



MAY 22 2015

GSA Office of Governmentwide Policy

MEMORANDUM FOR DONNA M. JENKINS
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
OFFICE OF ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT (QV)

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SUBJECT: Class Deviation to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 8.405-3(a)(6) in Support of the National Information Technology Commodity Program (NITCP) 2nd Generation Information Technology (2GIT) Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs)

Pursuant to the authority in General Services Administration Acquisition Manual (GSAM) 501.404(c) and 517.204(c)(2), a class deviation to FAR 8.405-3(a)(6) is approved, effective for the base period and all option periods of the forthcoming NITCP 2GIT BPAs. This class deviation is strictly for the establishment of the multi-agency 2GIT BPAs against Federal Supply Schedule contracts without requiring identification of participating agencies and their estimated requirements at the time the BPAs are established. Other potential class deviations, waivers, determinations, or justifications related to the 2GIT BPAs, such as the approval of a brand name justification in accordance with FAR 6.304(a)(4), are not approved by this class deviation and must be requested separately.

This memorandum also serves as evidence of consultation with the Chair of the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council as provided in General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR) 501.404(a).

I. Background: 2GIT BPAs

The Federal Acquisition Service's NITCP is currently supported by six multi-agency, multiple-award BPA groups for IT hardware that will begin expiring on May 10, 2015. Accordingly, the NITCP is preparing to establish its second generation of government-wide multiple award BPAs against GSA Schedule 70, General Purpose Commercial Information Technology Equipment, Software, and Services. The BPAs will be awarded under five distinct pools:

- Pool One: Client Computing Devices, Peripherals, Servers, Ancillary Supplies/Services and Software
- Pool Two: Network/Data Center equipment and Ancillary Supplies/Services

- Pool Three: Audio Visual and Video Teleconferencing Equipment and Ancillary Supplies/Services
- Pool Four: Motorola Land Mobile Radios and Ancillary Supplies/Services
- Pool Five: Cisco Brand IT Products (e.g. network switches and routers)

II. Justification for Class Deviation to FAR 8.405-3(a)(6)

FAR 8.405-3(a)(6) states the following:

Establishment of a multi-agency BPA against a Federal Supply Schedule contract is permitted if the multi-agency BPA identifies the participating agencies and their estimated requirements at the time the BPA is established.

While the NITCP has received interest from agencies such as the U.S. Marshals Service, Department of Interior, and Department of Energy, as well as state and local institutions through the Federal Communications Commission's E-Rate program, these entities are not able to provide initial spend data to estimate requirements due in part to decentralized purchasing; lack of consolidated data; and inconsistent tracking and reporting of spend data. Consequently, a class deviation to FAR 8.405-3(a)(6) is needed in order for the NITCP to establish the multi-agency 2GIT BPAs against Schedule 70 contracts without requiring identification of participating agencies and their estimated requirements at the time the BPAs are established.

III. Point of Contact

Questions regarding this memorandum should be directed to Mr. Matthew McFarland, Program Analyst, General Services Acquisition Policy Division (MVAC), at 202-690-9232 or matthew.mcfarland@gsa.gov.