

ANSWER IT

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ANSWER CONTRACT FACTOIDS!

1812 Task Orders
\$1.82B Funded Sales
\$5.16B Estimated Value

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

The Contract Rationalization Process and the ANSWER Contract *Sherrie Householder*

In an effort to streamline processes and reduce the number of overlapping contract vehicles, GSA has established a Contract Vehicle Review Board (CVRB). The mission of the CVRB is to review all IT schedules, GWACs, and single award agency contracts to determine if overlaps exist and the continued value and effectiveness of each contract as a whole. The CVRB was established as part of the January 2003 realignment of FSS & FTS functions within GSA. The goal of the rationalization process is to allow GSA to meet the growing needs of its clients in terms of solutions, assisted services, IT products and services.

On March 27th the ANSWER GWAC Center met with the CVRB in Crystal City to review the salient elements of the ANSWER contract in terms of financial viability, scope of the contract, award distribution, total dollars awarded and estimated contract value, technical refreshment, past performance surveys & methodologies, rate area structure, contract types, operational efficiency, socioeconomics, etc. It is anticipated that the CVRB will make available the finalized report in the near term. In the meantime, the ANSWER GWAC Center is preparing to present the ANSWER^{PRIME} Business Case at the end of April.

ANSWER Tech Refresh IV Summit *Monti Jagers*

The ANSWER GWAC Center hosted the ANSWER Tech Refresh IV Summit from April 8-10, 2003 in Rancho Mirage, CA. Mr. Dale Markley, Deputy ARA, FSS, Region 9 made opening remarks and Ms. Ann Gladys, ARA FTS, Region 9 presented the insightful keynote address, "Tech Refresh: The Heart of Change Management". Ms. Sherrie Householder, Acting Director of the ANSWER GWAC Center, discussed the state of the ANSWER contract.

This year's Tech Refresh focused on Security, Biometrics, Healthcare Informatics, Environmental and General Focus Areas. Five ANSWER Industry Partner teams conducted individual presentations on each focus area. A full day of technology focus area workshops followed with both GSA Associates and Industry Partners participating. As a result of the breakout sessions, several skill levels were modified and new skill levels were proposed.

To begin the modification cycle for Tech Refresh IV, Ron Heald, ANSWER PCO, will prepare two critical documents: a justification paper and supporting matrix to cross-walk from each proposed skill level to the ANSWER Scope in Section C of the contract. The justification paper will support the inclusion of the proposed skill levels into the contract and provides an overview of the Tech Refresh Summit, its purpose, and a paragraph on each functional area of technology. The matrix compares each proposed skill level to ANSWER's Section C. This level of detail is required to support the rationale and basis for adding new skill levels to ANSWER. These documents will be staffed and coordinated with all

ANSWER Contract With The Soldiers In Kuwait And Afghanistan *Sherrie Householder*



Before the war in Iraq began, U.S. Army Program Executive Office, Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command (PEO STRI) asked CSC/DynCorp to deploy three personnel to support the Army's train-up on the Engagement Skills Trainer (EST). These personnel were designated as mission essential personnel and deployed forward with the soldiers preparing to go into Iraq and the soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. Nick Caisse, Senior Training Facilitator from the Orlando CSC office, deployed to Kuwait to operate five-lane EST systems at Camp Udari, Kuwait. Mark Black and Ken Neuhausel, Electronic Technicians from DYNCORP sub-contractor Pulav Electronics Corporation, were deployed to Kandahar and Bagram, Afghanistan to operate a

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ten lane EST system at each location.

All three of these personnel received training at Fort Benning, Georgia prior to deployment. This training and processing included a series of shots including Anthrax and rigorous training with the chemical protective gear issued to all soldiers, including going through the gas chamber at Fort Benning. They arrived in country on 14 March 2003 and have been running these systems and providing training for our soldiers since then. They live forward with the soldiers and are exposed to the same risk of rocket attack that everyone in those countries is exposed to. Nick has seen two rockets destroyed just prior to reaching his camp at Udari. Living conditions are primitive and dust seems to get into everything. We can be proud of these men as they risk their life to train our soldiers.

