



Procurement Times

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GOVERNMENTWIDE ACQUISITION CONTRACT (GWAC) CENTER

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Directors' Corner

May 1, 2010 is the one year anniversary of the Alliant GWAC. We're very proud of the results thus far. As of this writing, there have been 30 task orders issued under Alliant with an estimated value of \$325M. What we are most proud of is the diversity of usage on Alliant. For example, 17 of the 30 Orders are to different Federal agencies (20 to Defense and 10 to civilian agencies) and 21 different Alliant industry partners have won Alliant Orders. The average number of bids that have been received on each competed Order is 3.2, and no protests on Orders have occurred. There have been approximately 75 RFPs/RFIBs issued under Alliant and as we prepare for the final six months of this fiscal year, we are optimistic that all the above numbers will continue to grow. These are all terrific results. There are multiple criteria that we use to determine success under Alliant and diversity of customer agencies using Alliant is a criterion that ranks high on our list and we are pleased to see that 70% of the awards represent different customer agencies.

Also as of this writing we have reached a significant milestone of 1,000 trained people (1,021 total trained to date) on the use of the GWACs, and we have also exceeded the century mark in terms of Statements of Work (SOWs) reviewed for our customers. In spite of the fact that Alliant has been awarded for almost a year, the numbers of people requesting training continue to grow. Furthermore, the spectrum of folks that we are training includes not only warranted 1102 contracting officers, but also include non-warranted contract specialists, procurement analysts, program managers, etc. I encourage you to sign up for the Alliant Delegation of Procurement training if you have not yet done so.

I want to encourage our customers to visit the Alliant website (gsa.gov/alliant) and review a few new changes, as well as take advantage of some nice features that are available. For example, clicking on our Document Library will get you to the Acquisition Templates. Below are some other examples of what can be found on Alliant.

Click On { Document Library
Calendar of Events
Ordering Guide }

Our newest project was adding acquisition templates to assist our customers when using Alliant. We plan on building on these templates and provide best practice examples. Kudos to the Alliant team for publishing and making available online the Ordering Guide. The Ordering Guide was recently commented to by the GSA Office of Inspector General (OIG), which they stated the changes made to the Alliant ordering guide helped to ensure proper use of the contract, promote adequate competition, and result in best value for the government.

We're pleased with the progress that we have made in our first year with the Alliant GWAC, leveraging our 11 years experience as an Office of Management and Budget authorized agency to create great contracts and provide tools, best practices, and value add support to assist our customers meet their information technology service requirements. We look forward to a strong finish to FY 2010 and an even stronger 2nd year under Alliant.



Casey Kelley
Director
Enterprise GWAC
Center—West



Patricia Renfro
Director
Enterprise GWAC
Center—Southwest

- Casey Kelley

Enterprise GWAC Center's Performance Tracking of Task Order Closeouts

Starting this year, the Enterprise GWAC Center West (EGC-W) will begin a new initiative to help improve the Task Order (TO) closeout process. The EGC-W will proactively engage all of the Alliant Contractors to do their part to ensure physically completed TOs are closed out as soon as practicable and in accordance with the FAR 4.804-1 set time standards:

Contract Type	Time Standard
Firm-Fixed-Price	6 Months
Cost Reimbursement	36 Months
All Other	20 Months

As a method of engaging the Alliant Contractors early on, the EGC-W will remind the Contractor's TO obligations during future Alliant Program Meetings. The Contractor's will be instructed that they have an obligation to complete their actions to help ensure closeouts are done timely. For example, the following are of some of the actions that a Contractor must complete prior to closeout:

- Complete all required deliveries.

- Correct any deficient work (if applicable), ensuring that there are no outstanding claims or disputes.
- Properly return or dispose of all Government issued property, equipment, materials, data, etc.
- Submit their final invoice along with their Contractor's Release of Claims discharging the Government from all liabilities, obligations, and claims arising from the contract.

If it is determined that a TO was closed-out untimely due to the Contractor's inaction/delay, the EGC-W will issue the Contractor a deficiency notice which may impact their Past Performance rating in the PPIRS.

The EGC-W requests the help of the Alliant Ordering Contracting Officer's (OCO) too in helping ensure that TO closeouts are closed timely. OCO's are reminded to follow the closeout procedures in accordance with FAR 4.804-5 and should also refer to [FAR 42.708](#) for quick-closeout procedures. We believe that TO closeouts are a shared responsibility between the EGC-W, the Alliant Contractors, and the Alliant OCO.

- Jason Schmitt

Understanding "In Scope" Modifications Under Task Order's

We are often asked if a Task Order (TO) can be modified and the answer is "Yes" TOs can be modified using the Changes clauses (FAR 52.243-1 thru 3) applicable to the specific contract type. Changes are limited to changes within the general scope of the contract and to those changes listed in the clause (i.e. contract in this context is referring to the TO contract). Before initiating a change the first question that must be answered is whether the change is "within the general scope" of the TO. To help make this determination a set of questions pertaining to the "nature of the work" and the "scope of the original competition" can be asked as follows:

Nature of the work under the change order

- Can the proposed change be regarded as having been fairly and reasonably within the contemplation of the parties when the contract was entered into?
- Is the work to be performed essentially the same work as the parties bargained for when the contract was awarded?
- Does the new work alter the nature of the original task order?
- Is the new work within the scope of the original competition?

