

COSTTREND CONSULTING, INC.



Government Contracting Alert

November 2015

Overview

Background Information

The General Services Administration (GSA) awarded a Multiple Award Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (MA ID/IQ) contract back in the spring of 2014. This MA IDIQ was/is for professional services and is commonly known as the “One Acquisition Solution for Integrated Services” (OASIS) contract.

NAICS Codes/Exceptions

In order to compete for the OASIS IDIQ, contractors had to qualify under one of 34 NAICS codes/exceptions covering the “Pools” of work as noted below:

Pool	Primary NAICS Code*	Description	Small Business Size Standard
1	541330	Engineering	14 million
2	541219	Other Accounting Services	19 million
3	541330 Exception A	Engineering For Military and Aerospace Equipment and Military Weapons	35.5 million
4	541712	Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Biotechnology)	500 employees
5A	541712 Exception B	Research and Development in Aircraft Parts, and Auxiliary Equipment, and Aircraft Engine Parts	1,000 employees
5B	541712 Exception C	Research and Development in Space Vehicles and Guided Missiles, their Propulsion Units, their Propulsion Units Parts, and their Auxiliary Equipment and Parts	1,000 employees
6	541712 Exception A	Research and Development in Aircraft	1,500 employees

* FPDS-NG is currently designed to accept only one NAICS code with a procurement action. This limitation of the FPDS - NG system has no bearing on individual task order NAICS code assignments. However, it forced GSA to designate primary NAICS codes for Pools 1, 2, 3, and 4 so that task order award reports prepared in FPDS - NG System would “auto – populate”.

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OASIS Pools 1, 2, 3, and 4 contain multiple secondary NAICS codes, while pools 5A, 5B, and 6 each contain a single unique NAICS code/exception. For example, Pools 1, 2, 3, and 4 include secondary NAICS codes of 541810, Advertising Agencies and 541611/541618, Administrative, Management, General Management, and Other Management Consulting services.

As of November 2015, OASIS has 76 large business contractors holding a total of 234 contracts (one contract per company per pool) broken down as follows:

Pool 1	Pool 2	Pool 3	Pool 4	Pool 5A	Pool 5B	Pool 6
43	24	40	41	21	21	38

OASIS also has 129 small business contractors holding a total of 224 contracts (one contract per company per pool) broken down as follows:

Pool 1	Pool 2	Pool 3	Pool 4	Pool 5A	Pool 5B	Pool 6
44	9	43	40	23	23	42

The OASIS contracts life cycle is for a five-year base period with a five-year option period. Task orders can be any contract types, including hybrids and cost-reimbursement.

As of today, OASIS is being used by GSA, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and parts of the Department of Defense.

Task Order Solicitations

An OASIS Small Business (SB) task order solicitation may be a competitive set-aside for a specific socio-economic group when it is anticipated that offers will be obtained from at least two responsible small business concerns within a specific socio-economic group under the corresponding NAICS Pool. A socio-economic group is identified as one of the following: (a) 8(a) business development participants; (b) HUBZone small business concerns; (c) Service-disabled veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) concerns; (d) Economically disadvantaged women-owned small business (EDWOSB) concerns eligible under the Women-Owned Small Business Program; or (e) Women-owned small business (WOSB) concerns eligible under the WOSB Program.

In addition, OASIS permits *direct* task order awards under these socio-economic groups: (a) 8(a) business development participants; (b) HUBZone small business concerns; or (c) SDVOSB concerns.

How to Get on OASIS: The On-Ramping Process

According to GSA, getting on OASIS and OASIS SB is done via “on-ramping”. On-ramping is a competitive contracting process that is performed *at the discretion of GSA* and on-ramping typically occurs when:

- inadequate task order competition levels exists

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- mergers and acquisitions reduce the number of OASIS vendors
- customers of GSA request more vendors within a specific NAICS code
- small businesses outgrow their SB size standard after the first option period

The on-ramping process for OASIS and OASIS SB most likely will be targeted to a single Pool and if and when GSA decides to allow on-ramping, GSA will announce a number of contracts to be awarded (i.e., open slots) and the highest technically rated offerors will receive those awards regardless of how their score compared to the original OASIS awardees.

Please be aware that when a SB outgrows its OASIS SB status, it can apply to be added to the same OASIS Pool if it has a technical proposal score equal to or higher than the lowest scoring large business contractor within that Pool.

Conclusions and Recommendations

OASIS/OASIS SB has proven itself to be a “low cost and easy vehicle” to procure professional services. GSA continues to heavily market its OASIS contracts within the Federal Government and we are seeing more agencies cancelling their own IDIQ contracts and migrating to OASIS in order to achieve “cost savings through one federal government purchasing” (GSA’s marketing mantra).

For contractors that may be negatively impacted by such migrations, CostTrend suggests that you:

- work as subcontractors to OASIS prime contractors to discover the risks associated with this vehicle
- review and understand the original OASIS and OASIS SB request for proposals and contracts as they are almost identical to what the “on ramping“ announcement request will require from you with regard to proposal submission. By knowing these core requirements, you will be able to quickly respond with a well prepared and fully compliant proposal to GSA
- be familiar with FedBizOps.gov and check regularly for any OASIS on-ramping announcements