

ANSWER IT

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ANSWER CONTRACT FACTOIDS!

1652 Task Orders
3.23 Bids/ New Task Order
\$1.50B Funded Sales
\$4.67B Estimated Value

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ANSWER SDC Names 60 to the FY02 Hall of Fame

Sherrie Householder

Following a phenomenal solutions year, in which 522 task orders were awarded for a total of \$660M in funded sales, the ANSWER SDC is naming 60 Associates to the FY02 Hall of Fame. The Annual Hall of Fame recognizes FTS professionals for their outstanding client support via the ANSWER Contract and for their multi-million dollar projects across numerous and highly complex projects. Top honors for the FY02 Hall of Fame go to Kit Lee, R9, Honolulu Office.

This year the SDC is also acknowledging, through its "Recognizing Excellence Award", the IT Solutions Directors in the top three organizations in which the ANSWER Contract is used. This year's recipients are; **Roz Fullerton** (Region 4), **Felicia Jones** (Region 5), and **John Powell** (Region 9).

ANSWER Hall of Fame Inductees for FY02

Top Honors – Kit Lee

Joann Ancheta	Carol Ashenbrenner	Karen Barnhart	Bob Borwick
John Breen	John Burkhardt	Charles Carter	Sandra Cordell
Shawna Dunkle	Deborah Eastis	Kate Fizell	Caroline Flowers
Dora Gayden	Frank Getz	Bob Gill	Fred Hargrove
Wendy Harriman	Fred Hersom	Catherine Holland	Sarah Huey
Sharon Hunter	Janice Johnson	Timothy Johnson	Charles Johnson
Val Kalscheur	Jim Kiesling	James Kruse	Kit Lee
Emil Loczko	Janet Lourenzo	Kenneth Markanich	Dean Martin
Michael Martin	Randall Matlack	Kevin Metcalf	Nguyen Long
Joe Pechinko	Burl Pepper	Greg Poling	Shirley Rivera
Barbara Rosholdt	Donna Rounds	Larry Ryan	Lyn Sankey
Dan Santos	Craig Saunders	Mara Shultz	Steve Soffer
Robert Spratling	Helen Stephens	Tony Stephens	John Thomas
Sheri Torres	Diana Valdez	Michael Ward	Wilton Webb
Debra Wells	Shirley Whitby	David Williams	Richmond Wong

Final Ruling Issued on Section 803

Wayne Dobson and Mimi Bruce

The final 803 ruling requires greater competition and expanded opportunity to contractors. The new ruling applies to all orders funded by either the Department of Defense (DOD) or placed by Non-DOD agencies that use DOD Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) and Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) orders with an estimated value over \$100,000. The provisions of the Section 803 final rule require that DOD funded service requirements exceeding \$100,000:

- Be made available to all Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Contractors **or**;
- The Contracting Officer must inform as many schedule contractors as practicable **and**;
- Contracting Officer must ensure that proposals are received **from at least three FSS contractors to be considered for award.**

The intent of the ruling seeks to ensure that at least three sources will be received for each order and that all are fairly considered. In the

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Solutions Edu Receives IACET Accreditation

Sherrie Householder

The ANSWER SDC is pleased to announce that the Solutions Edu program has been approved as an authorized provider of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). IACET is dedicated to quality continuing education and training programs, and certifies that education providers and programs meet strict continuing education guidelines. Those who attend and satisfactorily complete any Solutions Edu course will receive 1 CEU for every 10 hours of classroom instruction.



Solutions Edu offers the latest in information technology procurement training to clients, industry partners, and GSA associates. It is one

of the first programs to offer training in performance-based contracting and is leading the way with its new course in Section 508 compliance.

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event three contractors did not bid, the Contracting Officer must document reasonable efforts undertaken to identify three potential sources that could fulfill the work requirements.

The new rule has not been without debate and will continue to undergo changes if the procurement community continues to ignore the competition issues that prompted the 803 ruling initially. Because of the continued debate and visibility of Section 803 issues, we anticipate that additional clarifications will be forthcoming. DOD has developed a webpage for further information at www.acq.osd.mil/dp Under "Interest Items" in the dropdown box, select "Section 803". There will also be training packages released with the DFARS rule and the Defense Acquisition University is amending training courses to reflect the change.

