**Department of Veteran Affairs Technology Acquisition Center**

**APBI 2014**

**Additional Questions & Answers**

1. **Several speakers asked industry not to just give VA what it asks for, but what it really needs. Yet, the current TAC policy of “no talk” with vendors (once an opportunity goes on the T4 pipeline list) runs counter to industry dialog about alternative solutions. Would TAC reconsider its practice, so that vendors can meet with functional proponents up until the RFP’s or task orders go final? Otherwise, how can industry help inform VA about options and alternatives to poorly worded RFIs?**
2. Industry always has the opportunity to provide feedback during the market research and solicitation periods.  If you believe another forum is necessary to further discuss the requirement, you are always welcome to suggest industry days, one-on-ones or other methods of information sharing when it will be of value.  We will also review our process for access to functional proponents during this period, however, our goal is to ensure that all offerors have the same opportunity to share and receive information.

**2. Does TAC use GSA 8(a) STARS II as a vehicle?**

A. GSA’s 8(a) STARS II is a contract vehicle available for TAC use.

1. **Why is Project Management (PM) support on T4 Next Gen in light of the Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) issues it creates?**
2. VA requires a significant amount of Information Technology (IT) PM support. Creating a separate contract vehicle for PM support does not in itself resolve the OCI issues, as well as not every Task Order for PM support creates an OCI issue. Any OCI issue will be determined at the task order level on a case by case basis. If it appears that use of T4 for a particular effort might not be in the Government’s best interest for any reason, another vehicle available to us will utilized.
3. **Will Joint Ventures be allowed for T4 Next Gen?**
4. Yes, Joint Ventures will be allowed in accordance with Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 13 CFR 125.15 and Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) 819.7003.
5. **Once the location of the National Veterans SB Engagement is announced, how soon will we be able to register for the engagement?**
6. The Acting Secretary for the Department of Veterans Affairs has approved Atlanta, GA for the December 9-11 National Veterans Small Business Engagement (NVSBE). Registration will open on September 1st. Please stay tuned to evolving information on this event by visiting the web site: [www.NVSBE.com](http://www.NVSBE.com)

**6**. **Will you engage with a different management company to run this engagement (National Veterans SB Conference? Conferences and conference administration have gone downhill.  The value of the engagement has gone downhill over the last 2 years.”**

A. Yes, we are in the process of selecting a new conference management company to assist us in managing the December engagement. The selection will come from a pool of five companies currently listed on an approved BPA. This year is the fourth event we have sponsored of this magnitude for our Veteran owned small businesses. I would be interested in hearing your thoughts on why you believe this signature event did not meet your expectations. We certainly work hard towards improving your return on investment. Thank you for your input.

**7. Who should we talk to about Telco bill audit and Telco spend recovery?**

1. The point of contact is Pete Whitson.

**8. Subject VSAT Consolidation: What is the status of the VSAT consolidation from a contractual standpoint? Is this tied to the cancelled award to Harris/Caprock and Follow-up RFI?**

A. Enterprise SATCOM solicitation was posted to eBuy under the GSA Custom SatCom Solutions Small Business (CS2-SB) multiple award, indefinite delivery indefinite quality (IDIQ) May 9, 2014. Solicitation number VA118A-14-R-0092.  This requirement provides for uninterrupted communications services for Veteran’s medical care via deployed fixed, mobile, and first responder portable satellite communication units; and supports 138 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) to include project management, transition support, satellite transponder and terrestrial operational and maintenance, emergency support during nationally declared disaster, hardware and software maintenance and updates/replacements, training, assessment and accreditation documentation support, and help desk services.    Proposals are due June 27, 2014.