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MASQUARTERLY

From the MAS PMO

March Greetings! We hope that wherever you are, things are warming up a bit and the start to 2024 is going well.

The Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) Program is committed to being your trusted resource and partner. This newsletter summarizes key program updates from January to February 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

Recording Link to February MAS Office Hours On New TDR Fields

Attention Industry Partners -- if you missed the February 15 MAS Office Hours session on all things TDR (Transactional Data Reporting), the session recording is now available. Last month's MAS Office Hours featured several FAS Assistant Commissioners talking about new TDR data fields, as well as other data quality initiatives aimed at increasing usability of TDR data across the MAS Program. This March 7th Interact post includes slides, Q&As, and links to the recording. Check out additional resources featured in the Jan. 25th Interact post, which provides detailed information on new TDR fields and data quality initiatives.

Register Now For 3/28 FAS Policy Landscape Webinar On Current Policy Changes Affecting The Federal Marketplace

The FAS Office of Policy and Compliance (OPC) is hosting a webinar on March 28th, at 1 p.m. (EDT) on current and emerging policies impacting federal contractors. The session will cover:

- Cybersecurity Related FAR Cases Underway.

- FAS Automated Process of Removing Non-Compliant Products from Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) Contracts .

- New Transactional Data Reporting (TDR) Fields & Data Quality Initiatives.

Find out more in the March 5th Interact post, or go directly to the registration page.

Required Modification for Joint Ventures Awarded Prior to MAS Refresh 16 (May 2023)

Reminder: As per mass modification A863, Joint Ventures (JV) awarded MAS contracts prior to May 19, 2023, must complete and submit a modification request via eMod to conform with the JV specific requirements outlined in MAS Solicitation Refresh 16. Detailed information that must be included in the modification request is provided in the January 30th Interact post. Note that the modification request must be submitted prior to the Spring 2024 MAS solicitation refresh.

Enhancing Transparency: New TDR Fields & Data Quality Initiatives

As you may have read in this recent [Interact post](#), the MAS program is focusing on driving higher quality Transactional Data Reporting (TDR) data through data validation and feedback enhancements, and TDR field changes..

Data Validation & Feedback Enhancements
FAS is implementing new data validations and contractor feedback mechanisms. Two major feedback enhancements are planned for FY24 Q3:

- New controls for TDR submissions in the [FAS Sales Reporting Portal (SRP)](#) will enable real-time validation of Manufacturer Name, Manufacturer Part Number, Unit of Measure, and Unit Price fields against each contractor's catalog. Upon initial rollout of these validations, MAS contractors will receive remediation emails when transactions are flagged for potential errors while still being allowed to submit their transactional data into SRP. After a suitable acclimation period, certain field errors will trigger hard rejects to prevent faulty data from entering GSA's systems and tools.

- New recurring contractor feedback reports will provide MAS industry partners with a more holistic view of their TDR data quality performance. Contractor-specific reports will include month-over-month summary statistics, rolling counts of issue-based flags, and a view of comparative data quality performance based on SRP data. FAS is rolling out these reports in phases, starting with a small group of industry partners in Quarter 2.

TDR Field Changes
FAS is introducing four new, optional TDR fields in Quarter 3 of FY24. FAS needs these additional fields to achieve further insight into items bought and sold through MAS. The fields will first be rolled out on an optional basis and, after a suitable acclimation period, may later be required as mandatory - depending on initial results and stakeholder feedback. The purpose of these iterative changes are to address data gaps in order to prepare new MAS Special Item Numbers (SINs) for the TDR pilot. FAS will post an advanced notice ahead of the MAS Refresh incorporating the changes. Please visit the [Interact post](#) for a table with more detailed information on each field.

MAS pages on GSA.gov are getting a new look!

MAS kicked off 2024 with a new look and better user experience for the MAS pages on GSA.gov. If you've visited the site since January 16th, you'll notice an updated landing page and other new features that make the MAS pages easier to use -- such as a new SIN search tool that allows you to quickly filter and identify products and services. [January's Interact article](#) provided background information on the new pages and its updated look.