Scope of the original competition

- Is the change within the scope of the original competition, i.e., could the competitors have anticipated the work?
- Did the original solicitation adequately advise offerors of the potential for the type of changes during the course of the contract that in fact occurred?
- Is the change of a nature that potential offerors would reasonably have anticipated would be made under the changes clause?

If the answer to these questions is "Yes" then you have a basis for issuing a modification under the Changes clause. However, it is also important to note that FAR 16.505(a) states that individual orders shall clearly describe all services to be performed or supplies to be delivered so the full cost or price for the performance of the work can be established when the TO is placed.

- Mimi Bruce



Effective Ways to Use Past Performance Information

Contract past performance is one of the relevant factors that a contracting official should consider in awarding a contract/task order (TO). Past performance record of a contractor is a good indicator of future performance. An effective evaluation of past performance allows the Contracting Officer to focus on contractors with sound performance records that are among the most highly rated.

According to FAR Subpart 42.15, *Contractor Performance Information* aims to ensure a clear and concise record of a contractor's performance on every contract, task order or other contractual document **exceeding \$100,000**, based on a discussion with the contractor about recent performance.

Past Performance focuses on the contractor's ability to carry through as promised; emphasizing experience and past performance should be considered in all TO acquisitions. An informative contractor past performance report is valuable in helping Contracting Officers make their award decision more efficiently and effectively. For example, a past performance

evaluation factor could replace management and quality plan evaluation factors and would also help streamline the selection process by keeping the critical factors to a minimum.

With the Contractor Performance Reports¹ available through Past Performance information Retrieval System (PPIRS), Contracting Officers do not need to conduct performance surveys when existing past performance information on task orders or contracts are already available. GWAC Contractor's past performance information is reported in the PPIRS system therefore Contracting Officer may use this information in evaluating Contractor Performance.

- Diemle Phan

¹Contractor Performance Reports are treated as *source selection information* in accordance with FAR 3.104-4(k)(1)(x) and 42.1503(b) and only valid for 3 years after completion of the contract.

Event Highlights

Alliant Program Management Review (PMR) - In January, the Enterprise GWAC Centers held its 2nd Alliant PMR hosted by BAE Systems in San Diego, California. The PMR provides an opportunity for Industry Partners, GWAC Center associates, and GSA regional representatives to communicate current issues, discuss business opportunities, and review future and ongoing initiatives. There were well over 150 in attendance and it was a very successful event! The next PMR is scheduled for May 3rd at GSA Expo in Orlando, Florida.



NCR and FEDSIM Hosted the 1st Alliant Outreach in Washington, DC - The National Capital Region (NCR) and Federal Systems Integration and Management Center (FEDSIM) hosted the first Alliant Outreach for more than 145 attendees at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, DC., on March 17th. NCR and FEDSIM met with Alliant Industry Partners to collaborate with one another on how to best support customers IT service needs with Alliant. Prominent speakers included Mary Davie, Assistant Commissioner for Assisted Acquisition Services; Terry McNair, Deputy Regional Commissioner, NCR, FAS; Mike O'Neill, Director of GWAC Programs; Jessica Reed, Director of Assisted Acquisition Services NCR; Steve Viar, Director of Assisted of Assisted Acquisition Services FEDSIM; and USA LTC Curtis Fox of National Defense University who provided a customer perspective. The next Alliant Outreach will be hosted by Region 3 in Philadelphia on June 2nd.

FOSE - GSA participated at FOSE on March 23 through March 25 in Washington, DC. The Alliant Program had a pavilion dedicated for its use and promoted solutions through the Alliant and Alliant Small Business contracts. We would like to thank Deloitte, IBM, Smartronix, and The Centech Group for participating at FOSE under the Alliant Pavilion!



- Jennifer Jeans

GWACs Promote Transparency & Use of Public Info Sites

The Enterprise GWAC Center has initiated a new effort to reduce Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for task order lists/information. The approach is to educate requestors that inquiries for copies of task orders and task order modifications must be directed to the Agency that issued the task order, not the GWAC Center.

In addition requestors will be directed to the public website at www.ffata.org (Federal Funding and Transparency Act) to obtain the most current information on task orders issued against a respective GWAC contract. The ffata website is the public portal to fpdfs.ng, (Federal Procurement Data System) the data repository for government contract reporting.

Coming soon to the Document Library section of each respective GWAC (ANSWER, Millennia, Alliant) website will be the latest Task Order List along with information on www.ffata.org. The Task Order List will include the typical data elements (e.g. Task Order Number, Contract Number, Contractor, Agency Name, Contracting Division...) necessary to identify a task order and if desired, generate a FOIA request to the Agency that issued the task order.

