



August, 2002

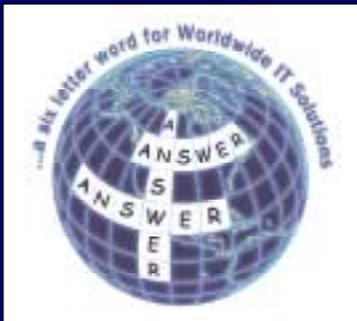
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1438 Task Orders
 3.17 Bids/ New Task Order
 \$1.26B Funded Sales
 \$4.04B Estimated Value



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

ANSWER IT

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION BY THE ANSWER SOLUTIONS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Homeland Security Issues at the Forefront of ANSWER Tech Refresh III *Mimi Bruce and Ron Heald*

“September 11th” is at the forefront of our national consciousness with security being the ultimate focus for protecting our nation’s infrastructure and borders against potential terrorist attacks. Although ANSWER is fully postured to address security threats through its Information Assurance series, it was anticipated that a higher usage of advanced security type skill levels would be in demand. Therefore, this year’s Tech Refresh identified those skills and talents that addressed comprehensive, total solutions to threat-related problems on IT systems by adding the Threat Specialist series.

Prior to Tech Refresh III, the contract was found to do an excellent job of covering this work as written. Security has always been an issue within systems design, development and implementation. What really changed was the assessment of risk potential in light of terrorist activities. This assessment has resulted in a large percentage of the estimated \$50 billion Federal Government Information Technology budget for 2003 going to security-related acquisitions. OMB projections show increases for security at \$4 billion in 2003.

In recognition of the increased security risk facing our nation, the ANSWER contract was modified to include “Homeland Security” through its Information Assurance verbiage and to enhance its security offerings by adding new skill levels, such as – Senior Threat Specialist, Intermediate Threat Specialist and Associate Threat Specialist. As the security work expands, the need for specialists will also increase. The intent of these specialized skill levels is to provide technical support in developing comprehensive, total solutions to threat-related problems.

There are other areas of security that will have an impact on requirements. For instance, there is likely to be an increasing requirement to protect our borders. However, ANSWER is an IT contract, not a guard services contract. Therefore, it will be the ability to provide comprehensive IT solutions to protection of borders, such as monitoring systems, which will become the mainstay of the solution.

Other high visibility, high usage areas identified during Tech Refresh III included Modeling & Simulation, Web Evolution, Knowledge Management, Communications, and IT support to Environmental Systems. Modeling and Simulation and Web Evolution were client-driven technologies added to meet current and future requirements. Knowledge Management is gaining momentum in the Federal workplace due to loss of valuable resources through attrition and retirement. Communications, an ever-changing and dynamic field, requires continual review in response to changing terminology and innovation. Also, ongoing environmental issues were central to clients’ IT Environmental Systems needs.

ANSWER’s Tech Refresh III concluded with a newly issued modification that added 15 new skill levels as well as key terms and phrases highlighting the functional areas described above. Ultimately, the addition of these skill levels will maintain ANSWER’s “state of the art” technical refreshment to meet emerging information technology requirements.

ANSWER’s Annual Tech Refresh Summits create a shared vision through partnership, innovation, and teamwork. These summits are truly unique paradigms fostering an interactive environment for shared insights, perspectives, experience, and knowledge among Government and Industry Partners. This highly collaborative effort brings focus to a shared goal of enhancing ANSWER’s technical currency. This year’s Tech Refresh, held the week of April 22nd, brought a creative focus, direction, and a keen understanding of procurement processes in the context of evolving requirements for technology.

DAU Partners in \$47M Project

Sherrie Householder

The Defense Acquisition University in partnership with Fed Learn awarded a three-year task order to CSC in July. Functional and acquisition experts from the DAU, Fed Learn, and the ANSWER SDC sculpted the requirements and managed the

CONNECTIONS Transferred

Paul Martin

On July 7th, the CONNECTIONS Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO), Paul Martin, officially transferred PCO duties for the CONNECTIONS procurement to George Davis, Contracting Officer for the Service Development Acquisitions Center,

procurement over the past year.

The DAU provides acquisition education and training and performance support for more than 145,000 military and civilian personnel serving in acquisition positions worldwide. Through its dispersed regional campuses, DAU provides acquisition curriculum support, training to provide a full range of basic, intermediate, and advanced courses to support the career goals, and professional development and performance support of the acquisition workforce.

