



Questions and Answers

Q1. Are sole source purchases allowed under the MAS program?

Yes, sole source orders or BPAs established under MAS are allowed. [FAR 8.405-6 Limiting Sources](#) details requirements for using a Limited Source Justification for orders or BPAs exceeding the micro-purchase threshold.

Q2. I've never done a sole source procurement before, should I do a sole source for 3D printing requirements?

While sole source purchases are allowed under MAS, they are not required nor necessarily recommended. You should follow the procurement regulations listed in FAR 8.4 when developing your Request for Quote (RFQ). However, there may be cases where a sole source is justified and necessary. For advice on your specific requirement, email us at 3dprint@gsa.gov

Q3. Can you define the terms 3D Printing vs. Additive Manufacturing? How are they different and which term should I use when purchasing equipment?

The terms *3D Printing* and *Additive Manufacturing* are used interchangeably as they describe the same process of adding material using a 3d printer. However, the terms used differs based on the application. For example, *3d printing* is generally used when describing entry-level applications for educational, commercial, hobbyists, office/lab desktop use. Whereas *additive manufacturing* is used to describe more advanced industrial level prototyping and production level manufacturing.

Q4. Can 3D printing or additive manufacturing be used in expeditionary printing like at a forward deployed base?

Yes, however there are factors that should be considered. These factors include type of parts to be printed, material and additive process used. For example, environmental factors play a huge factor when it comes to metal printing and the additive process known as Powder Bed Fusion.

Q5. Since the Schedules have now been consolidated into a single schedule, does that mean there is only one government point of contact?

MAS contractors will now have one government point of contact for all of their MAS offerings even if they offer products and services across multiple categories.

Q6. How can I find out if any of the available 3d printing filament NSNs mentioned will fit my existing 3D printer?

The following National Stock Numbers (NSNs) sizes and material currently available through GSA Global Supply should fit most commonly used 3D printers. However, in order to confirm before placing your order, please email us at 3dprint@gsa.gov.

7045-01-685-9763 Black, ABS (Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene), 1kg of 1.75 mm
7045-01-685-8918 White, ABS (Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene), 1kg of 1.75 mm
7045-01-685-8919 Natural, ABS (Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene), 1kg of 1.75 mm
7045-01-685-8922 Black, PLA(Polylactic Acid), 1kg of 1.75 mm
7045-01-685-8921 White, PLA(Polylactic Acid), 1kg of 1.75 mm
7045-01-685-8920 Natural, PLA(Polylactic Acid), 1kg of 1.75 mm
7045-01-685-8923 Black, Nylon, 1kg of 1.75 mm
7045-01-685-9192 Natural, Nylon, 1kg of 1.75 mm

Q7. Are there options for 2.85mm filament available from GSA?

This option is currently not available through the NSN program or GSA Global Supply. The team is not familiar with this option at this time, so we will research to determine availability from our MAS contractors. Please email 3dprint@gsa.gov for assistance if this option is required.

Q8. Are there plans to add resin or fusion materials?

GSA will consider adding ALL materials used in the 3D printing process, assuming there is sufficient Federal demand for these materials. We encourage you to email 3dprint@gsa.gov to set up a call so we can learn more about your application and anticipated future ordering quantities for these materials.

Q9. Is there no NSN for metal materials for 3d printing for legacy parts?

At this time, we have established NSNs for PLA, ABS and Nylon (see Question 6 for NSN list). However, GSA will consider establishing new NSNs for other materials and equipment where we can ascertain a recurring need and/or sufficient demand. We would like to explore the addition of metal powder NSNs in early FY21 and encourage interested Federal buyers of metal materials to partner with us so that we can best meet your needs. Please email 3dprint@gsa.gov to set up a call.

Q10. I am just getting started. How do I find the 3D printer that is right for my needs?

Our 3D print team can assist you in developing your requirements and there is no charge for this service. From answering your specific questions to helping you develop and even posting a Request For Information (RFI) on your behalf, we are here to help. Email 3dprint@gsa.gov to get started.

Q11. Does GSA have any best practices for sharing intellectual property for use in 3D Printing?

Intellectual property issues can be fairly complicated so we recommend you contact your agency's legal office for advice.

Q12. What process quality control documentation requirements do schedule vendors have?

GSA conducts a responsibility evaluation to ensure that the company has an adequate quality assurance program in place before approving them for a contract. However, the ordering activity should specify any additional testing and standards, not included in the [MAS solicitation](#), that must be met for their requirement in the Statement of Work (SOW) or Request for Quote (RFQ).

Q13. Aircraft parts require high quality control standards. How do you meet military or FAA standards? Quality control is a concern particular for items that undergo stress.

