



SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

LOWER COLORADO REGION OFFICE, BOULDER CITY

April 2002

The Small Business Program Newsletter is prepared and distributed quarterly by the Business Utilization Development Specialist (BUDS). The purpose of this newsletter is to broaden and refresh contracting and functional personnel knowledge of the Small Business Program, and to recognize the importance of small businesses to the nation and the economy.

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Welcome to our Small Business Program Newsletter. I am Eather Stewart, your new BUDS for the Bureau of Reclamation. My goal is to make this newsletter as informational as possible for the contracting and functional personnel. The reader is encouraged to share this information with other functional personnel in the acquisition process. It is my responsibility to assist small, disadvantaged, women-owned, HUBZone, and service disabled veteran-owned businesses seeking opportunities with government. As your new team member, I am looking forward to working with you as the BUDS.

NEWSFLASH

BEDP Goals- FY 02 (Prime Contracts)

Category	Goal
Small Business	40%
Small Disadvantaged Business	5%
8(a) Awards	10%
Women-Owned Small Business	7%
HUBZone Small Business	2.5%
Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business	3%

Procedure for Architect-Engineer (A/E) Acquisitions under the 8(a) Program

Effective March 1, 2002, SBA has advised that contracting for A/E services through the 8(a) program does not eliminate the need for complying with the Brooks Architect-Engineer Act. If an SBA office provides the contracting officer (CO) with the name of only one A/E firm for negotiation through the 8(a) program, the CO should contact the SBA office and ask that they provide the names of at least three A/E firms for consideration. The intent of this change is to satisfy the Brooks Act requirement that the most qualified firm is selected.

Background: Section 543 of the Brooks Architect Act, Public Law 92-582, as amended, provides in part that agencies must hold discussions with no less than three firms regarding anticipated concepts and relative utility of alternative methods of approach for furnishing the required services. Agencies must select in order of preference based upon the criteria established by the CO, no less than three of the firms deemed to be the most highly qualified to provide the services required.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FEDERAL SOCIOECONOMIC PROGRAMS

Q. When did Congress pass the Small Business Act?

A. Congress passed the Small Business Act in 1953.

Q. What is the Small Business Act?

A. The Small Business Act created the Small Business Administration (SBA) and empowered the SBA to counsel and assist small business concerns and assist contracting personnel to ensure that a fair proportion of government contracts for supplies and services is placed with small businesses.

Q. Why is the Small Business Act important to small businesses?

A. The Small Business Act is important to small businesses because it expands the industrial base and help small businesses compete in the international markets.

Q. What are the socioeconomic programs?

A. The socioeconomic programs include small, small disadvantaged, small women-owned, HUBZone, service disabled veteran-owned, and other programs that are considered economically or socially disadvantaged.

Q. What do socioeconomic programs mean in the contracting world?

A. Virtually any acquisition, including an acquisition using simplified acquisition procedures, must be considered for a socioeconomic program that would afford special treatment to one or more categories of prospective contractors.

Q. What are the advantages of socioeconomic programs?

A. The advantages of socioeconomic programs are to: (1) promote free enterprise, (2) expand the

economic base, and (3) foster equality in the marketplace.

Q. What is a small business concern?

A. A small business is a firm, including affiliates, that is independently owned and operated; not dominant in the field in which it is competing for government contracts; and in conformity with specific industry criteria defined by the SBA on an industry-by-industry basis.

Q. What is a small disadvantaged business concern?

A. A small disadvantaged business is a small business that has been certified by SBA as such or has submitted an application for certification and decision is pending.

Q. What is a woman-owned small business concern?

A. A woman-owned small business is a small business concern that is at least 51% owned by one or more women; and whose management and daily operations are controlled by one or more women.

Q. What is a HUBZone small business concern?

A. A HUBZone small business is a small business concern that appears on the List of Qualified HUBZone Small Business Concerns maintained by the SBA.

Q. What is a service disabled veteran-owned small business concern?

A. A service disabled veteran-owned small business is a small business not less than 51 % owned by one or more service-disabled veterans.

Q. What is the definition of set-aside?

A. A set-aside is the reservation of an acquisition for small businesses or HUBZone small business concerns.

REMINDERS

Acquisition Screening and Review Form (DI-1886) must be completed in its entirety and submitted to the BUDS in a timely manner to ensure proper review and coordination.

DI-1886s submitted after-the-fact and prior to approval to the BUDS will be returned unsigned.

Prior to submitting Individual Contract Action Reports (SF 279) and Summary Contract Action Report (SF 281), please ensure all contracts, modifications, and task/delivery orders have been released in Procurement Desktop.

SUGGESTIONS?

Please call Eather Stewart at extension 8149 if you have suggestions, comments, or ideas for articles to enrich this publication. Thank you.