You can also watch a [live demo from the January 19th MAS Office Hours](#), where designers were on hand to answer questions and highlight key content and tools. Questions or suggestions about the new site? Send them to digitalteam@gsa.gov.

Proposed Rules: FAR Cases related to the Cybersecurity EO Public Comment Period Open on the Federal Register

On Oct. 3, 2023, the Federal Register published two proposed cybersecurity Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) rules to partially implement Executive Order 14028:

> FAR Case 2021-017, Cyber Threat Incident Reporting and Information Sharing, proposes to amend the FAR to increase the sharing of information about cyber threats and incident information between the Government and information technology and operational technology service providers.

> FAR Case 2021-019, Standardizing Cybersecurity Requirements for Unclassified Federal Information Systems, is proposing to amend the FAR to standardize cybersecurity contractual requirements across Federal agencies for unclassified Federal information systems.

The public comment period ended Dec. 4, 2023. Details on these FAR Cases can be accessed on Interact.

Master Professional Services Acquisition with GSA's FAST 2024 Virtual Event

GSA's 2024 Federal Acquisition Service Training (FAST) Virtual Conference Series kicks off March 27th with our Professional Services event! Acquisition experts from GSA and other agencies will discuss the most innovative solutions and effective tools available today in professional services acquisition.

Through user stories and real-world examples, you'll learn about:

- OASIS+, the next generation of service based multi-agency contracts (MAC) and its advantages;

- Policies and trends shaping the professional services marketplace and how you can stay ahead of the curve;

- How agencies such as EPA and NASA are using GSA professional services' solutions to help with their acquisition challenges; and

- Much more!

There's no charge for this event, and you can earn up to three Continuous Learning Points (CLPs).

Reserve your spot today!

New Consolidated Robomod

The FAS Office of Policy and Compliance has kicked off its new consolidated Robomod! Instead of issuing separate Robomods for various compliance issues like Section 889 (see FAR 4.21) and TAA non-compliant products, products incorrectly designated as Made in America - all of those compliance issues will be included in a single Robomod. Impacted MAS contractors should receive a modification to remove the non-compliant products from the contract later this month.

MAS Program Updates

Startup Springboard 'Frequently Asked Questions' COMING SOON!

The MAS Roadmap will be updated to include Frequently Asked Questions about the Startup Springboard program. Stay tuned for this new resource to be posted on the MAS pages on gsa.gov.

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, contact our Vendor Support Center at vendor.support@gsa.gov or 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 the documents 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 Consolidation Phase 3

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.

In Phase 3, each contractor **is required** to provide a Phase 3 Consolidation Checklist and Plan documenting how and when they would like to consolidate to one contract. These mandatory consolidation plans are the first step in determining your surviving contract and to start the process of getting to one contract. **No Phase 3 modifications will be approved without an approved plan.**

You should make all consolidation actions in coordination with your GSA Contracting Officer and in accordance with your agreed upon Phase 3 Consolidation Checklist and Plan.

> **QUICK LINKS**
> MAS Consolidation Phase 3 Contractor Checklist and Plan (*required)
>
> MAS Consolidation Phase 3 Guide for Industry
>
> MAS Consolidation Phase 3 Overview & FAQs for Industry
>
> Phase 3 Recorded Training for Impacted Contractors - August 2020

The MAS Program has posted all Phase 3 supplier resources on the Vendor Support Center, including our MAS Consolidation Phase 3 Guide for Industry. This resource takes you through all the critical consolidation steps.

Note: **Phase 3 DOES NOT APPLY** *to you if:*

- Your company manages two contracts and:
    - One contract has a small business set-aside (SBSA) Special Item Number (SIN) or
    - One contract is a follow-on contract with the same SIN(s).
- Your company only has one MAS contract.