See Question 12. GSA does not require specific military or other aerospace related standards or certifications in order for a company to be awarded an MAS contract. However, while not required by GSA for contract award, many MAS contractors under the 3D Printing SIN do still hold certifications such as the ISO 9001 Manufacturing certification and others. The ordering activity should specify any required certifications and testing requirements that must be met in their SOW and only MAS contractors who can meet those requirements should respond accordingly.

Q14. Aircraft parts require tight tolerances and are subject to high stress. Do 3d printed/additive manufactured parts meet mil/FAA standards?

In most cases, the aircraft parts we have seen 3D printed are not considered flight-critical. However, the end-user and ordering activity would need to determine the standards that apply to the 3D printed parts and would include this information as a requirement in their solicitation. See Questions 12 and 13 above.

Q15. How can a supplier get detailed results or status on awards for RFQs posted in GSA eBuy? As a supplier, I can spend time submitting a response or quote, but in the end I am not able to see the outcome. For example, eBuy status may change to “inactive”. It would be good to know how the supplier can compete and meet the future needs of the GSA customer.

GSA eBuy is an electronic request for quote system, therefore as you state in your question, award notices are not usually posted after the RFQ closes. MAS contractors may reach out to the point of contact on the eBuy posting. For help identifying who to contact about a specific requirement, you may also reach out to us at 3dprint@gsa.gov

Q16. Are most Commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) 3D machines (metal) available through the MAS or should we start with a Request for Information (RFI)?

Yes, several COTS metal machines are available from contractors awarded under the MAS [333249 3D Printing Solutions and Additive Manufacturing Solutions](#) category. You could still issue an RFI under eBuy as part of your market research before posting your RFQ or you could email us directly at 3Dprint@gsa.gov.

Q17. Are there vendors on Schedule who offer metal printers and materials and what kind?

Yes. GSA MAS contractors offer metal printing in Al, Ti, SS, Inconel, and Copper. The current processes include extrusion based and powder bed fusion.

Q18. Has additive printing advanced enough to make aircraft turbine engine parts?

According to Boeing it has. Google the Leap engine fuel injection system to find more information about Boeing's process.

Q18. We are a company looking to get on the MAS schedule. We have a brand new EBM (Arcam Q-20) and a brand new DMLM GE Concept laser. We have no experience in contracting with GSA. Can you direct me to some help with getting on the schedule?

Please reach out to us directly at 3dprint@gsa.gov and we can get you all the information you need to assess your readiness and begin the offer process.

Q19. I have capability to offer FDM 3rd party equipment to fit into some of the current printer brands that were shown to allow functionality for materials such as carbon fiber, kevlar and nylon. How do I let users know it is possible to upgrade their platforms instead of replacing?

Email us at 3dprint@gsa.gov so we can discuss options. If you do not already have a GSA contract, we can walk you through the offer process. If you already have a GSA schedule contract, we can walk you through submitting an "Add SIN" modification and provide information on how to market your GSA schedule.

Q20. How is Section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) addressed for this solution?

A mass modification was issued to all GSA schedule contract holders to incorporate the Section 889 regulations. At this point roughly 99% of our 3D print contract holders have accepted the contract modification related to Section 889. If you need confirmation on a particular contractor, you can reach out to us at 3dprint@gsa.gov or reach out directly to the contracting officer for the contract listed as the Govt. Point of Contact on [GSA eLibrary](#).

Q21. What purchasing options are available overseas?

While our MAS contractors are all currently located in the USA, many if not all are able to ship overseas. NSN ordering is also available overseas. GSA also has customer service directors assigned to specific locations overseas who can help you navigate your options. Please email us at 3dprint@gsa.gov and let us know where you are located so we can put you in touch with your local CSD.

Q22. Is there information on the fire rating of products used in 3D printing?

Please consult the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for specific materials in question. These should be available from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Q23. Is there preferred software for 3D printing and is the software available through the MAS program?

GSA does not endorse anyone particular software company. However, you would need 3D modeling software. Multiple options are available under MAS. Software that allows users to add materials and perform slicing is also available under MAS.

Q24. Is CAD for 3D printing offered under MAS? Which CAD file formats are supported?

Yes. See Question 24. 3D modeling software is available on the Schedules program. CAD file formats for 3D printing typically are STL formats.

Q25. Does GSA offer live demos?

We have not offered live demos in the past but we will consider incorporating them into future webinars. We believe most, if not all, of our contractors would be willing to provide product demonstrations. If you reach out to us at 3dprint@gsa.gov, we would be happy to coordinate live demos for your agency.

Q26. What are the potential uses of 3d printing in the dental service?

Some potential uses include reconstruction, implants, and crowns.

Q27. Is 3D Bioprinting available under MAS?

Yes, bioprinters were recently added to the MAS program. If you would like more information on manufacturers available, you can always issue a Request For Information (RFI) on GSA eBuy or contact us directly at 3dprint@gsa.gov.