From the Deputy Assistant Commissioner

In the first quarter of fiscal year 2019, my colleagues and I focused on building upon previous success to make plans and preparations for some very exciting updates and progress coming soon. As you probably know, beta.SAM.gov is online and running smoothly. The old CFDA.gov has been retired and those functions now live in beta.SAM.gov. We're busy laying the groundwork for more changes to come.

We'll be unveiling our newest roadmap and schedule in the second quarter, but we already know that WDOL.gov will be the next IAE system to transition into beta.SAM.gov. After that will be FBO.gov, probably sometime in late 2019. In between, we are preparing to make other changes to beta.SAM.gov, including adding login.gov to

the registration process and implementing 'Federal Hierarchy,' an internal process through which appropriate roles can be assigned to federal government workers.

That's a fair amount of change and improvement coming to beta.SAM.gov and we're already moving forward to begin executing this in 2019 and beyond.

As always, we continue to manage our current (or 'legacy') eight systems and make updates to them with the constant goal of reducing the burden on you -- our stakeholders and system users. I'm happy to report that in the first quarter of 2019, those systems and beta.SAM.gov were working as designed.

I'm excited for what's to come in 2019 and I look forward to reporting about it in future issues of *The IAE Digest*.

Vicky Niblett
Deputy Assistant Commissioner

Release Update 14.03 (October 2, 2018)
Overview

As you may know, the General Services Administration (GSA) manages federal acquisition and awards processes in eight online websites which are now being merged into one. Through this modernization effort, we are continuously releasing new code and fixes to our existing system.

With each software release, we work to improve the user experience, improve the quality of the website, and reduce the burden for those wishing to do business with the U.S. Federal government. We do this through a combination of minor enhancements and fixing known issues. This document summarizes the customer-facing changes that were made to the beta.SAM.gov application and database in the development window culminating in the build to production on October 2, 2018.

Release Notes

Description
User Impact
Trigger Notification of Updates for Followed Awards: A user following a contract award will be notified when a change or update occurs to the contract award.

Trigger Exclusions Notification for Followed Entities:

A user following an entity, has the ability to be notified when an exclusion is created, becomes active, or terminates for the entity.

Export to PDF/CSV -

Awards display page:

Signed in users can export a single Contract Data item from the display page into a PDF and/or CSV.

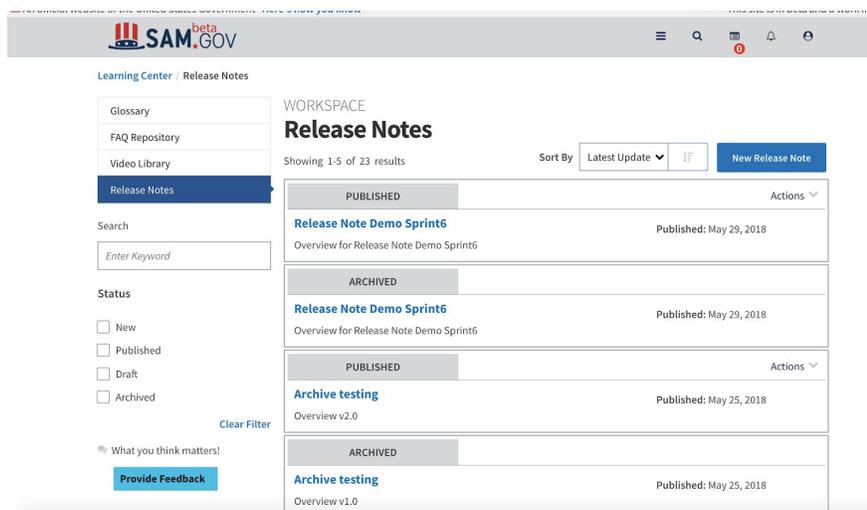**Search Results Export - Assistance Listing Full Public Data Elements CSV/PDF:**

Signed in users can export Assistance Listing search results into PDF and/or CSV formats with full listing details.

User Directory and Role Export:

Signed in users can download searches made from the user directory or role lists to a csv or pdf.

Release Notes:

Users can search for old releases notes in the Learning Center (as this is not searchable through the header bar) to identify specific changes implemented with each release.

Intraorganizational Change Request Updates (Retain CFDA Number):

A federal assistance listings (FAL) user, is able to change the agency of a FAL without changing the CFDA number when the agency identifier is the same.

- When an Assistance Admin moves an Assistance Listing within its own department or below, the CFDA number is retained.