CSC's Training Center of Excellence will provide computer-based training support, operate and maintain the University's Learning Management System, transition the DOD Acquisition Deskbook to a new knowledge management system, and modify interactive multimedia instruction courseware, and provide IT and network support. Instructional system specialists, design/development specialists, graphic/multimedia specialists, and system analysts will perform the work.

FY-End, A Good Time for Review

Mimi Bruce

It appears that the issue of Personal Services is once again becoming a topic of conversation and concern. Since the end of the fiscal year is near, this might be a good time for associates to review the concept with clients and for industry to review the issue with employees.

Recently, questionnaires were distributed addressing supervision of contractor employees. It is important in non-personal services contracts such as ANSWER, that actions including approval of leave rest with contractor management and not within the purview of Government POCs. The ANSWER Contract includes the provision for Group Managers who supervise a limited number of employees and serve to mitigate the risk of personal services.

3GS Awarded

Ann Gladys

On August 8th, Unisys Corporation was selected for the award of 3GS under the Millennium Contract. The 3GS task order calls for design, development, and technical support services for the business systems of FTS.

The award followed an exacting plan that commenced more than a year ago and entailed the unprecedented involvement of some 250 associates from all ITS organizations as well as support and insights from other parts of GSA and the industry community. Active involvement crossed the country and engaged: Executive Business Groups; Business Process Teams; Client Workshops; Financial, Sales and Marketing, Workflow, and Requirements Focus Groups. The RFP for 3GS was issued on April 5th. During the week of May 20th, a Tech Team of 22 members participated in the evaluation process that included formal oral presentations from industry. Operational Capabilities Demonstrations followed in mid-June, with Price Evaluations conducted in July.

With post-award activities underway, attention is now drawn to functional and change management issues. In the very near future, more associates will be needed to partner in the 3GS endeavor. Functional experts will help ensure that the operational elements of 3GS accurately reflect our needs, while transformation/change management activities will focus on associates and organizational/cultural changes in our strategy, structure and systems.

located at the FTS Headquarters in Willow Wood. Acceptance of the PCO duties was signed July 16th. Mr. Davis will be assisted by several Contracting Officers for the award of the National phase, and the issuance of the global and state CONNECTIONS phases. The Official Contract Files and all proposals were delivered and verified by the new PCO. As part of the transition, Regional Services management associates in Central Office were briefed on the progress and status of CONNECTIONS procurement. Amendment 0009 to the RFP was posted to the CONNECTIONS website alerting Industry of the change in contracting personnel.

Performance Survey Application Tool Readied for Use

Bill Archambeault

The ANSWER SDC team awarded a task order for a Survey Application tool to Anteon Corporation on July 19th, 2002.

The software, "WebSurveyor" will not only be used to conduct this year's ANSWER Past Performance Survey IV, but will also be engaged to analyze and evaluate training classes, to monitor internal performance, and to assess market requirements for future acquisitions.

By using a fully automated, web-enabled survey tool, the ANSWER SDC team is working to keep abreast of clients' continuously changing requirements in today's uncertain enterprise environment.

The tool is extraordinarily flexible and easy to use. Those wishing to conduct internal or external performance oriented surveys need only to contact the ANSWER SDC and we would be more than happy to discuss how we can assist and/or conduct a performance survey to suit your needs.

August/September Events

Date: 8/5 – 8/9
Location: Kansas City, MO
Event: Sol. Edu – Cost Reimbursement Contracting

Date: 8/7
Location: San Diego, CA
Event: ANSWER Board Meeting

Date: 8/19 – 8/23
Location: Pentagon
Event: Sol. Edu – PBSOW Training

Date: 8/20 – 8/22
Location: Seattle, WA
Event: TechSpace Conference

Date: 9/4
Location: Colorado Springs, CO
Event: Project Trends in IT, High Profile Initiatives

Date: 9/9 – 9/13
Location: Korea
Event: Sol. Edu – Contracting for Services / MAIDIQ

ANSWER POCs

Thelma Riusaki
ANSWER PCO
510.637.3880

Mimi Bruce
Director, Client Service
510.637.3890

Paul Martin
Client Service Manager
510.637.3884

Ron Heald
Director, Bus Development
360.697.4916

Jill Schillinger
Bus Development Manager
858.530.3177

Bill Archambeault
DSL¹, Safeguard PCO
858.530.3176

Sherrie Householder
ANSWER PM
858.537.2210

Ann Gladys
Director, ANSWER SDC
858.537.2201