Please submit your Phase 3 Consolidation Checklist and Plan to your Contracting Officer(s) and copy maspmo@gsa.gov as soon as possible to get the process started.

Catalog Management Updates

FAS Catalog Platform Updates

Every month, additional contracts with products published to GSA Advantage! are added to the FAS Catalog Platform (FCP). Authorized Negotiators can expect to receive a communication ~60 days in advance of their contract's identified transition date. This process will continue through June 2024 and then resume in fiscal year 2025.

- ***Vendors with product catalogs*** can [learn about eligibility here](#).

- ***Vendors with service catalogs*** will learn more about FCP transition later this year. Services onboarding will likely begin early in calendar year 2025.

Vendors will have to complete three steps to begin managing their catalogs in FCP:

1. **Register in the FCP:** Authorized Negotiators must register at https://catalog.gsa.gov/register.

2. **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.

3. **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](#).

To access an FCP User Guide, FAQ, and training videos, visit [catalog.gsa.gov/help](#).

MAS Services Updates

The FAS Catalog Platform (FCP) will launch a pilot for MAS Services vendors in the fourth quarter of this fiscal year, with broader onboarding intended to begin in January of 2025. Pilot participants will have early access to a new feature with an immediate benefit: The auto-publication of their current price list to GSA Advantage, eLibrary, and eBuy. This means the pricing information available to customers always matches the data that has been contractually awarded.

How Does This Work?

Today, MAS services vendors add price lists to the end of Terms & Conditions (T&C) files as Word or PDF documents. The new FCP will integrate with eMod and capture catalog details as part of the contract modification process. Vendors will manage their catalog details in FCP using two new templates:

- The Product File for products published in detail, for sale on GSA Advantage!

- The Services Plus File for services, "plus" products that can't be easily captured for detailed publishing to GSA Advantage (e.g. highly configurable products).

Once a vendor's contract moves to the FCP, their price list will be automatically generated based on information from the Services Plus File and auto-published in a consistently formatted "fit for public consumption" Excel document. This new price list will be totally separate from Terms & Conditions (T&C) files. There will be no action required on the vendor's part. It will happen automatically. (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 their last catalog update

- Eliminate the need for T&C mods used to reflect new contract level pricing in the Services Plus File

- Have their pricing available in a more easily digestible format for users

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.

New Resources to Add Product Options and Accessories to Vendor Product Catalogs
The FAS Catalog Platform's (FCP) Product File, which combines the Products Price Proposal Template (PPT) and Schedule Input Program (SIP) Template, changes the way vendors and CO/CSs interact with Product Options and Accessories. With the Product File, vendors can explicitly identify Accessories and Options during negotiations. This means whatever the CO reviews is what will be published to GSA Advantage!.

Leveraging Options and Accessories for lightly configurable Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) products sold on GSA Advantage! is a great way to streamline your catalog and create a better buying experience for your customers. Leveraging Options and Accessories correctly will allow customers to:

- Select different option categories of a product (such as size or color) from the same product page, instead of having to navigate to several different pages to locate the configuration they need.

- Quickly locate related products that are recommended for purchase with the product they're shopping for.

See our latest Interact Post to learn more about product options and accessories. Be sure to check it out and join the Catalog Management Interact Page for more catalog updates!

New Market Threshold Algorithm
As a reminder, the Market Threshold calculation was recently updated to move away from using just the lowest price and now more heavily weights centricity, or the median price. It introduces the following improvements:

- Iteratively self-tightens around a measure of centricity, making it a better representation of the current marketplace than the previous pricing model.

- Streamlines the price analysis process for the GSA workforce by providing a single data point that considers demand data, Government and commercial pricing, transactional data, and inflationary trends.

This change is reflected on both 4P reports and FCP Compliance & Pricing reports. For more information, see the Compliance & Pricing Report FAQs on catalog.gsa.gov/help.

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 presents the FAS Catalog Platform & the future of Service Catalog Management on **Thursday, March 21st**. You may register for the session here. To see all previous recordings, visit 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.