

Hurricane Relief Contracting Opportunities 1-800 Number: The SBA and GSA are partnering to provide a toll free telephone number to help small businesses learn about hurricane relief efforts, contracting and rebuilding opportunities. Dialing 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636) will connect to a customer service representative from GSA who will field the calls and direct the callers to a SBA district office representative. Each SBA district office has designated personnel to respond and make further referrals as necessary. Companies located in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and DC, will be directed to the SBA District Office POC Carolyn Zeller or Fran Hensen at 410-962-6195. For New York and New Jersey firms, the POC is John Miller at 212-264-7770 or Georgia Ellis at 212-264-4313.

HUBZone Program Notes: The SBA office of government contracting recently clarified that a HUBZone certified small business that was forced to temporarily relocate after either Hurricane Katrina or Rita shall continue to be considered a certified HUBZone small business until further notice. As such, the company is eligible for all contracting preferences that fall under the HUBZone program. You can verify HUBZone certifications at the CCR Dynamic Small Business Search site.

Also, a reminder that last December, President Bush signed into law a measure that designates all bases already closed and any which may close through future BRAC actions as HUBZone locations. A small business willing to locate in these new areas and willing to employ local residents, can apply for HUBZone small business certification. To find out if a specific address is located in one of the new HUBZone BRAC locations, go to www.sba.gov/hubzone and use the mapping tool.

SBA-DOD 8(a) Partnership Extended: The cooperative agreement that allows contracting activities to make direct award of 8(a) purchase orders to eligible 8(a) participants has been extended to September 30, 2006. The agreement applies to actions falling under the simplified acquisition threshold as defined at FAR 2.101 and which are accomplished using simplified acquisition procedures defined in FAR Part 13. When making awards using the agreement, no offer letter or formal SBA acceptance is required, although certain notification provisions do apply. For details, the agreement and extension are posted at www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu under policies.

Very Small Business Pilot Program Not Extended: This program, described at FAR 19.9 has not been extended and is therefore terminated.

Non-manufacturer Waiver List – Individual Waivers: Federal contracting officers can request individual (solicitation-specific) waivers when they determine that no small business manufacturers exist for what they are buying. The Small Business Act requires that agency contracts be directed solely to small business manufacturers under set-aside provisions. This requirement is commonly referred to as the Nonmanufacturer Rule. The Small Business Act also contains provisions that allow the Administrator of the SBA to waive this requirement when there are no small business manufacturers or processors available to supply the product to the Federal Government. An individual waiver request normally takes about 15 working days to process if complete information has been provided. That includes a statement of the specific items to be awarded, solicitation number, procurement history, and determination that no small business manufacturers exist for the items. The determination must contain a statement of the efforts to search for the small businesses, results of those efforts, market survey results, results of CCR Dynamic Small Business Search, discussions with SADBUs and PCR personnel, and a statement that there are no known small business manufacturers

and that no small businesses are reasonably expected to offer the required supplies. Additional details including mailing addresses and fax/phone numbers can be found at www.sba.gov/gc/ under programs to assist businesses, and Waivers of the Nonmanufacturer Rule. It also describes the process to request a waiver for an entire class of items.

Bundling Reminders:

In January 2005, an additional requirement was added to the “bundling” guidance at 13 CFR 125.2 Prime Contracting Programs, requiring certain elements of agency oversight.

(e) OSDBU Oversight Functions. The Agency OSDBU must:

- (1) Conduct annual reviews to assess the:
 - (i) Extent to which small businesses are receiving their fair share of Federal procurements, including contract opportunities under programs administered under the Small Business Act;
 - (ii) Adequacy of the bundling documentation and justification; and
 - (iii) Adequacy of actions taken to mitigate the effects of necessary and justified contract bundling on small businesses (e.g., review agency oversight of prime contractor subcontracting plan compliance under the subcontracting program).
- (2) Provide a copy of the assessment under paragraph (e)(1) of this section to the Agency Head and SBA Administrator.

Recently, a reminder was sent to contracting activities that FAR bundling coverage requires contact bundling reviews for task and delivery orders under multiple award contract vehicles, including multi-agency contracts, Government Wide Acquisition Contracts, or GSA Multiple Award Schedules when the order meets the definition of a “bundled contract” in FAR 2.101(b). PCRs are to have the opportunity to review any such proposed orders estimated at \$7 million or above, and any award where a small business had performed the requirements.

Nominations Sought For SBA Awards:

Due November 11 - Frances Perkins Vanguard Award for Exemplary Utilization of Women-Owned Small Businesses by Contracting Activities and Industry as subcontractors or suppliers; a self nomination program. (SBA Area 2 POC is Pamela.Fenderson@sba.gov , 202-205-7408)

Due November 11 – Frances Perkins Vanguard Award for Exemplary Utilization of Women-Owned Small Businesses by a Federal or an Industry Procurement Official as subcontractors or suppliers; a self-nomination program. (SBA Area 2 POC is Pamela.Fenderson@sba.gov , 202-205-7408)

Due December 16 – SBA National/Regional Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award, nominated by federal contracting activities. (SBA Area 2 POC is Vincent.Mazzotta@sba.gov , 215-580-2809)

Due December 16 – SBA National/Regional Small Business Subcontractor of the Year Award, nominated by large business prime contractors. (SBA Area 2 POC is Vincent.Mazzotta@sba.gov , 215-580-2809)

Updated Small Business Statistics Available Online: The SBA Office of Advocacy has posted Frequently Asked Questions at www.sba.gov/advo to answer everything from “What is a Small Business?” to “How many new jobs do small firms create?” to “What is the survival rate for small firms?”