GSA Federal Acquisition Service

MASQUARTERLY

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From the MAS PMO

June Greetings! The Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) Program is committed to being your trusted resource and partner. This newsletter summarizes key program updates from April and May 2024.

Subscribe to the MAS Interact group and get news straight to your inbox! If you would like to provide feedback or topics for future MAS newsletters, please send suggestions to maspmo@gsa.gov.

As always, we offer our thanks for your partnership and support.

What's New

GSA MAS PMO Issues RFI On Improving MAS Contractor Success

As part of its ongoing effort to improve the experience and success for suppliers, the MAS PMO issued a Request for Information (RFI) to all current MAS contractors. Feedback will help MAS better understand roadblocks preventing some contractors from meeting the minimum sales requirement, and if there is a clear understanding of the responsibilities that come with being a MAS contractor.

Access to the RFI is available through the Market Research As a Service RFI or SAM.gov. Deadline for responding to the RFI is Friday, June 21, 2024. More detailed information is available in this May 30 Interact post.

May MAS Office Hours Updates On New TDR fields, Data Quality Initiatives, And The Strategic Direction Of GSA's TDR Pilot Program

Attention Industry Partners -- if you missed the May 23 MAS Office Hours session on all things TDR (Transactional Data Reporting), the session recording is now available. Announced in this May 9 Interact post, the session provides a chance to learn more about these new TDR data fields, as well as future plans to enhance validations for TDR submissions aimed at increasing usability of TDR data across the MAS Program. It also offers insight into the recently announced mass modification that will be a part of MAS Refresh #21. Check out additional resources featured in the Jan. 25th Interact post, which provides detailed information on new TDR fields and data quality initiatives.

MAS Refresh 21 Published On May 28

GSA's Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) issued GSA Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) Solicitation 47QSMD20R0001 - Refresh # 21 and an associated mass modification (mass mod) to all existing contracts on May 28, 2024.

Visit Interact for detailed information on changes associated with Solicitation 47QSMD20R0001 - Refresh # 21. Visit the Vendor Support Center (VSC) for information specific to all MAS Solicitation Refreshes, including the solicitation-level SF30 attachments.

Thanks For Attending GSA's Federal Acquisition Service Training (FAST) Virtual Conference May 14-16

The 2024 Federal Acquisition Service Training (FAST) Annual Virtual Conference took place May 14-16. The theme this year was how to make your next acquisition a success using "Emerging Innovations and Trends."

The conference focused on:

- GSA's pricing-control standardization and automated continuous monitoring
- New technologies and solutions to expedite your acquisition process
- The latest innovations on cyber security, cloud, and AI

Missed the training? You can watch all the sessions and review slides, and also go to this May 2 Interact post for more information.

Demand Data Now Includes Information Technology Products

In January 2023, GSA began sharing Demand Data with vendors and other stakeholders as part of wider initiatives focused on Delivery and Price/Value. The goal was to compile transactional data and examine it to identify the top-selling items offered by General Supplies and Services (GSS) portfolio contractor partners. Knowing the products being purchased lets contractors focus their catalog offerings and have a greater understanding of civilian and military buying.

Early analysis of the Demand Data showed that a relatively small number of products (an assortment of items including but not limited to copier paper, trash bags, and hand tools) generated 50% of overall sales. In March, GSA broadened the analysis scope to also include products from our ITC (Information Technology Category) portfolio. The March 2024 data reflects this increased range, which now includes laptops, lithium batteries, and other high-demand tech items.

Read more about Demand Data benefits and access past data files in this April Interact post. Questions? Send an email to DemandData@gsa.gov.

Attention MAS Contractors: MAS Consolidation Phase 3 FY24 Plans

Attention all current MAS Contractors! If you have two or more MAS contracts with the same Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), you may be a part of MAS Consolidation Phase 3 and need to take action to get down to one contract. This April 24, 2024, Interact post provides detailed information and links to critical documents. For more information specific to MAS Consolidation Phase 3 and reach out anytime to your CO or maspmo@gsa.gov.

MAS Pricing Practices RFI Responses Now Being Reviewed

As you may have read in this April Interact post, GSA's Office of Policy and Compliance is reviewing agency practices to streamline how we determine "fair and reasonable" prices on Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) contracts.

