



Networkx Transition Update

March 5, 2008
Bulletin Four

Introduction

This bulletin provides transition guidance information, transition progress and status of issues related to the transition of services to the General Services Administration’s (GSA) Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) Integrated Technology Services (ITS) Networkx contracts.

OSS C&A and OSS Validation Status – Networkx contractors’ Certification & Accreditation of their Operational Support System (OSS) and OSS Validation testing results are as follows:

Networkx Contractor	Universal		Enterprise	
	C&A OSS Testing	OSS Validation Testing	C&A OSS Testing	OSS Validation Testing
AT&T	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
MCI/Verizon	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Qwest	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed
Sprint	N/A	N/A	Completed	March FY08 Target
Level 3	N/A	N/A	April FY08 Target	Completed

Successful completion of OSS Validation Testing allows contractors to fulfill service orders. Not having completed the OSS Validation Testing does not preclude either Sprint or Level 3 from being included in Fair Opportunity considerations and based on Agency’s selection criteria, from being selected to provide service. It only prevents the contractors from processing orders until their OSS test validation is complete.

Transition Baseline Inventory (TBI) Validation Status – TBI is 100% validated. A TBI baseline “Snap Shot” was established during the week of January 7, 2008. This baseline was imported into Networkx Agency Inventory Pricer tool on February 27, 2008, to assist agencies in Fair Opportunity decisions. The Inventory Pricer tool will allow an Agency to bulk price their inventory across multiple services and vendors during a specific date range.

Fair Opportunity Status - Agencies have made eleven fair opportunities (FO) decisions and forecast an additional one hundred plus decisions by September 2008. As FO decisions are made, GSA

requests each Agency notify, through a letter signed by the Agency Contracting Officer, the Agency's selected Universal or Enterprise contractor. Notification can be sent to the following GSA contracting officers as follows: Universal: Jack.braun@gsa.gov or Enterprise: robert.abood@gsa.gov

The fair opportunity process is a vitally important step which ensures each Networkx contractor is given an opportunity to be considered. Once an acquisition vehicle (Universal or Enterprise) is chosen, an Agency should make a FO decision to select the Networkx provider to deliver the services. Since the FTS2001 Bridge/Crossover contracts expire in May/June of 2010, it is critical that each Agency complete this initial step as soon as possible (target March 08) in order to have sufficient time to conduct and complete the transition in the timeframe available.

To assist agencies with transition resource requirements, the GSA Transition Fund is available to reimburse agencies for transition related costs. Reimbursement for specific transition expenses will be credited to those agencies that meet milestones the Interagency Management Council (IMC) and Transition Working Group (TWG) prescribed. These milestones are conservative to ensure all agencies receive the transition reimbursement credits for which they qualify. The following milestones must be met for agencies to qualify for transition cost reimbursements:

- Complete all Fair Opportunity decisions no later than September 2008
- Submit all disconnect orders no later than April 2010

See TWG Fair Opportunity Guide at <http://www.gsa.gov/networkxtransition> for FO process details.

Statement of Work/Statement of Objectives (SOW/SOO) – Twenty SOW/SOOs are in various stages of GSA review. Agencies have forecasted an additional sixty SOW/SOOs by September 2008. In reviewing the SOW/SOOs and based on feedback from Networkx contractors, the following comments and recommendations are provided to assist federal agencies during the Fair Opportunity process:

- Agencies are strongly encouraged to make Fair Opportunity decisions using technical information and pricing available on the contracts as described in the "Networkx Fair Opportunity and SOW Guide," see <http://gsa.gov/networkx>, Guides, Tools, and Resources. This process requires no GSA involvement, can involve discussions and clarifications with contractors, and can be done in a shorter period of time. Agencies need only inform GSA of the criteria for, and the results of, their selections;
- All SOW/SOOs will be issued by a GSA contracting officer to the Networkx contractors after conducting an initial scope determination. (SOWs/SOOs issued by Agencies directly to Networkx contractors will be pulled back, causing Agency schedule delays);
- Networkx SOW/SOO reviews are requiring up to 30 days to complete and those that are more complex are requiring additional time. Agencies may want to include this turnaround time in their overall transition schedules;

