

## **Alliant Small Business GWAC Option FAQs**

**Q:** When will the option for Alliant Small Business (ASB) be exercised and what is the period of performance?

**A:** ASB's 5-year base period ended on February 2, 2014. The 5-year option began February 3, 2014, and will end February 2, 2019. Task orders awarded before the last day of the option period can run up to five years beyond the GWAC period of performance.

Q: So, what's new with ASB in the option period?

**A:** In order to keep ASB a vibrant and viable small business contract, we exercised the option for all current Primes, both small and those who have outgrown their small business status via organic growth. Only the 47 firms able to recertify as a small business concern can bid on new opportunities. The 21 other-than-small companies maintain visibility of new requirements in order to offer their services as a mentor of, or subcontractor to their small business counterparts. This ensures that ASB contains small businesses possessing the capabilities, knowledge, relationships and access to proven subcontractors.

**Q:** Will those companies which have organically outgrown their small business status have any other opportunities to contribute to ASB in the option period?

**A:** The other-than-small contract holders will be allowed logical follow-on work for task orders of which they are the current incumbent. This will greatly improve the chance that current work will come back to ASB, and help prevent it from moving to other contracts the incumbent may have. Although the agency will no longer receive socioeconomic credit for the follow-on work, this will provide greater continuity throughout the life of the task order.

Q: Why even keep large businesses on your small business contract?

**A:** A robust number of highly productive and successful industry partners on ASB will better position the GWAC for success for all stakeholders. The 21 known organically grown other-than-small contract holders are responsible for 70% of ASB's business volume. In addition, each of our Top Ten Customer Agencies has current work being performed by at least one of the other-than-small firms. There is a distinct possibility that if we do not allow those firms visibility into new requirements, to better position themselves as subcontractors; or allow them access to logical follow-on work for tasks on which they are incumbents, they will move that work to one of their other IT contracts.

**Q:** What does an Ordering Contracting Officer (OCO) have to do to guarantee small business credit on ASB?

**A:** By allowing only the small business Primes to bid on new requirements, the ordering agency will receive small business credit for the life of their task order.



**Q:** What if a small business outgrows their small business status during the option period?

**A:** If the Prime was certified as a small business concern at the time the option was exercised, they will remain small throughout the 5-year option period. Therefore, the agency whose task order was awarded after the option was exercised, will receive small business credit for the life of their requirement.

**Q:** What was the process for re-certifying for the 5-year option?

**A:** The window to re-represent their business size status, in accordance with FAR clause 52.219-28 in the contract, was within 60 to 120 days prior to the end of the fifth year of the contract, which was February 2, 2014. All Alliant SB Primes received notification from the GWAC Contracting Officer letting them know the window was open from October 5, 2013 through December 4, 2013.

The Contractor has to re-represent, per FAR clause 52.219-28, by validating or updating all its representations in the Representations and Certifications section of the System for Award Management (SAM) and its other data in SAM, as necessary, to ensure that they reflected the Contractor's current status.

The Contractor notified the Contracting Officer in writing, within the timeframes specified above, that the data has been validated or updated, and provided the date of the validation or update to the Contracting Officer.

**Q:** Did each vendor have to submit a SBA Form 355 (Small Business Size Determination) to remain under the Alliant Small Business?

**A:** Not to remain a Prime contractor on ASB. The above answer covers what they needed to do for this office and our contract.

**Q:** Will the companies who are no longer small business concerns on Alliant SB be moved to the Large Business Alliant GWAC?

**A:** No, the Alliant (large) GWAC is a totally separate and distinct contract. The two are similar in scope, but no pathway was established between them.

**Q:** Would an ASB industry partner be eligible for an award as long as the proposal was issued prior to the Alliant SB option award?

**A:** An industry partner on ASB during the base period is generally eligible for task order award for a reasonable period of time stretching into the option period even if they don't get the option, IF they are in good standing during the base period, IF the RFP is issued during the base period and IF the company's proposal including pricing responding to the RFP is submitted during the base period.