In April, we issued an MRAS Request For Information (RFI) to all MAS contractors to get industry feedback on a number of questions related to MAS pricing. Responses are now being reviewed - FAS thanks everyone who participated in this process.

Robomod Update

In response to industry feedback, FAS is temporarily pausing Robomods for Trade Agreements Act non-compliant products and products incorrectly designated as Made in America. FAS will conduct a deeper analysis to develop an overall level of confidence in the country of origin flags. Based on those findings, changes may be made to the processes used to issue the Robomod. In the meantime, FAS will continue to issue Robomods for other compliance issues (i.e., Section 889, unauthorized products, etc.).

MAS Program Updates

MAS Director Jack Tekus Featured On The GSA Does That!? Podcast

Check out the latest episode of the GSA Does That!? Podcast - MAS Program Director Jack Tekus is the guest and offers a deep dive into how to do business with GSA through MAS. During the discussion, Jack 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. Take a listen and I think you'll agree that he gives listeners a really comprehensive overview of the MAS program and how it saves taxpayer dollars.

FAR Rule Finalized, Updating Sustainable Acquisition Requirements

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, is being added to MAS contracts through Refresh 21, which 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 I 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 that are applicable to federal procurement.

To learn more about the recent changes to the FAR, register for our upcoming Industry Policy Landscape webinar on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 1 p.m. EDT, hosted by GSA's FAS Office of Policy and Compliance. This is a great opportunity to keep up-to-date on regulations, policies, and initiatives to maintain a healthy, sustainable, resilient, and secure industrial base.

Startup Springboard FAQ Now Posted

The MAS Roadmap now includes Frequently Asked Questions about the Startup Springboard program. Please feel free to submit questions to the MASPMO@gsa.gov email.

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 be sure to 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.

Catalog Management Updates

FAS Catalog Platform Updates

GSA continues to focus on moving contracts to the new FAS Catalog Platform (FCP). Contractors will be notified about 60 days 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 with product catalogs** can learn about eligibility here. Transition of product contracts will pause in July 2024 and resume in FY25.

- **Vendors with service catalogs** can expect to learn more about FCP later this year. A small group of MAS services vendors with the Professional Engineering Special Item Number (SIN) will participate in a pilot of the FCP this Summer. FCP enabled vendors in the system as of June 2024 will be able to manage services catalogs in the Fall. The FCP will begin to onboard services vendors early next calendar year.

Things vendors can do now to prepare for transition:

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

First Steps Process:

- **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.

- **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 in this MAS Catalog Management Interact community post titled Preparing To Move To The FAS Catalog Platform.

MAS Services Updates

In July, FCP will launch a pilot for MAS Services vendors that is scheduled to run to the end of 2024. Pilot participants will benefit from the FCP's functionality and see a new feature specific to MAS services: Auto-publication of a price list to GSA Advantage, eLibrary, and eBuy.

The FCP generates the price list based on the Services Plus File (SPF) and it 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 new price list is auto-published when the contract is modified, ensuring that what is on contract is what is publicly available. There will be no action required on the vendor's part.

(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.)

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.

What does this mean for vendors? With the new SPF, a vendor will:

- Always have a price list that reflects what is on contract from their last catalog update

- No longer have a need for the T&C mods used to reflect new contract level pricing in the Services Plus File, and the extra round of reviews from GSA's acquisition workforce

- Have their pricing available in a more consistent format that allows for comparisons over time and other price lists

The Catalog Management Office is working on the look and feel of price lists on GSA Advantage!, eLibrary, and eBuy. This feature will be standard when FCP for services rolls out to the broader MAS services industry base.

To learn more about the FCP, visit catalog.gsa.gov/help and make sure to watch our Vendor Training Playlist. After reviewing existing guidance and materials, any additional questions can be sent to CatalogManagement@gsa.gov.

MAS Office Hours

The MAS PMO hosts monthly office hours for our industry partners. These webinars cover different topics each month and provide opportunities to ask questions and hear directly from MAS experts!

Our next session features a review of the Price Proposal Templates (PPTs) and will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 2 p.m. You may register for the session here. To see all previous recordings, visit the MAS Office Hours Playlist on YouTube.

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.