

Discovering Small Business Opportunities in Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Data Analytics

Questions and Answers



On May 18, 2021, the U.S. General Services Administration’s Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) hosted a virtual event for *Discovering Small Business Opportunities in Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Data Analytics*. The event provided training on the various contracting approaches to the acquisition of federal technical services and emerging opportunities for AI and predictive analytic services in the federal government. In addition, attendees were briefed on how to virtually submit a portfolio of their technical capabilities to subject matter experts within the GSA.

As noted during the event, we received numerous questions from participants. While we tried to answer as many as possible during the live event, we’ve made sure to consolidate the questions and GSA subject matter experts have provided answers below.

For additional information on the event, including video recordings, please visit the [Discovering Small Business Opportunities in Artificial Intelligence & Data Analytics](#) section on gsa.gov.

For assistance with general questions on doing business with the GSA AI Program, please contact [Anil Chaudry](#).

TTS Questions

Question	Answer
Can our emerging and innovative technology consortium work with TTS / GSA on OTA requirements?	Yes, please contact us at tts-info@gsa.gov .
Can you please update the audience on the next steps with the TTS Centers of Excellence (CoE) AI and ML Vendor Market Research - Request for Information (RFI)?	We will provide a synopsis soon. We are in the process of ensuring that we anonymize the data and also provide meaningful feedback to all the vendors who participated.
Since AI and ML go hand in hand, what about Blockchain and what area in Govt will be looking at this technology, especially for Small Business to consider?	TTS is currently not focused on any blockchain technology initiatives. However, there are many agencies that have open solicitations in SAM.gov for your consideration.



<p>Are there any new regulatory requirements for IT/AI? Where can we source that info if so?</p>	<p>The AI in Government Act of 2020 has some legislative requirements that are being staffed right now. NIST and NARA have some good guidelines related to data security and privacy. The NAII at the VA is also working on HIPPA specific guidance.</p>
<p>Could you please address how this forum can help to streamline the process so the small business can get into the right engagement?</p>	<p>Vendor engagement options include:</p> <p>For the MAS: Contractor Team Arrangement Joint Venture Subcontracting</p>

OSDBU Questions

Question	Answer
<p>How do you place AI offerings on the GSA schedule when the schedule is designed for products?</p>	<p>The GSA MAS schedule currently accommodates products, services, and solutions. Artificial Intelligence products, services and solutions are present throughout the schedule in the wide variety of MAS categories; primarily in Electronics and Technology but also in Building and Industrial; Law Enforcement; Fire, and Security; and Office Products and Equipment categories.</p>
<p>Will GSA work with SBA to ensure that small business applications are getting certified (EDWOSB/WOSB) in a timely manner? There seems to be a backlog of certifications since the requirement to use the SBA portal and the small business community feels that this may hinder their ability to pursue Polaris and other small business opportunities.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, our involvement is limited regarding the SBA EDWOSB Certification process. Our acquisition workforce was apprised of the opportunity to reach out to SBA if they foresee an EDWOSB/WOSB as a possible awardee to obtain an expedited certification for that company.</p>
<p>How do we get on the radar of large primes who need expertise that we can provide?</p>	<p>First, request 1 one 1 with Small Business Liaison Officers. Second, visit government forecasts to view opportunities that you can bring to the large business to discuss potential teaming/subcontract opportunities. The presenters today are the points of contact for small businesses. Last, visit the company's website to view their niche and outreach events to attend.</p>



Any of these vehicles for Disabled and Veteran Owned Small Businesses?

Oasis is for all socio-economic small businesses. When Polaris along with the Best-in-Class Multiple Award Contract (BIC MAC) are fully completed all socio-economic businesses will be eligible.

At this time no acquisitions are completely set-aside for SDVOSB or VOSB. Based on Public Law 109-461 VOSBs are only recognized as a socio-economic small business by the Department of Veterans Affairs; however, they are a viable small business with many acquisition opportunities.

