

removing "31.203(c)" and adding "31.203(d)" in its place.

[FR Doc. 04-7406 Filed 4-2-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Part 4

[FAC 2001-22; FAR Case 2002-025; Item III]

RIN 9000-AJ70

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Unique Contract and Order Identifier Numbers

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 convert the interim rule published at 68 FR 56679, October 1, 2003, to a final rule without change. The final rule requires that Federal agencies assign a unique identifier for every contract, purchase order, BOA, Basic Agreement, and BPA reported to the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS).

DATES: *Effective Date:* April 5, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat at (202) 501-4755 for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Mr. Gerald Zaffos, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 208-6091. Please cite FAC 2001-22, FAR case 2002-025.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

DoD, GSA, and NASA published an interim rule implementing this requirement in the *Federal Register* at 68 FR 56679, October 1, 2003. The interim rule required agencies to be in compliance by October 1, 2003. The 30-day public comment period for the interim rule ended October 31, 2003. No comments were received in response to the interim 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 Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, does not apply because the rule applies to the internal process of Federal agencies. An Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis has, therefore, not been prepared.

C. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act does not apply because the changes to the FAR do not impose information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 4

Government procurement.

Dated: March 26, 2004.

Laura Auletta,

Director, Acquisition Policy Division.

Interim Rule Adopted as Final Without Change

■ Accordingly, DoD, GSA, and NASA adopt the interim rule amending 48 CFR part 4, which was published in the *Federal Register* at 68 FR 56679, October 1, 2003, as a final rule without change.

Authority: 40 U.S.C. 121(c); 10 U.S.C. chapter 137; and 42 U.S.C. 2473(c).

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Part 15

[FAC 2001-22; FAR Case 2002-027; Item IV]

RIN 9000-AJ66

Federal Acquisition Regulation; Unsolicited Proposals

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 Section 834 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296). Section 834 adds new considerations concerning the submission, receipt, evaluation, and acceptance or rejection of unsolicited proposals.

DATES: *Effective Date:* May 5, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The FAR Secretariat at (202) 501-4755 for information pertaining to status or publication schedules. For clarification of content, contact Ms. Julia Wise, Procurement Analyst, at (202) 208-1168. Please cite FAC 2001-22, FAR case 2002-027.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

This rule amends the FAR to implement section 834 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-296). Section 834 adds new considerations concerning the submission, receipt, evaluation, and acceptance or rejection of unsolicited proposals. The rule will require that a valid unsolicited proposal not address a previously published agency requirement. It also requires that, before initiating a comprehensive evaluation, the agency must determine that the proposal contains sufficient cost-related or price-related information for evaluation, and that it has overall scientific, technical, or socioeconomic merit.

DOD, GSA, and NASA published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* at 68 FR 33330, June 3, 2003. A comment was received from one respondent. The Councils considered the comment before agreeing to publish the proposed rule as final. A summary of the comment and the disposition follows:

Comment: The proposed language in FAR 15.606-1(a)(4), Receipt and initial review, should be revised to more closely mirror the wording in Section 834 as follows: "Contains sufficient technical and cost information including cost-related or price related factors for evaluation."

Response: The Councils do not concur. Proposals do not typically include cost-related or price-related factors. Such factors are developed by agencies in competitive acquisitions prior to soliciting proposals and are used to assess the offeror's proposal and the offeror's ability to perform the prospective contract successfully. This allows all proposals to be evaluated for award based on the identical factors. Inserting a requirement for proposals to contain factors would likely create confusion between the competitive