

GSA Acquisition Policy Federal Advisory Committee (GAP FAC) Industry Partnerships Subcommittee Meeting

January 4, 2023

The General Services Administration (GSA) Acquisition Policy Federal Advisory Industry Partnerships Subcommittee convened for the third public meeting at 3:00 PM on January 4, 2023, virtually via Zoom, with Kristin Seaver, Chairperson, and Farad Ali, Co-Chairperson, presiding.

In accordance with FACA, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App 2, the meeting was open to the public from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM EST

Subcommittee Members Present:

Kristin Seaver, Chairperson	<i>General Dynamics Information Technology</i>
Farad Ali, Co-Chairperson	<i>Asociar, LLC</i>
Denise Bailey	<i>Milligan Consulting, LLC</i>
Gail Bassette	<i>Bowie State University</i>
Nicole Darnall	<i>Arizona State University</i>
Mamie Mallory	<i>Mallory & Associates, LLC</i>
Deryl McKissack	<i>McKissack & McKissack</i>
Nigel Stephens	<i>U.S. Black Chambers of Commerce</i>
Stacy Smedley	<i>Building Transparency</i>
Dr. David Waggoner	<i>Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries</i>
Dr. Kimberly Wise White	<i>American Chemistry Council</i>

Absent: Susan Lorenz-Fisher, Anish Tilak, Keith Tillage

Guest Speakers & Presenters: n/a

GSA Staff Present:

Boris Arratia	<i>Designated Federal Officer</i>
Stephanie Hardison	<i>Deputy Designated Federal Officer</i>
David Cochennic	<i>GAP FAC Support Team</i>
Skylar Holloway	<i>GAP FAC Support Team</i>
Cindy Thompson	<i>Closed Captioner</i>
Daniel Swartz	<i>ASL Interpreters</i>
Jill Lamoreaux	<i>ASL Interpreters</i>

CALL TO ORDER

Stephanie Hardison, Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO), opened the public meeting by welcoming the group before reminding the public that there would be time for comments and statements at the end of the meeting. Any written comments can be submitted through regulations.gov. Stephanie then performed a roll call to confirm attendance and a quorum. After the quorum was met, she turned the meeting over the Chairperson Kristin Seaver.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chairperson Kristin Seaver welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their participation before going over the agenda. She stated that they are looking to finalize the mission statement and refine the ideas they want to focus on.

Co-Chair Farad Ali expressed his gratitude for everyone being here and participating.

MISSION & KEY PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

Kristin Seaver led the mission statement discussion. The team had taken what was in the federal register and began crafting a mission statement. Kristin stated she was able to refine it to two similar mission statements. After refining the mission statement, the committee can move on to key priorities.

The group took the time to remove words and add different verbiage dependent on the goals they were trying to reach.

Dr. White discussed using the term “initial” before the word recommendations. She stated that the recommendations the group will be creating will evolve and may be implemented in various ways. They decided the use of the word “initial” would be removed.

The group began to wordsmith with “a broader diverse audience of small, midsize and underutilized, as well as innovative new entrants to the federal marketplace.” There is an importance in casting a wider net to include a larger range of businesses that GSA can’t reach, including existing businesses and new entrants.

Jeff Koses mentioned GSA is looking to expand the industry base and bring in new innovative companies that haven’t dealt with the acquisition system and bring in new energy and ideas. Jeff asks for suggestions on curating content and focusing on what they need to know and understand. There is a mountain of material, GSA currently doesn’t know how to provide clear and coherent messaging to those industry partners

and how to help them understand the information they need to participate in the federal marketplace.

The group had two mission statements: one being broad and the other being specific. Deryl McKissack liked the broader statement with the removal of the word “diverse.” Moving to a broader audience implies that the target audience will not be traditional businesses.

Nigel Stephens mentioned that GSA highlights the fact they have difficulty reaching certain businesses to meet goals. There’s still the environmental justice, equity, and inclusion piece to this: how do you bring those businesses that have not been included? If there are no specific goals, then it’s hard to have metrics, achievements, and accountability for achieving those goals. That was the point behind having a specific mission statement.

Kristin Seaver kept the beginning of the two mission statements that were specific and broad before tabling the mission statement discussion and moving on to the key priorities. She will clean up the mission statement and put it in a word document for the subcommittee to continue wordsmithing.

The group worked on finding and grouping similar priorities for key preferences. The groups were measures and motivations, outreach to engage and expand, and best practices. After grouping similar priorities, they discussed which priorities did not fall into their scope of work.

Kristin asked the group to think about what more they would like to know about measures and motivations and engagement and expansion that could help the group of speakers that could come in and talk about those issues to help them curate recommendations to go forward.

Kristin then opened the discussion up to the public for any comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Josh Jacobs, a member of the public, spoke on priority #24, which was to help connect organizations with sustainable expertise with all suppliers. He voiced whether currently disadvantaged, small, or large, they should be able to implement sustainable concepts with their current procurement services. It needs to be understood that it's not just sharing governmental expertise. Many suppliers of the federal government do great sustainable things, but there are many that are confused by it. How to connect those that understand this to those that don't is crucial.

Maria Swaby was excited to listen to the group and felt they were on point to work through issues. If there was any way she could help the group, she asked them to reach out to Boris. She would have speakers available for the group.

CLOSING REMARKS

Jeff suggested the committee had a very good conversation and is progressing while working through tough issues.

Troy Cribb also contributed by telling the group it was a great and engaging discussion. The discussions they are having are helping the group hone in on the direction and initial priorities of the group.

Kristin provided final remarks that she would be sending out information on the administrative meeting and working with the group to update any documents.

ADJOURNMENT

Stephanie Hardison concluded the meeting. The next virtual Industry Partnership meeting would be held on January 18th from 3 PM – 5 PM EST. Stephanie then handed the discussion over to Boris Arratia, Designated Federal Officer for any final comments.

Boris Arratia reminded everyone of the full committee meeting to be held on January 12th before handing it back to Stephanie. She reminded the public that any written comments could be submitted through regulations.gov.

Stephanie Hardison adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM EST. The

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

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Kristin Seaver
Chairperson
GAP FAC Industry Partnerships Subcommittee

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Farad Ali
Co-Chairperson
GAP FAC Industry Partnerships Subcommittee