# MASQUARTERLY

## From the MAS PMO

End of summer (and early Fall) greetings! The Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) Program is committed to being your trusted resource and partner. This newsletter summarizes key program updates from July through September 2024.

If you haven't had the chance, we encourage you to check out the MAS-focused episode of the [GSA Does That!? podcast](#). MAS Program Director Jack Tekus offers a deep dive into how to do business with GSA through MAS, giving listeners an excellent comprehensive overview of the MAS program. Jack also explains how getting on Schedule can open up numerous opportunities for businesses, how to navigate the application process and what to expect once you get on Contract.

As this last issue closes out FY24, we took a look back at the growth and overall activity of the MAS Interact community. Subscriptions grew in FY24, and we now stand at 4,598 members strong. Interact activity also increased, with the MAS program posting 42 updates, and the newsletter providing an additional 33 program notifications and updates. Don't miss out in FY25! **If you haven't already, subscribe to the [MAS Interact group](#) to get news straight to your inbox.**

We welcome feedback or topics for future MAS newsletters and encourage you to send suggestions to [maspmo@gsa.gov.](#) As always, we thank you for your partnership and support.

## In This Issue

# What's New

## August MAS Office Hours TDR Recap AND Spots Remain for the TDR Contractor Report Profile Test

Attention Industry Partners -- If you missed the August 15 MAS Office Hours on all things TDR (Transactional Data Reporting), the session recording is now available. The session provides information on what TDR is all about and how FAS and our stakeholders are using transactional data. There's also a demo on how to opt-in to TDR and how to report monthly data. Visit the September 11 Interact post for slides and Q&A from the session.

Interested in the TDR Contractor Report Profile test mentioned during the session? A few slots remain and there's still time to join. Participants receive a personalized report showing their company's data quality and compliance with TDR reporting, a user guide, and a short survey (to help us refine the report & user guide). Email the TDR team at tdrteam@gsa.gov to sign up.

## GSA Seeks Feedback on Update Guidance for MAS Contractor Teaming Agreements (CTAs)

The General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) recently requested feedback on revised language and guidance for MAS Contractor Teaming Arrangements (CTAs). This August 28 Interact notice provides a proposed CTA template, the four questions posed to contractors, and related CTA documents. Responses were due September 16. Thank you to those who responded. Current CTA guidance can be found on the MAS pages of GSA.gov.

## Software Attestations and Your MAS Contract

Attention Software Producers and Resellers -- The Office of Management and Budget Guidance requires that federal agencies only use software that complies with government-specified secure software development practices. Agencies comply by requiring software producers to complete a form attesting the software conforms to National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) guidance. These self-attestation forms may be posted publicly by software producers but, if not publicly available, the forms should be uploaded to a Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) repository that agencies can access.

**MAS contractors not awarded software to their MAS contract do not need to take any action.**

**MAS contractors with software awarded to their MAS contract** can review the August 28 Interact post for more detailed information. Please reach to MASPMO@gsa.gov with any questions.

## Changes to Backorder Metrics

Attention GSA Global Supply (GGS) contractors! If your contract is eligible to receive orders via the OMS Vendor Portal, then this applies to you. Beginning in October 2024, GGS backorder estimated ship date (ESD) will no longer be used in the metric calculation to determine your on-time rate. You will be held to the original After Receipt of Order (ARO) terms and conditions in your contract.

Your action remains the same -- take action on the orders listed in the GGS (GSA Global Supply) Combined Monthly scorecard. Requirements for the three contractor performance metrics have been developed based on GGS Business Transaction Processing Requirements. More details, including information on Minimum Accepted Levels, Disciplinary Offsets, and How to be Compliant can be found in this July 31 Interact post.

Have questions? Reach out to your GGS Contracting Officer directly, or contact supplieraccountability@gsa.gov or GGSContractorPerformance@gsa.gov for assistance.

## Embrace Innovation: Help GSA Take the Next Step with Federal Acquisition Training

On July 26, GSA posted a Request for Information (RFI)  on Interact seeking event management services for a potential in-person training event and industry conference through MAS SIN/ Category: 561920, Conference, Meeting, Event and Trade Show Planning Services. The RFI sought responses in support of a potential 2026 conference designed to unite industry partners and customers in a collaborative setting. RFI responses were due August 2.

## Advanced Notice for MAS Refresh 22 and Upcoming Mass Modification

Attention all current MAS Contractors! Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) issued GSA Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) Solicitation 47QSMD20R0001 - Refresh #22 and an associated mass modification (mass mod) to all existing contracts in August 2024.

