

APBI Question Registry

Briefer: Michele Foster (MF):

1- In regards to the Not-Actionable Jobs, does that number/requirement mean they need to be solicited for AND awarded BY September 21, or is that for FY21 and FY22. Also, is there a deadline for submitting packets to the TAC for awards by September 30, 2021? We previously were informed this was a 6/15 date. Thank you!!	Yes, as of June 4, 2021, there were 477 Not-Actionable Jobs that will need to be solicited and awarded NLT September 30, 2021. This entire chart (#15) is only about work for this FY that must be awarded. We've asked that all work requiring FY end award be submitted NLT June 15, 2021 but recognize there will be some emerging requirements submitted after that date.
--	---

Round Table: Paul Brubaker (PB), Charles Worthington (CW), Bradley Houston (BH), Todd Simpson (TS), Paul Cunningham (PC), Luwanda Jones (LJ):

1- Good Morning, Quick Question. Appreciate if you can share some light how Vendor can pitch new innovation in alignment with VA leaders when we respond as we don't see the reflection in many of the RTEP requirements.	IT vendors seeking to do business with VA can contact us at ITVMO@va.gov . Once contacted, we will request information from you on your capability/innovation and then work with you to schedule an engagement with the appropriate VA OIT stakeholders.
2- Do VA consider implementing Service Integration and management (SIAM) which is built on top of existing ITIL VA follows while focus more on Service Integration? Thank you.	Yes. The VA Office of Information and Technology supports the Service Integration and Management (SIAM) methodology and has implemented several priority functions. The extent of OIT SIAM practice includes: (1) Customer Relationship Management (CRM) to work with product owners and customers to increase/improve communication and expectations, (2) Project Management Office (PMO) to provide project and scrum team functions for each dev/configuration team, and (3) an Acquisitions team to manage ServiceNow licenses and ITSM Support.
3- Ms. Jones- can you start a podcast channel? You make Gov't procurement very entertaining. Thank you.	While a podcast is not out of the question, Ms. Jones will continue to appear in external speaking engagements for a variety of audiences.
4- What percentage of your hosting would be above FedRAMP IL2/Moderate level?	The Department follows Federal regulations regarding cloud computing including meeting FedRAMP requirements. The Department seeks 100 percent FedRAMP compliance and will only sponsor FedRAMP certification when a solution is unique in capability and advantageous to the Department. Given the sensitivity of Veteran data

	and the Department's commitment to protect it, the Department will seek out the highest level of assurance of protection in cloud environments. In most cases, the Department cloud solutions will fall in this category.
5- Is the Transformational Fund that is now going to be appropriated as part of the FY22 budget a no year fund or is limited? If limited in years available, what is it? How do you see the Transformational Fund going into the future since it is dependent on unobligated funds from prior years?	The current Transformation Fund planned for OIT is one-year funding. Due to the uncertainty of future unobligated funding levels, OIT is not relying on Transformation Funds in the out-years. If Transformation Funds are made available in FY23, OIT will work with OM and OMB to designate trade-offs in our FY23 budget request, similar to what was done for FY22.
6- Address the Transformational Fund? How long will it exist?	OIT FY22 planned Transformation Fund is for one year. There is a possibility we will have Transformation Funds available in the out-years (FY23-FYXX), but there is no guarantee on the amount or specific use of the funds.
7- Yes - we are in the midst of planning the next Reverse Industry Day with Mr. Christy - would love to have one with your team. v/r	The Office of Information and Technology is always excited to collaborate with our partners. Please contact our office at ITVMO@va.gov . We look forward to working with the Technology Acquisition Center and the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to connect with vendors and hear their thoughts on how to improve the Veteran experience.
8- 10 years after the repeal of DNDT, LGBT+ veterans are less likely to use VA services and also less likely to be satisfied with those services when they do. In what ways is the VA using technology to close that gap, and do you think there's still more work to be done in that area?	VA is always striving to leverage technology to improve our services and ensure that all Veterans are served equally well. One way in which VA is using technology to support Veterans impacted by Don't Ask Don't Tell is the Discharge Upgrade Tool. This tool helps Veterans who were unfairly discharged from the military because of their LGBT+ status navigate the process of requesting a "discharge upgrade" which can result in correcting their DoD records. Additionally, VA OIT is working to enable Veterans to allow their own selection of gender and choices of speech via expansions of VA Profile, which will synchronize to all VA systems. By ensuring we start every conversation with the form of address chosen by the Veteran, we can ensure we start each encounter on a positive note. There are further opportunities to ensure call center engagements, websites and quality controls are updated, and OIT will continue to work to modify systems following the priorities set by VHA and VBA leadership.

Briefer: Matt Ginty (MG) & Jamie Ford (JF):

<p>1-MG/JF- In the eyes of the TAC, when does an acquisition begin? At RFI release or Draft RFP release or RFP/RTEP release?</p> <p>DoD and GSA acquisitions often “begin” at Draft RFP (if there is one) or RFP, so that is when many companies open up a B&P budget line.</p>	<p>An acquisition begins once the requirement is identified. The TAC works closely with our business partners to ensure we are involved as close to the requirements identification phase as possible. The TAC is actively involved as requirements are refined. The TAC attempts to notify industry of procurements as early as possible in order to assist with their planning. This usually includes announcements on beta.sam, updating FCO and conducting market research.</p>
<p>2-MG/JF- I am a verified SDVOSB with limited past performance because we can't win larger contracts because of our PP. What is the best way to team with ANG's and large companies to win awards? with the standard PP evaluations?</p>	<p>A lack of past performance is not held against a vendor and a “Neutral Rating” or similar would be assigned. Please refer to the T4NG prime contractor list and reach out to both the large and SDVOSB primes for business opportunities. As an aside, an amendment to the Small Business Act has directed the Small Business Administration to design a program for capturing past performance information by subcontractors and making that information available in support of future competitions for prime contracts.</p>

Briefer: Sharon Ridley (SR):

<p>1-SR- Are there any plans to have a reverse industry day? listen to ideas from the industry? industry showcase days? OIT Shark tank for ideas?</p>	<p>VA has conducted reverse industry days to hear ideas and gather feedback from industry. Such events can enhance VA’s vendor relations through a reciprocal flow of information. VA OSDDBU is unaware of any proposals for a reverse industry day specifically focused on the Office of Information and Technology, but as a vendor-facing organization, OSDDBU stands ready to collaborate with its VA partner organizations if they decide to conduct such an event.</p>
<p>2-SR- VA has an exemplary record for meeting and exceeding their Socio-economic goals. Is there any consideration for providing similar procurement set aside goals for Veteran employing AbilityOne contractors?</p>	<p>VA’s decision whether to award an action through the Veterans First Contracting Program or the AbilityOne program is controlled by law as enacted by Congress. VA will seek to comply with the statutory requirements.</p>
<p>3-SR- Is there a plan to reinstate the NVSBE?</p>	<p>No decision has been made at this time. As the nation emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, VA will require time to consider commitments of</p>

	that size. Due to its scale, an NVSBE would require substantial lead-time for scheduling, planning, and implementing.
--	---