

(d) The estimated dollar value of all options shall be included in determining the approval level of a justification.

[50 FR 1729, Jan. 11, 1985, as amended at 50 FR 52433, Dec. 23, 1985; 54 FR 13023, Mar. 29, 1989; 55 FR 3881, Feb. 5, 1990; 55 FR 52790, Dec. 21, 1990; 60 FR 42654, 42665, Aug. 16, 1995; 61 FR 31618, June 20, 1996; 65 FR 24325, Apr. 25, 2000; 70 FR 11739, Mar. 9, 2005; 71 FR 57366, Sept. 28, 2006; 75 FR 53132, Aug. 30, 2010; 76 FR 14562, Mar. 16, 2011; 79 FR 24198, Apr. 29, 2014; 80 FR 38296, July 2, 2015; 84 FR 19843, May 6, 2019; 85 FR 62487, Oct. 2, 2020]

### 6.305 Availability of the justification.

(a) The agency shall make publicly available the justification required by 6.303-1 as required by 10 U.S.C. 3204(f) and 41 U.S.C. 3304(f). Except for the circumstances in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, the justification shall be made publicly available within 14 days after contract award.

(b) In the case of a contract award permitted under 6.302-2, the justification shall be posted within 30 days after contract award.

(c) In the case of a brand name justification under 6.302-1(c), the justification shall be posted with the solicitation (see 5.102(a)(6)).

(d) The justifications shall be made publicly available—

(1) At the Government Point of Entry (GPE) <https://www.sam.gov>;

(2) On the website of the agency, which may provide access to the justifications by linking to the GPE; and

(3) Must remain posted for a minimum of 30 days.

(e) Contracting officers shall carefully screen all justifications for contractor proprietary data and remove all such data, and such references and citations as are necessary to protect the proprietary data, before making the justifications available for public inspection. Contracting officers shall also be guided by the exemptions to disclosure of information contained in the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the prohibitions against disclosure in 24.202 in determining whether the justification, or portions of it, are exempt from posting. Although the submitter notice process set out in EO 12600, entitled “Predisclosure Notification Procedures for Confidential Commercial Informa-

tion,” does not apply, if the justification appears to contain proprietary data, the contracting officer should provide the contractor that submitted the information an opportunity to review the justification for proprietary data, before making the justification available for public inspection, redacted as necessary. This process must not prevent or delay the posting of the justification in accordance with the timeframes required in paragraphs (a) through (c).

(f) The requirements of paragraphs (a) through (d) do not apply if posting the justification would disclose the executive agency’s needs and disclosure of such needs would compromise national security or create other security risks.

[75 FR 34276, June 16, 2010, as amended at 79 FR 24198, Apr. 29, 2014; 83 FR 42572, Aug. 22, 2018; 86 FR 71325, Dec. 15, 2021; 87 FR 73896, Dec. 1, 2022]

## Subpart 6.4—Sealed Bidding and Competitive Proposals

### 6.401 Sealed bidding and competitive proposals.

Sealed bidding and competitive proposals, as described in parts 14 and 15, are both acceptable procedures for use under subparts 6.1, 6.2; and, when appropriate, under subpart 6.3.

(a) *Sealed bids.* (See part 14 for procedures.) Contracting officers shall solicit sealed bids if—

(1) Time permits the solicitation, submission, and evaluation of sealed bids;

(2) The award will be made on the basis of price and other price-related factors;

(3) It is not necessary to conduct discussions with the responding offerors about their bids; and

(4) There is reasonable expectation of receiving more than one sealed bid.

(b) *Competitive proposals.* (See part 15 for procedures.)

(1) Contracting officers may request competitive proposals if sealed bids are not appropriate under paragraph (a) of this section.

(2) Because of differences in areas such as law, regulations, and business practices, it is generally necessary to

conduct discussions with offerors relative to proposed contracts to be made and performed outside the United States and its outlying areas. Competitive proposals will therefore be used for these contracts unless discussions are not required and the use of sealed bids is otherwise appropriate.

[50 FR 1729, Jan. 11, 1985; 50 FR 4221, Jan. 30, 1985; 50 FR 52429, Dec. 23, 1985; 54 FR 5054, Jan. 31, 1989; 64 FR 51833, Sept. 24, 1999; 68 FR 28080, May 22, 2003; 84 FR 19843, May 6, 2019]

### Subpart 6.5—Advocates for Competition

#### 6.501 Requirement.

As required by 41 U.S.C. 1705, the head of each executive agency shall designate an advocate for competition for the agency and for each procuring activity of the agency. The advocates for competition shall—

(a) Be in positions other than that of the agency senior procurement executive;

(b) Not be assigned any duties or responsibilities that are inconsistent with 6.502; and

(c) Be provided with staff or assistance (e.g., specialists in engineering, technical operations, contract administration, financial management, supply management, and utilization of small business concerns), as may be necessary to carry out the advocate's duties and responsibilities.

[50 FR 1729, Jan. 11, 1985, and 50 FR 52429, Dec. 23, 1985, as amended at 60 FR 48259, Sept. 18, 1995; 79 FR 24198, Apr. 29, 2014; 84 FR 19843, May 6, 2019]

#### 6.502 Duties and responsibilities.

(a) Agency and procuring activity advocates for competition are responsible for—

(1) Promoting the acquisition of commercial products and commercial services;

(2) Promoting full and open competition;

(3) Challenging requirements that are not stated in terms of functions to be performed, performance required, or essential physical characteristics;

(4) Challenging barriers to the acquisition of commercial products and commercial services; and

(5) Challenging barriers to full and open competition such as unnecessarily restrictive statements of work, unnecessarily detailed specifications, and unnecessarily burdensome contract clauses.

(b) Agency advocates for competition shall—

(1) Review the contracting operations of the agency and identify and report to the agency senior procurement executive and the chief acquisition officer—

(i) Opportunities and actions taken to acquire commercial products and commercial services to meet the needs of the agency;

(ii) Opportunities and actions taken to achieve full and open competition in the contracting operations of the agency;

(iii) Actions taken to challenge requirements that are not stated in terms of functions to be performed, performance required or essential physical characteristics;

(iv) Any condition or action that has the effect of unnecessarily restricting the acquisition of commercial products or commercial services or unnecessarily restricting competition in the contract actions of the agency;

(2) Prepare and submit an annual report to the agency senior procurement executive and the chief acquisition officer in accordance with agency procedures, describing—

(i) Such advocate's activities under this subpart;

(ii) New initiatives required to increase the acquisition of commercial products and commercial services;

(iii) New initiatives required to increase competition;

(iv) New initiatives to ensure requirements are stated in terms of functions to be performed, performance required or essential physical characteristics;

(v) Any barriers to the acquisition of commercial products, commercial services, or competition that remain;

(vi) Other ways in which the agency has emphasized the acquisition of commercial products, commercial services, and competition in areas such as acquisition training and research; and

(vii) Initiatives that ensure task and delivery orders over \$1,000,000 issued under multiple award contracts are