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ANSWER CONTRACT FACTOIDS!

1753 Task Orders
 3.19 Bids/ New Task Order
 \$1.70B Funded Sales
 \$5.05B Estimated Value

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ANSWER Provides US Korean Commands with C4I Technology

Jill Schillinger

Modernization of communications in the Korean Peninsula continues with \$332 million in upgrades, with the core of the upgrades being performed by ISS, under the ANSWER contract. The ANSWER task is to perform an integration of major network upgrades to form a theaterwide metropolitan area network. Modernization will include replacing hundreds of low-bandwidth modems and circuit encryption devices with high-speed encryption devices. This will enable seamless communication in voice, data, and video to deployed forces in fixed and mobile environments. These upgrades initiate the integration of both combined and joint tactical-to-strategic voice, data, and video systems that support a full spectrum of operations. Additionally, commands will be able to monitor systems in real time to leverage numerous information assurance initiatives.



Upgrades include a secure bilingual video teleconferencing system that provides high-quality, on-demand C2 information exchange capabilities between the Commander, and field and component Commanders. New plasma displays and multi-grid projection systems are evident throughout all staff units and two high-resolution video walls have been added. A video wall in the theater operations center measures 16 feet by 40 feet and can display up to 27 images at one time. It provides functional staff elements with simultaneous access to various video feeds such as the common operational picture, unmanned aerial data, video teleconferencing and IP video. The Commander and upper level staff members also utilize a smaller version of the video wall located on the Commander's bridge.

The goal of this project in Korea is to foster the environment across joint and combined staffs, so that significant efficiencies can be achieved in our war fighting and support processes. "Integrating technology should fundamentally change both the process and the product", explained Colonel Spano, US Forces-Korea. Jim Peters, Region 9 FTS ITM located in Korea, will be managing and focusing on the goal of this exciting task.

SOO Course Sets Sail

Ron Heald

Solutions Edu began offering a new course this year on Statements of Objectives (SOOs). This new course was unveiled in February in Chicago, IL. The use of Statements of Objectives is another tool available in the effort to convert our traditional Statements of Work (SOWs) into Performance Based Statements of Objectives.

"Statements of Objectives is Performance Based contracting at its optimum" was how the course instructor, Jack Donovan, started the class. The course begins with a traditional look at the intent of Statement of Objective contracting. SOOs are essentially a method where the Industry Partners are given some basic objectives and they write the actual SOW and performance measures around the objectives. This shifts some of the SOW writing over to the Industry Partners and allows the SOWs to be evaluated along with other more traditional factors.

After an analysis of traditional theory, the class developed a solicitation to take an existing non-performance based statement of work to performance-based contracting.
(Continued on next page.)

OFPP to Require Small Businesses to Recertify Annually for GWACs and FSS MASs

Mimi Bruce

The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) is closing a loophole that lets agencies receive credit for awarding contracts to small businesses under Government-Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs) without knowing if they truly are a small business. This loophole allowed agencies to take credit for award to a small business, when in fact, the contractor had long since outgrown their small business size status. Prior to closing this loophole, small firms were not required to re-certify during the length of the contract even though they may have outgrown their small business threshold.

OFPP's proposed rule would change Small Business Administration regulations and Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) to require annual recertification for all multiple award contracts, including GSA Federal Supply Service Schedules.

(Continued on next page.)

SOO Course Sets Sail Con't

Samples will be added to the ANSWER web site after they are refined.

Statements of Objectives also require additional processing time in the evaluation phase. Some clients may find this attractive, in that it will allow greater input into the final award decision.

As there are hundreds of existing task orders that will eventually have to be converted from Statement of Objectives contracting to Performance Based Contracting, this should provide a valuable option.

OFPP to Require Small Businesses...Con't

"The proposed rule would affect only new task orders under a GWAC, not existing ones", Angela Styles, OMB Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, said. That means if a company won a spot on a GWAC when they were legitimately small and then won a task order, they would not have to recertify every year to renew the task order. The firm would only have to annually recertify to win new task orders.

ANSWER Exceeds Small Business Subcontracting Goals**Monti Jaggars**

Contrary to a government-wide decline in federal contracting opportunities for small businesses, the ANSWER program has exceeded the small business subcontracting goals for all task orders through FY02. Our Industry Partners' support of small business participation in the ANSWER Program has been exceptional. Small business accounts for 50% of the cumulative ANSWER subcontract dollars from FY99 through FY02. Even more notable is the success of our Industry Partners in exceeding the small disadvantaged and woman-owned small business goals by an even wider margin.

Comparison of ANSWER subcontracting goals to GSA goals are shown below:

Subcontract Dollars	GSA Goals	ANSWER
Small Business	40%	50%
Small Disadvantaged	8%	30%
Woman-Owned	5%	8%

The cumulative dollars awarded to small business Industry Partners under the ANSWER contract totaled over \$430M including \$183M awarded to small business Teaming Partners. In addition, \$247M of the cumulative funded sales of \$1.4B dollars went to two small business Industry Partners, ITS and ISS.

Thanks to the hard work and efforts of both the ANSWER Program Management Team and our Industry Partners, the ANSWER contract brings both large company project management skills and smaller company focused technological expertise together, to provide solutions to our client community at the best value for the American people.

ANSWER Tech Refresh IV on Track For April**Sherrie Householder**

The ANSWER GWAC Center Pacific Rim Region is planning its annual Technical Refreshment IV Summit April 8-10, 2003 in Rancho Mirage, CA. The Tech Refresh Summit provides a platform for the ANSWER Industry Partners and Government to come together and share thoughts, ideas and insight in the area of new technologies in order to support our clients and to maintain a state-of-the-art technical currency for the ANSWER contract. The past three Tech Refresh Summits have proven to be highly interactive and effective in terms of a balanced participation of Industry and Government to provide for contract enhancement. This year's focus will be in the areas of Security, Biometrics, Environmental, Health Informatics, and a General Focus area as well.

To provide suggestions for the technical refreshment, or for additional information concerning the summit meetings, please contact Mimi Bruce.

Feb/Mar Events

Date: 2/25
Location: Auburn, WA
Event: Solutions Edu-Sec 508

Date: 3/4-3/6
Location: Pentagon
Event: Solutions Edu-Contracting for Services

Date: 3/4
Location: Chicago, IL
Event: Solutions Edu-Sec 508

Date: 3/6
Location: Atlanta, GA
Event: Solutions Edu-Sec 508

Date: 3/10-3/14
Location: FEDSIM
Event: Solutions Edu-Statement of Objectives

Date: 3/12
Location: Boston, MA
Event: Solutions Edu-Sec 508

Date: 3/17
Location: Phoenix, AZ
Event: Small Business Conf.

Date: 3/25
Location: Chicago, IL
Event: FORUM

Date: 3/26
Location: Denver, CO
Event: FORUM

Date: 3/26
Location: Scottsdale, AZ
Event: Solutions Edu-Sec 508

Date: 3/27
Location: Scottsdale, AZ
Event: FORUM

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