Detailed changes are outlined in the July 17 Interact post, including overall changes to the MAS solicitation and specific changes to four Large Category, Subcategory or SINs. You can also visit the Vendor Support Center (VSC) for information specific to MAS Solicitation Refreshes, including solicitation-level SF30 attachments for all MAS solicitation refreshes.

# MAS Program Updates

## FAR Rule Updating Sustainable Acquisition Requirements is Finalized

The Biden-Harris Administration recently finalized a rule that modernizes existing Federal sustainable purchasing standards. The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council issued this rule to strengthen existing sustainable products requirements by directing federal buyers to purchase sustainable products and services to the maximum extent practicable. Sustainable products and services are products and services that meet statutory purchasing programs (see FAR 23.107) and required EPA purchasing programs (see FAR 23.108).

A new omnibus clause, FAR 52.223-23, Sustainable Products and Services, was added to MAS contracts through Refresh 21. This clause flows down to orders and requires contractors to ensure the sustainable products and services identified in the contract are delivered or furnished to the government.

**How can contractors prepare for sustainable product and service requirements?** Contractors can use the Green Procurement Compilation to learn if the products or services your company is offering have purchasing programs applicable to federal procurement.

# Catalog Management Updates

## FAS Catalog Platform Updates

The transition of product contracts into the FAS Catalog Platform (FCP) is now on pause to avoid the busy end of fiscal year activities. The onboarding of product catalogs will resume in FY25, with an exact timeline to be shared in the coming months.

Contractors will be notified in advance of their contract's identified transition date. To access an FCP User Guide, FAQ, and training videos, visit catalog.gsa.gov/help.

- **Vendors not yet in FCP with product catalogs** can learn about eligibility here.

- **Vendors not yet in FCP with service catalogs** can expect to learn more about FCP in the coming months. A small group of MAS services vendors with the Professional Engineering Special Item Number (SIN) are currently participating in a pilot of the FCP which began in July/August. The FCP will begin to onboard services vendors in early calendar year 2025.

- **Vendors already in FCP with product catalogs that need to add service catalogs in FCP** can learn more by reading *FCP MAS Service Updates* in this newsletter.

Things vendors can do now to prepare for transition:

- **Ensure Authorized Negotiators are kept up to date.** Communications about moving to the FCP are only sent to Authorized Negotiators. Additionally, only Authorized Negotiators can access FCP.

- **Ensure GSA Advantage! information is accurate and reflects what has been awarded to the contract.** Once a contract is moved to FCP, vendors must complete a First Steps onboarding process, which will be easier to complete if current GSA Advantage! information is up to date.

Vendors will need to complete these first steps to begin managing their catalogs in FCP:

1   **Verify Seller Profile in FCP:** Vendors must verify the Seller Profile information published to GSA Advantage! such as Minimum Order Requirement and Order Department information.

2   **Baseline GSA Advantage! Product Catalog:** Vendors must complete a baseline process within eMod and FCP to establish an authoritative representation of the awarded catalog. *Note: Once service catalog management functionality is rolled out, there will be a similar baseline process for services.*

Vendors can learn more about the process for [moving to the FCP here](#).

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## FCP MAS Services Updates

The FAS Catalog Platform (FCP) launched a pilot for MAS Services in July/August that continues through the end of the calendar year. Pilot participants are benefiting from a new feature specific to MAS services, which is the auto-publication of a Price List to GSA Advantage, eLibrary, and eBuy.

In the Pilot, vendors who use(d) a price proposal template in addition to a Product File will be prompted to switch over to a Services Plus File (SPF) for services catalog offerings. First, a vendor will indicate its catalog offerings in the Seller Profile and then follow up with a Baseline Services catalog action. In November, the new services workflow will be extended to all vendors currently in the FCP and will be standard for new FCP vendors onboarded in calendar year 2025.

The Services Plus File is designed to replace the Services and Training PPT and the 541930 Translation and Interpretation Services and 611630 Linguistic Training and Education PPT. Vendors will find the SPF accepts labor categories, fixed price services and solutions, ODCs, ancillary items and products not sold on GSA Advantage. Products not sold on GSA Advantage are what gives the Services Plus File its *Plus* in its name.

The FCP generates the Price List based on the SPF and will be a consistently formatted "fit for public review" spreadsheet separate from Terms & Conditions (T&C) file. Currently, MAS services vendors append a Price List to the end of a T&C file, which puts pricing in a Word and/or PDF format for GSA customers. The Price List is auto-published when the contract is modified, after any baseline, add, change, or delete FCP action ensuring that what is publicly available matches what is on contract. There will be no additional action required on the vendor's part for updating the Price List, once the mod is approved.

(Note: this does not apply to FCP actions using the Product File; Product File actions publish automatically to Advantage product pages, not as a Price List.)