Note: Architect-Engineer services and small women-owned and disadvantaged business contractors are not affected by this rule.

BayFirst Solutions, LLC Selected to Provide Section 508 Training **Bill Archambeault**

In October, the ANSWER SDC signed a BPA with BayFirst Solutions, LLC to provide a Section 508 training course for Solutions Edu. Quoting Elliot Rosen of BayFirst, "we want to thank you for the confidence you are showing in our new company. FTS's support of BayFirst as a deaf-owned consulting business is very important to us and the deaf community. BayFirst is unusual in having a deaf and hearing co-managed business and we think you have set a great example for others."

Classes begin in December 2002 and will apply a comprehensive approach to achieving Section 508 compliance. Classes will go beyond the assessment of websites and software; they will encompass reviews of all procurement, human resources, and equal employment opportunity policies that intersect with the technology needs of customers and employees with disabilities. Section 508 impacts *all* Federal agencies; check out <http://answer.gsa.gov> and select Solutions Edu for class dates and locations. Register now!

Regional Program Meetings Rollout ANSWER Tech Refresh III Highlights. **Mimi Bruce**

Throughout the months of October and November 2002, Mimi Bruce and the ANSWER Industry Partners traversed 5 regions (3,4,5,9,NCR) and FEDSIM. The RPMs showcased the highly unique and creative process developed by the ANSWER SDC to continuously refresh and enhance the ANSWER Contract. The uniqueness of this process is demonstrated through the annual participation and joint partnership of both Industry and Government in focusing on the common goal, that of maintaining ANSWER's leading edge technical currency. The RPMs highlighted seven key areas of technology including: Homeland Security, Environmental Systems, Modeling and Simulation, Communication, Logistics, Web Evolution, and Knowledge Management.

ANSWER PCO Initiates "Changing of the Guard" **Thelma Riusaki**

Effective Monday, December 9th, 2002, delegation of the Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO) authority and duties will be transferred to Mr. Ronald Heald of Bremerton, WA. There are no limitations to this authority, and ANSWER Contract Numbers GS09K99BHD0001 through GS09K99BHD0010 will be transferred to Mr. Heald in accordance with GSAM 504.802(c). All future correspondences shall be addressed to Mr. Heald once transition is completed.

FORUM Returns By Popular Demand **Ron Heald**

Back by popular demand, FORUM returns for Round II beginning January 2003. FORUM is the one-day educational initiative of the SDCs that is geared specifically to FTS employees servicing client requirements. It is an opportunity for contracting and technical personnel to get together to discuss new regulations that may impact business operations. It is also a chance to learn more about how to utilize specific FTS contract offerings.

FORUM began in November 2001, traveling to virtually all regions with several sessions in remote locations. The highly positive feedback received will bring FORUM back with a number of new topics. While the initial FORUM focused on contract offerings, the roles of the SDCs, and the advantages of using FTS contract vehicles, the second version will concentrate on the actual use of those vehicles. New topics for this year include; HUB Zone contracting and how new FTS vehicles can help GSA meet HUB Zone goals, the applicability of cost reimbursement and time and material contracting, contractor surveillance and how performance based contracting can ease the surveillance level. In addition, continued focus will be placed on personal services, logical follow-on, and best practices (including a discussion of the acquisition process for 3GS).

November Events

Date: 11/4 – 11/8
Location: Chicago
Event: Sol. Edu – PBSOW

Date: 11/07
Location: Auburn, WA
Event: Reg. Program Meeting

Date: 11/12 – 11/15
Location: Oakland, CA
Event: Sol. Edu – Price Neg. & Source Selection

Date: 11/15
Location: Oakland, CA
Event: ANSWER Board Meeting

Date: 11/18 – 11/22
Location: FedSim
Event: Sol. Edu – Evaluating a Contractor's Performance

Date: 11/20
Location: Region 8
Event: Reg. Program Meeting

Date: 11/21
Location: Region 7
Event: Reg. Program Meeting

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