



ANSWER IT

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ANSWER CONTRACT FACTOIDS!

1981 Task Orders
 3.0 Bids/ New Task Order
 \$2.157 B Funded Sales
 \$5.68 B Estimated Value

General Services Administration
 GWACC, Pacific Rim Region
 9988 Hibert Street, Suite 102
 San Diego, CA 92131
 858.530.3175
 1.877.534.2208
<http://www.gsa.gov/answer>

ANSWER Supports .gov Domain Registration and Services

Monti Jagers and David Blottie

Under ANSWER Task Order 9T2001LH in support of E-Gov initiatives, SAIC provides the planning, administration and maintenance of the .gov domain. This task order effort provides easy access to services and information. The .gov domain facilitates collaboration among government-to-government, government-to-business, and government-to-citizen entities. The domain hosts only official, government sites at the federal-, state- and local-government levels, including federally recognized Indian tribes, known as Native Sovereign Nations (NSNs). The .gov domain provides the official and secure Internet presence for these government entities.

To maintain domain name integrity, eligibility is limited to qualified government organizations and programs. Having a managed domain name such as gsa.gov assures customers that they are accessing an official government site. Domain names are used in websites and e-mail addresses to uniquely identify computers and networks. The domain name is the core of an organization's or program's Internet identity, their online brand. Managed domain names require the holder of that name to meet certain eligibility requirements. These strict authorization standards help ensure users that they are accessing an official site.

In summary, the .gov domain provides many benefits to qualifying organizations including: 1) Reliable/trusted Web presence, 2) Managed domain limited to qualifying government organizations, 3) Public assurance that citizens are reaching your official site, 4) Knowledgeable Help Desk, 5) Password protected system for tracking domain information, and 6) Automatically generated status updates.

Millennia GWAC Industry Partners Welcomed to the Pacific Rim Region!

Paul Kennedy

The inaugural Millennia Board of Directors meeting was held on August 21st, 2003 at the Quality Suites in San Diego, CA. The one-day meeting included topics such as the FSS/FTS realignment, the history of the GWAC Center, the transition plan for the Millennia program and existing GWAC Center initiatives.

Representatives from the nine Millennia Industry Partners were represented, as well as several ANSWER Industry Partner representatives and GWAC Center associates. Diane Ruffner of DynCorp and Dave Blottie of SAIC, both Program Managers for the ANSWER GWAC, shared their time and insights with the Millennia Industry Partners regarding their experiences working with the ANSWER GWAC Center. FEDSIM representatives Stacey Lowenberg, Stephen Viar and Steven Kempf also participated in the meeting and discussed FEDSIM’s Concept of Operations related to the Millennia GWAC. FEDSIM provides the greatest number of requirements to Millennia as well as combined acquisition and technical expertise. FEDSIM and the Millennia Industry Partners have developed excellent and professional relationships that have been the cornerstone of the Millennia program.

The ANSWER GWAC Center is anxious to build productive, enduring relationships with its new Industry Partner cadre. The current Millennia Industry Partners include: Booz.Allen & Hamilton Inc.; Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC); DynCorp I&ET, Inc.; Lockheed Martin; Northrop Grumman Information Technology; Raytheon Technical Services Company; Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC); SRA International, Inc and Unisys Federal Systems. The next Millennia Board meeting is scheduled for October 29th, 2003 in the Washington, DC area.

ALLIANT – “Creating Partnerships With Common Goals”*Bill Archambeault*

The next-generation GWAC vehicle being developed by the ANSWER GWAC Center will now be known as “ALLIANT” in lieu of the previous working title of “ANSWER^{Prime}”. The name change was prompted by a desire to convey that the new GWAC will not only replace GSA’s highly successful ANSWER GWAC, but will incorporate the very best features of all of GSA’s existing GWACs. “ALLIANT”, a variation of “alliance”, is defined by Webster as “a close association for a common objective”. This description typifies the message the ANSWER GWAC Center wants to communicate to industry, its clients and its internal associates.

ALLIANT is currently in the early stages of development; therefore specific details regarding the procurement are not yet releasable. Forums are planned to solicit input from industry and government to assure ALLIANT becomes the federal government’s preeminent IT contract vehicle. The scheduling of the forums will be well publicized and located throughout the country to encourage maximum participation.

An ALLIANT webpage is planned for introduction in the near future to provide a location to post information regarding the acquisition. We’re looking forward to ALLIANT being an excellent vehicle for the government’s future IT challenges!

SAFEGUARD BPAs Expire This Month*Paul Kennedy*

The 27 SAFEGUARD Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA) for Information Technology Security services will expire on September 30, 2003. No additional requirements may be ordered under the BPAs after the expiration. The SAFEGUARD BPAs were executed in May and June 1999 and 3-year options were exercised in September 2000. The 27 BPA holders had a combined total of 56 team subcontractors and 114 other subcontractors and suppliers. Total sales to date under SAFEGUARD are over \$120 M. Some alternatives to utilizing the BPAs for data security services are to use the associated GSA Schedule 70 contracts directly or a GWAC vehicle, such as ANSWER Millennia Lite or Millennia. Either avenue is a good alternative to using stand-alone contract vehicles, in terms of both procurement lead-time and cost.

House Votes Against A-76 Revisions*Monti Jagers*

The House approved an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2004 Transportation-Treasury appropriations bill that would eliminate funding to support the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) latest revisions to Circular A-76. The revised rules would have accelerated the public/private competitive process. The amendment does not block competitions altogether, but it would force federal agencies receiving federal funds to revert to the previous process until OMB comes up with guidelines that satisfy contractors and federal agencies. Competitive sourcing is a key component of the President’s Management Agenda to streamline government.

The Senate has yet to vote on its version of the bill. The amendment may encounter resistance when the bill enters House-Senate negotiations. In the past, conferees have eliminated language on competitive sourcing from final versions of legislation.

Contracting Officer’s Corner*Paul Martin*

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) is being amended to require contractor registration in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database prior to award of any new contracts. Existing contracts also must be modified to require CCR contractor registration under the FAR change. The CCR database provides increased visibility of vendor sources and establishes a common source of vendor data for all governmental agencies to use. To comply with this new requirement, the ANSWER GWAC Center contracting officers are working with all the Industry Partners to ensure that up-to-date information is provided to the CCR.

***September Events***

Date: Sep 15-18, 2003
Location: Washington DC, Philadelphia, & Atlanta
Event: ANSWER & Millennia Follow On Discussions

Date: Sep 22-26, 2003
Location: Heidelberg, Germany
Event: MWR Expo

Date: Sep 17, 2003
Location: Crystal City, VA
Event: GWAC Presentation for New Associates Orientation

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