This effort is part of the CSC/DynCorp Virtual Training Life Cycle Contractor Support task order under the ANSWER contract supporting PEO STRI training mission for the soldiers.

Record Number of Industry Partners Earn Brass Ring in Past Performance Survey
Paul Kennedy



The survey scores of this year's Past Performance Survey for the ANSWER Industry Partners have been tabulated and the results are extraordinary. The ANSWER Industry Partners reached a remarkable new milestone with the largest number of Partners achieving "Brass Ring" status. A record number of six partners earned the "Brass Ring" by exceeding the scores of their contract pre-award survey. Keeping in mind that the pre-award surveys are performed on references provided by the contract bidders, exceeding the scores of self-provided references is truly outstanding.

The survey was conducted during January and the responses computed to an overall average of 4.54 on a scale of 5. The survey had an overall response of 48.5% with approximately 2213 surveys distributed.

The highest ratings were achieved for the fourth year in a row by ITS. Recognition was provided to the following ANSWER Program Managers for exceeding their pre-award survey scores: Bob Burk of Anteon Corp., Paul Eaton of Booz Allen & Hamilton, Elaine Dauphin of CSC, Diane Ruffner of DynCorp, Vern Eppley of EER Systems and Dave Blottie of SAIC. Of special note is that EER Systems earned its first Brass Ring ever.

All Project Managers, Information Technology Managers and Customer Service Representatives within GSA who placed an order under ANSWER during the fourth year of the contract were invited to participate in the survey. Additionally, all end-user clients who ordered from ANSWER during the same timeframe were surveyed. The ANSWER Industry Partners received their Past Performance debriefs during the ANSWER Tech Refresh IV Summit in Rancho Mirage.

Exercising Contract Options
Paul Martin

Task Orders with options competed under the ANSWER contract should include two elements: (1) Be fully priced which includes all option years and (2) contain a statement stating a timeframe by the government when to exercise the option. The uniqueness of exercising an option is that it becomes one of those powerful provisions that afford a unilateral right of the government. Therefore this should not be easily given up. Typically, a written intent to exercise the option can be from 30-days to the standard 60-day timeframe. Procedures for exercising an option can be found in FAR 17.207; and the FAR 52.217-9 language is incorporated into the ANSWER contract. Specifically, the ANSWER contract states "the Government may extend the term of the contract by written notice to the contractor within 30 days of the expiration of the contract provided, that the Government shall give the contractor a preliminary notice of its intent to extend at least 60 days before the contract expires." If you require shorter timeframes, state your intent in the Task Order. Options can be a powerful tool to incentivize the ANSWER Industry Partners

APRIL/EARLY MAY EVENTS

Date: 4/8-4/10
 Location: Rancho Mirage, CA
 Event: ANSWER Tech Refresh IV Summit

Date: 4/22
 Location: Atlanta, GA
 Event: FORUM

Date: 4/23
 Location: Washington, DC
 Event: Contract Vehicle Review Board

Date: 4/24
 Location: Washington, DC
 Event: FORUM

Date: 4/28-4/30
 Location: Washington, DC
 Event: E-Learning Conference

Date: 4/29
 Location: Fort Worth, TX
 Event: Solutions Edu - Section 508

Date: 5/6-5/8
 Location: San Antonio, TX
 Event: GSA Expo

ANSWER POCs

Mimi Bruce
 Director, Client Service
 510.637.3890

Paul Martin
 Client Service Manager
 510.637.3884

Monti Jaggars
 Client Service Manager
 510.637.3893

Paul Kennedy
 Senior Contracting Officer
 858.537.2204

Ron Heald
 ANSWER PCO
 360.697.4916

Anjanette Magante
 Program Analyst
 858-530-3175

Sherrie Householder
 Acting Director
 858.537.2210