Quarterly System Updates - Legacy Sites

SAM Quarterly Release Improvements

During the first quarter of 2019, we made the following updates to SAM.gov:

- Updated the SAM application technology stack to an open source set of tools. There is no impact to business rules, process flow, or overall end-user functionality. This is a technology upgrade that will enable future modernization work.
- Removed Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 252.222-7007 "Representation Regarding Combating Trafficking in Persons" from Reps & Certs in accordance with DFARS Case 2018- D003, a final rule amending the DFARS to remove a provision that is no longer necessary and duplicative of an existing Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) clause.
- Implemented FAR Case 2018-009: One Dollar Coins, a final rule amending the FAR to implement a section of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 that provides an exception for business operations conducted by a contractor while performing under a Government contract from the requirement to accept and dispense $1 coins. Paragraph (c)(11) is removed from the clause at FAR 52.212-5, Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders-Commercial Items and the title date is updated to (Oct 2018).

FPDS Quarterly Release Improvements

- Add a new exclusion, for DoD only, to the Small Business Goaling Report (SBGR) and the Small Business Achievements by Awarding Organization Report.
- Data Elements "Annual Revenue" and "Number of Employees" are not being treated as For Official Use Only (FOUO) as they are in SAM.gov.
- The Functional Dimension module was used by DoD only and is no longer required.
- The V1.5 Data Element "Additional Reporting" will be added to the following:
  - EzSearch Excel export
  - Advanced Search drop-down menu
  - EzSearch FAQ
- The use case for Part 8 BPA Calls will no longer require an entry for the "Fair Opportunity/Limited Sources," "Number of Offers," and "Type of Set Aside" data fields. These values will 'Propagate' from the Part 8 BPA and cannot be changed.
- Validation rule DNB-014 will be removed. The rule was a mathematical check applied to a DUNS Number received from D&B to ensure the number was valid. As confirmed by D&B, this is no longer necessary

CPARs/PPIRS Quarterly Release Improvements

- Implemented changes to the Contractor Representative access certification guidance to ensure proper access to a contractor.
- Edited the Contractor Representative notification following rated status
- Removed references to DUNSplus4, and DUNS+4 to DUNS.
- Removed references to "Modules" in the application.
- Corrected several bug fixes.

Updating Product Service Codes

How You Can Request a Change to Product Service Codes

The General Services Administration's (GSA) Integrated Award Environment (IAE) has improved the process for updating Product Service Codes (PSCs). PSCs are used to describe the types of products, services, and research and development purchased by the federal government. These codes are reported to a variety of federal and industry systems, including the Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation (FPDS-NG). PSCs are critical for government leadership to understand how federal dollars are spent and help determine how much money goes toward specific products or services.

GSA has implemented a standardized process for updating PSCs by utilizing the category expertise of these subject matter experts (SMEs), who will align the management of the codes with the strategic principles of category management. The respective SMEs will become the leads in determining whether to add, delete, or revise PSCs for their respective category. This includes the updating of PSCs for the product and/or services in the 19 spend categories. Users must submit their requests to change the PSCs using the web form Product Service Codes (PSC) Change Request available on the IAE Federal Service Desk (FSD) website at FSD.gov.

For updates about the PSC updating process, please visit Acquisition.gov, https://www.acquisition.gov/PSC_Manual, our Interact IAE Industry Community page, or email us at PSC-Codes@gsa.gov.

Engaging our Stakeholders

IAE Design Lead Speaks to the PSC's Smart Working Group about FBO.gov

In late November, the Integrated Award Environment (IAE) Design Lead Christy Hermansen presented the upcoming changes to FBO to the Professional Service Council (PSC). Titled "FBO.gov and Beyond," Hermansen gave a status update on the beta.SAM.gov modernization, particularly the upcoming retirement of FedBizOpps.gov (FBO.gov).

Hermansen highlighted the improvements to past performance, emphasizing the merger of the Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS.gov) and the Contract Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS.gov). She also showcased the new streamlined CPARS.gov functionality, where users can now locate all past performance information on one website.

Hermansen explained that once FBO.gov is retired, the past performance data will be in beta.SAM.gov under what will be known as contract opportunities (as we retire each of the legacy IAE sites, their functions will transition into corresponding capabilities in the new site).

Hermansen continued by demonstrating the new contract opportunities public search tool, save search function, contract opportunities display page and workspace. Hermansen concluded her presentation by discussing the implementation of login.gov in beta.SAM.gov, which is scheduled for early 2019.

Overall, participants were excited by the progress and congratulated Hermansen on the improved look and feel of beta.SAM.gov. For more information, please contact us at iaeoutreach@gsa.gov.

IAE By the Numbers

Federal Service Desk
First Quarter Fiscal Year 2019:

- Call volume averaged 32,040 calls per month.
- The average speed to answer was 68 seconds.
- The average handle talk time was approximately 18 minutes.
- First call resolution rate increased to 68.1 percent.

System for Award Management
First Quarter Fiscal Year 2019:

- The average number of registrations activated per month:
  - New registrations - 5,444
  - Updated registrations - 46,600
- The average cycle time was 1.88 days
- The number of searches performed in October 2018 was 4,516,951.