- Use specific site addresses when available and provide as much information about the street address as possible to facilitate responses;
- When the SOW or SOO process is used, best results are achieved when agencies follow the following suggestions:
 - o Conduct market research before issuing the SOO or SOW (this may involve discussions with one or more Networkx contractor to understand services and prices as they are offered);
 - o Avoid requesting changes to the Networkx contract terms and conditions and pricing structure (any changes to the basic contract causes delay in review time by GSA and response time for contractors);
 - o Use Networkx nomenclature rather than nomenclature from FTS2001 or other Network Services contracts;
 - o Use Networkx CLINS to describe requirements to the extent possible for overall best prices and quicker turnaround of SOWs/SOOs;
 - o Avoid using brand names to describe requirements;
 - o Align pricing periods (Price-Start – Price-Stop) with the 10 year period of the Networkx contracts;
 - o Align pricing structure with Networkx contract price tables

E-MORRIS – Phase One development of E-MORRIS is completed. E-MORRIS (Enhanced Monthly On-line Records and Reports of Information Technology Services) provides customer agencies, who are centrally billed, with billing reports for voice and data services on FTS2001 and Crossover contracts. The web portal provides GSA and Agencies access to their billing reports and inventory management. E-MORRIS consists of the following modules: Networkx Billing, Networkx Inventory Management (NIM), User Profile and Web Reporting.

The Networkx Billing module accepts Invoice, Adjustment and Detail Billing files from the Networkx contractors, balances the files to ensure there is detail for invoiced charges (before GSA pays the vendors for central billing), verifies the files to ensure compliance to the billing SLAs identified in the Networkx contracts, disputes discrepancies on behalf of centrally billed agencies, prepares a file so that GSA Finance can bill centralized agencies through the IPAC process, and provides reports and data for Agency use.

The NIM module accepts Service Order Completion Notices (SOCNs) from the Networkx contractors, maintains an inventory database, and provides reports and data for Agency use.

The User Profile module provides the means for GSA and agencies to manage user accounts for access to the website. Access requires a user ID and password and is restricted by Agency Hierarchy Code. Agency users must be approved by the Agency's Designated Agency Representative (DAR) Administrator.

Phase 2 will integrate Transition Credit Reimbursements into the billing process and Phase 3 will provide direct billed customers access to Ad Hoc report capabilities. Phase Two is targeted to complete 3rd Qtr FY08. Phase Three is targeted to complete 4th QTR FY08.

GSA Fair Opportunity Decision Support - To assist agencies in market research and Fair Opportunity decisions, GSA has compiled overview documents and guides for Agency use. The chart below provides a listing and the web site location.

Document Name	Document Location	Note
- Awarded Services by Networkx Contractors - Unit Pricer Training Guide	https://releasedprices.networkx.gov/	
- Networkx Fair Opportunity and SOW Guide	http://gsa.gov/Networkx	See Guides, Tools, and Resources
- Networkx Services Key Performance Indicator Requirements - Universal/Enterprise Pricing Trends (Ten Year) - Universal/FTS Pricing Trends (Ten Year) - Universal/Enterprise/FTS Pricing Trends (Ten Year) - Inventory Pricer Training Guide	https://pricer.networkx.gov	Requires an RSA token

Networkx Pricer Access - The urls listed above also contain Networkx Pricer tools to assist agencies in Fair Opportunity decisions. Procedures for RSA token access are contained in the Networkx Document Library located at <http://www.gsa.gov/networkx>. Pricer training may be arranged by contacting your respective Technology Service Manager (TSM). A listing of TSMs can be found at <http://gsa.gov/gams>.

Trusted Internet Connection (TIC) Initiative- GSA, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security National Cyber Security Division, released a Request for Information (RFI) to the Networkx industry partners requesting comments and questions on the TIC RFI. The RFI addresses the overall impact the TIC initiative will have on the Networkx Enterprise and Universal contracts and what features could be added to the Networkx contracts to better support the TIC initiative.

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) TIC initiative will optimize individual network services into a common solution for the Federal Government. This common solution calls for the reduction of external Internet connections, including Internet points of presence, to a target of fifty for all of the Federal Government. Each Agency is to complete a comprehensive plan of action and milestones (POA&M) with a target completion date of June 2008. OMB's Planning Guidance for trusted internet Connection (TIC) is online at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/documents/TIC_ImplementationPlanningGuidance.pdf.

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GSA's Transition Coordination Center (TCC) Support - The TCC has an existing task order under which Agencies can order contractor support dedicated to their specific transitions. This support is at the Agency's expense, and those interested in taking advantage of this should contact their TSMs.

Networkx Help Desk - GSA's Networkx Help Desk assists agencies and contractors in resolving issues related to inventory validation, pricing, and other transition activities. The Help Desk can be reached at 866-472-0274 or e-mail at networkx.support@gsa.gov. Agencies may also contact their respective TSMs.



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