What does this mean for vendors?

- A vendor will always have a Price List that reflects what is on contract from their last catalog update to the Services Plus File; and have their pricing available in a consistent format that allows for an improved customer experience when comparing pricing and easier management of the contract Price List.

- A simplified Terms and Conditions file will only need to be updated when contractual information changes such as the exercise of an option period.

## Coming Soon: Standalone Purchase of Product Accessories on GSA Advantage!

Starting in mid-October, **Product Accessories** will be fully searchable and purchasable as standalone items on **GSA Advantage**. Here's what you need to know:

**Key Updates**

- **Rebranding as "Related Products":** To better reflect their function and connection to base items, **accessories will be rebranded as Related Products on GSA Advantage**. They will remain as "Accessories" in the Product File (FCP Users) and SIP/EDI (Legacy Users) for the time being.

- **Searchable & Purchasable as Independent Items:** Related Products will now be searchable and purchasable separately from the base product, giving them a new hybrid functionality that blends the roles of both base and accessory items.

- **Enhanced Comparison Features:** GSA Advantage will introduce a new comparison feature that allows users to easily compare sources for Related Products, simplifying decision-making and enhancing the shopping experience.

- **Increased Visibility for Vendors:** These changes will bring more visibility to contractors offering Related Products, making it easier for customers to discover and purchase complementary items.

**What You Need to Do**

No immediate action is required from vendors. However, if you prefer that your accessories are not available as standalone items, please ensure they are **removed** from your Product File **(FCP users)** or SIP/EDI **(Legacy users)**. Additionally, vendors should verify their Accessories function as true standalone items. If they do not, consider converting them to Product Options where appropriate.

Vendors can learn more about Product Options and Accessories on the FCP Help Page. Stay tuned for an Interact post as we get closer to the launch!

**To learn more about the FCP, visit catalog.gsa.gov/help and make sure to watch our Vendor Training Playlist.**

- Vendors can attend Weekly Office Hours every Thursday at 1pm ET hosted by the Vendor Support Center (VSC). Information about joining Vendor Office Hours can be found on catalog.gsa.gov/help (You must be

logged into FCP to see Office Hours information).

- After reviewing existing guidance and materials, any additional questions can be sent to CatalogManagement@gsa.gov.

## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

**Keep Your GSA Advantage! Catalog Up to Date**

Did you know you are required to update your Contract Price List every two years? That's right, electronic catalogs/price lists previously submitted to GSA, in accordance with Schedule contract clause I-FSS-600(a) *Contract Price List*, must be updated every two years.

Why is this so important? Old catalogs/price lists may contain discontinued items and outdated pricing. When products are ordered online, this can cause problems for agency customers and you, the contractor. Your contract requires that you honor pricing contained in your published catalog, whether printed or electronic.

**To stay in compliance with your contract, please update your catalog/price list regularly.**

If you have questions about how to update your price list, email our Vendor Support Center at vendor.support@gsa.gov or call 877-495-4849.

**Reminder to Authorized Negotiators - Save Your Documents!**

It is a best practice to download documents from eOffer/eMod and store them locally on your computer. This ensures you have a copy of important contract documents should there be a personnel transition within your organization or if you need to access them during a planned or unplanned outage. One other important reason: Without local copies, new Authorized Negotiators will not be able to see old documents that predate their role as an Authorized Negotiator.

## MAS OFFICE HOURS

Every third Thursday of the month, the MAS PMO hosts a webinar dedicated to a specific topic of interest for our MAS Industry Partners. This is your chance to engage directly with MAS policy makers, program managers, and leaders from across GSA. Contractors are encouraged to register for the series here. The next session is on October 17, at 2 p.m. EDT. Access previous recordings by visiting the MAS Office Hours Playlist on YouTube.

**QUICK LINKS**
Register for MAS Office Hours

MAS Interact group

# Helpful MAS Resources

## GSA and Multiple Award Schedule:

GSA Schedule

Schedule Customer Training

Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (eSRS)

MAS on GSA Interact

MAS Desk Reference

GSA's Blog

GSA's Vendor Support Center

GSA Small Business Assistance

Finding Your IOA and ACO

GSA's Office of the Procurement Ombudsman

## Preparing and Submitting a MAS Offer:

Roadmap to Preparing a MAS Offer

GSA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (Free Assistance)

## Marketing:

Contract Opportunities

eLibrary - Contract Award Information

eBuy - Electronic Request for Quote (RFQ) / Request for Proposal (RFP) System

Schedules Sales Query Plus (SSQ+)

Small Business Forecasting Tool

GSA Advantage! - Online shopping

**Contact Us**
Questions and feedback may be submitted to maspmo@gsa.gov.