add section 216.500 to subpart 216.5 to read as follows:

216.500 Scope of subpart.

(d)(i) When awarding task orders or delivery orders for architect-engineer services under a multiple-award contract, follow the procedures for the selection of contractors and placement of orders at FAR 36.6 to implement 10 U.S.C. 3406(h)(1).

(ii) Contracting officers shall not request additional information related to contractor qualifications, unless it is necessary to determine the most highly qualified contractor for the particular task order or delivery order (10 U.S.C. 3406(h)(2)).

[FR Doc. 2024-29227 Filed 12-17-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001-FR-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Defense Acquisition Regulations System

48 CFR Part 225

[Docket DARS-2024-0001]

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Technical Amendments

AGENCY: Defense Acquisition Regulations System, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule; technical amendment.

SUMMARY: DoD is amending the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to make needed editorial changes.

DATES: Effective December 18, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Jennifer D. Johnson, Defense Acquisition Regulations System, telephone 703-717-8226.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This final rule amends the DFARS to make needed

editorial changes to update a reference to a DoD Directive at DFARS 225.802-71.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 225

Government procurement.

Jennifer D. Johnson,
Editor/Publisher, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.

Therefore, the Defense Acquisition Regulations System amends 48 CFR part 225 as follows:

PART 225—FOREIGN ACQUISITION

■ 1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 225 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 41 U.S.C. 1303 and 48 CFR chapter 1.

225.802-71 [Amended]

■ 2. Amend section 225.802-71 by removing “DoD Directive 2040.3” and adding “DoD Instruction 2040.03” in its place.

[FR Doc. 2024-29228 Filed 12-17-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001-FR-P