Queries then may be initiated by contract number or task order number. GWAC contract numbers may be obtained by accessing the individual GWAC websites as follows:

- www.gsa.gov/ANSWER (click on Industry Partners)
- www.gsa.gov/Millennia (click on Industry Partners)
- www.gsa.gov/alliant (click on Alliant Contract Holders and select "List of Contract Holders")



If you click the "CSV" function in the upper right hand corner, a spreadsheet is generated. It includes much of the task order information that we have been requested to provide under FOIA. We believe that by promoting the use of public information sites such as www.ffata.org, greater efficiencies will be gained by all. See these other public websites for promoting government transparency: Data.gov and the IT Dashboard.

- Rebecca Eden

We Want Your Feedback



The Enterprise Newsletter has been a tradition since the inception of the ANSWER Contract. We believe the Procurement Times Newsletter adds value by providing Government and Industry insight into current Alliant trends, activities, and key noteworthy accomplishments. We want this newsletter to be of value to you so we are asking for your input -- What do you like, What would you like to see more of or less of and any other comments that you believe may add value to future newsletters.

Please submit your comments to jennifer.jeans@gsa.gov

The Enterprise GWAC Centers Employee Highlights

Rebecca Eden—Procurement Analyst

Rebecca Eden joined the Enterprise GWAC Center in August 2005 as a Contracting Officer. She has over 25 years experience in contracting and has served under various management and Contracting Officer positions. Her experience includes working for the Air Force, TRICARE, and the Army. Rebecca actually joined GSA from HQ US Army Contracting Europe, Heidelberg Germany, where she was a supervisory procurement analyst, Chief, Business Systems Division.

Rebecca's extensive education includes a BA in management/finance, MBA, NCMA CPCM (Certified Professional Contract Manager), and a Master's Certificate from ESI in Project Management. She is also

FAC-C and DOD DAWIA Level III Certified in contracting. Rebecca currently serves as the GWAC Center's Procurement Analyst and her responsibilities include answering policy questions, contract reviews, FOIA monitor, Alliant training support, Alliant SOW reviews, and special projects.

Rebecca leads a very active lifestyle, and enjoys cycling, skiing, and hiking. Rebecca is passionate about her cats and animals in general—they bring happiness in so many ways and ask for so little in return.



Vanessa Ussin—Program Analyst



Vanessa Ussin started her career with GSA GWAC Center as a Program Assistant in January 2001. She was later promoted to Program Analyst, working directly with then Center Director as a result of increased responsibilities.

Vanessa currently has 17 years of federal service. She began her federal career with the Department of Agriculture at the New Orleans National Finance Center. While employed at the National Finance Center, she worked as a data entry clerk for the Thrift Savings Plan; as a Civilian Pay Technician in the Payroll Division; and as a Personnel Assistant in the Personnel Office. Vanessa received a Bachelors of Science degree in Information Technology from the University of Phoenix in 2004.

Vanessa was recently promoted within her current position as Program Analyst for the Enterprise GWAC Center Southwest. Some of her areas of responsibility include managing and monitoring center financials; web development; business analysis; and tracking and reporting performance measures. In addition, she works closely with the GWAC Program Office on program wide initiatives such as system enhancements to the GWAC Management Mod-

ule and document migration to EMC Documentum eRooms.

Vanessa enjoys reading when time permits, which is not very often. Her most relaxing activities are dancing and cooking. She enjoys preparing authentic New Orleans Creole & Cajun dishes such as Chicken & Sausage Jambalaya, Seafood Okra Gumbo, Bread pudding, and Red beans with rice. She spends her most relaxing time in the kitchen with music playing while cooking and dancing with the kids.

Vanessa is a mother of four active children (Monica, Jessica, Michael Jr, and Nydia) and one granddaughter, Arianna. They are very active members of the North Crowley Youth Association, where her son plays football and Nydia is a cheerleader. Monica is passionate about dancing; she choreographs cheer dance routines & coaches cheerleaders; and she tutors a third grader in her spare time. Jessica sings in the school choir and tutors elementary and intermediate school students in her spare time. Vanessa and family takes every opportunity to go back to New Orleans to visit family and friends.



Granddaughter—Arianna

- Anjanette Magante

Point of Contacts

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Alliant**ANSWER****Millennia****ITOP II**

www.gsa.gov/alliant

www.gsa.gov/answer

www.gsa.gov/millennia

www.gsa.gov/itop2

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Alliant**Millennia Lite**

www.gsa.gov/alliant

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We're on the web
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Upcoming Events

GSA Expo
May 4 - 6, 2010
Orlando, FL

DoD Procurement Conference
May 10 - 14, 2010
Orlando, FL

Alliant Outreach
June 2, 2010
Philadelphia, PA

GSA Network Services Conference
June 21—23, 2010
Orlando, FL

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