

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Part 15

[FAC 97-20; FAR Case 2000-300; Item II]

RIN 9000-A183

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Truth in Negotiations Act Threshold

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) have agreed on a final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to implement the requirements of 10 U.S.C. 2306a(a)(7) and 41 U.S.C. 254b(a)(7). These statutes require review of the Truth in Negotiations Act threshold every 5 years, starting October 1, 1995.

DATES: *Effective Date:* October 11, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat, Room 4035, GS Building, Washington, DC, 20405, (202) 501-4755, for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Mr. Jeremy Olson at (202) 501-3221. Please cite FAC 97-20, FAR case 2000-300.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This final rule amends FAR 15.403-4 to implement the requirements of 10 U.S.C. 2306a(a)(7) and 41 U.S.C. 254b(a)(7). These statutes require review of the Truth in Negotiations Act threshold every 5 years, starting October 1, 1995. The increase of \$50,000 is based on escalation of 10.22 percent from 1994 to 2000, calculated using the gross domestic product deflators from the fiscal year 2001 budget.

DoD, GSA, and NASA published a proposed rule in the Federal Register at 65 FR 41267, July 3, 2000. Two respondents submitted public comments. The Councils considered all public comments in formulation of the final rule. This final rule is the same as the proposed rule.

This is not a significant regulatory action, and therefore, was not subject to review under Section 6(b) of Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, dated September 30, 1993. This

rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

B. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration certify that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, because most contracts and subcontracts with small entities do not require the submission of cost or pricing data.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the changes do not significantly change the existing information collection requirements that have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*, under OMB Clearance Number 9000-0045.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 15

Government procurement.

Dated: October 3, 2000.

Al Matera,

Acting Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

Therefore, DoD, GSA, and NASA amend 48 CFR part 15 as set forth below:

PART 15—CONTRACTING BY NEGOTIATION

1. The authority citation for 48 CFR part 15 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 40 U.S.C. 486(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

2. Amend section 15.403-4 by revising paragraph (a)(1) to read as follows:

15.403-4 Requiring cost or pricing data (10 U.S.C. 2306a and 41 U.S.C. 254b).

(a)(1) The contracting officer must obtain cost or pricing data only if the contracting officer concludes that none of the exceptions in 15.403-1(b) applies. However, if the contracting officer has sufficient information available to determine price reasonableness, then the contracting officer should consider requesting a waiver under the exception at 15.403-1(b)(4). The threshold for obtaining cost or pricing data is \$550,000. Unless an exception applies, cost or pricing data are required before accomplishing any of the following actions expected to exceed the current threshold or, for existing contracts, the threshold specified in the contract:

(i) The award of any negotiated contract (except for undefinitized actions such as letter contracts).

(ii) The award of a subcontract at any tier, if the contractor and each higher-tier subcontractor were required to submit cost or pricing data (but see waivers at 15.403-1(c)(4)).

(iii) The modification of any sealed bid or negotiated contract (whether or not cost or pricing data were initially required) or any subcontract covered by paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of this subsection. Price adjustment amounts must consider both increases and decreases (*e.g.*, a \$200,000 modification resulting from a reduction of \$400,000 and an increase of \$200,000 is a pricing adjustment exceeding \$550,000). This requirement does not apply when unrelated and separately priced changes for which cost or pricing data would not otherwise be required are included for administrative convenience in the same modification. Negotiated final pricing actions (such as termination settlements and total final price agreements for fixed-price incentive and redeterminable contracts) are contract modifications requiring cost or pricing data if—

(A) The total final price agreement for such settlements or agreements exceeds the pertinent threshold set forth at paragraph (a)(1) of this subsection; or
(B) The partial termination settlement plus the estimate to complete the continued portion of the contract exceeds the pertinent threshold set forth at paragraph (a)(1) of this subsection (see 49.105(c)(15)).

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[FR Doc. 00-25875 Filed 10-10-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Chapter 1

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Entity Compliance Guide

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Small Entity Compliance Guide.

SUMMARY: This document is issued under the joint authority of the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of General Services and the

Administrator for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. This *Small Entity Compliance Guide* has been prepared in accordance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121). It consists of a summary of rules appearing in

Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) 97-20 which amend the FAR. An asterisk (*) next to a rule indicates that a regulatory flexibility analysis has been prepared in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 604. Interested parties may obtain further information regarding these rules by referring to FAC 97-20 which

precedes this document. These documents are also available via the Internet at <http://www.arnet.gov/far>. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laurie Duarte, FAR Secretariat, (202) 501-4225. For clarification of content, contact the analyst whose name appears in the table below.

LIST OF RULES IN FAC 97-20

| Item | Subject | FAR case | Analyst |
|----------|--|----------|---------|
| I | Veterans Entrepreneurship And Small Business Development Act * | 2000-302 | Moss. |
| II | Truth in Negotiations Act Threshold | 2000-300 | Olson. |

Item I—Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (FAR Case 2000-302)

This interim rule amends the FAR to implement sections 501(c), 502(a)(2), and 604(d) of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-50). This Act established new assistance programs for veterans and service-disabled veterans who own and operate small businesses. This interim rule—

- Defines the terms “veteran-owned small business concerns” and “service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns”;
- Establishes that veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small

businesses be afforded maximum practical opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts and subcontracts awarded by any Federal agency;

- Establishes a requirement to include a goal for veteran-owned small businesses in subcontracting plans under FAR 52.219-9; and
- Amends the SF 294 and SF 295 to add data collection requirements for subcontract awards to veteran-owned small businesses and service disabled veteran-owned small business concerns.

Item II—Truth in Negotiations Act Threshold (FAR Case 2000-300)

This final rule amends FAR 15.403-4 to increase the threshold for obtaining

cost or pricing data from \$500,000 to \$550,000. This implements the requirements of 10 U.S.C. 2306a(a)(7) and 41 U.S.C. 254b(a)(7). These statutes require review of the Truth in Negotiations Act threshold every 5 years, starting October 1, 1995.

Dated: October 3, 2000.

Al Matera,

Acting Director, Federal Acquisition Policy Division.

[FR Doc. 00-25876 Filed 10-10-00; 8:45 am]

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