



Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

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DETAILS

Training @ a Glance

Veterans Business Networking Outreach-
 October 15th 8:30 AM EDT, Altoona, PA.
[DETAILS](#)

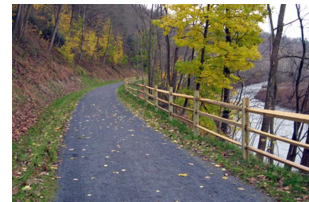
Cyber Security Workshop, October 16th Towanda, PA
[DETAILS](#)

Talent Succession

September/October 2019

Position of the PTAC - September/October 2019

By James Gerraughty, PTAC Program Manager



This time of year is our grant application for the following program year! It's also when I get more grey hairs on my head...As the weather changes to Fall, and the Government fiscal year ends, we ramp up our training opportunities, both for our clients and our staff, and our interactions with clients on government contracting issues.

We have a lot of events, both within the PTAC and with our PREP Partners! Please refer to the events calendar below. Furthermore, you can review and register for upcoming SA/NC/NT PTAC events on our [eCenter page](#)

If you have ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about something, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or [Email](#) us.

revised quotations.

In this case, the solicitation provided that "[f]ailure to follow procedures or provide any of the documents or information may be considered a material omission and may adversely affect a Vendor's evaluation or result in elimination of the Vendor from the competition." It also provided that "LATE QUOTES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED." Emphasis and color font in the original.

Criterion timely submitted its initial proposal and was in the competition. The Agency issued subsequent amendments to the solicitation and sought submission of the competitors' revised quotes through a government portal, FedConnect, "no later than 5:00 pm ET on November 21, 2018." Each amendment and the request for revised quotes stated that "LATE QUOTES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED." Emphasis and color font in the original.

Criterion "created" its revised quote on the designated electronic portal at 2:36:54 PM on November 21, 2018, but it did not "submit" it until 5:01:30 PM ET, 90 seconds after the deadline for quote submission. When asked for an explanation by the Agency, Criterion indicated it may have had "latency" issues and that this was its first time submitting documents using the portal. Criterion did not provide any evidence to justify or further explain its late submission. The Agency rejected Criterion's quote as untimely. In contrast, when another bidder submitted its revised quote without required pricing pages, the Agency engaged in communications with that bidder.

Criterion brought its protest alleging that the Agency's actions in rejecting its quote were arbitrary and capricious and the Agency engaged in disparate treatment of the bids submitted by Criterion and the other offeror.

In rejecting Criterion's protest of the rejection of its revised quote, the Court held that protester failed to establish that there was a "significant error" in the procurement process. Here the terms of the solicitation made clear that timing was critical for acceptance of the initial and revised quotations, "Ninety seconds late may appear to be a minimal infraction, but deadlines are set for a reason, and an agency's strict adherence to a deadline places all bidders on an equal footing and avoids the sorts of issues Criterion is seeking to raise here. Further, Criterion's failure to submit a timely bid was entirely within its own control. [See Conscoop-

Consortia Fra Coop. Di Prod. e Lavoro v. United States, 62 Fed. Cl. 219, 237 (2004).] The Agency's refusal to deviate from the express RFQ terms is not arbitrary, capricious, or contrary to law." [READ MORE](#)

(Accessed 09/13/2019)

FedBizOpps Will Be Moved
to
beta.sam.gov by November



By Aaron Boyd, Nextgov Sr. Editor

The Federal Business Opportunities, or FedBizOpps, website will be shutting down before the end of 2019, as the comprehensive database of government contracting opportunities moves to a new location.

Ten acquisition-focused websites managed by the General Services Administration will be merged together under the new SAM.gov. Those sites include FedBizOpps, as well as the current System for Award Management, or SAM; the Federal Procurement Data System, FPDS; the grants site Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, CFDA; Wage Determinations Online, WDOL; Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System, eSRS; the past performance databases, the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System, FAPIIS; Contractor Performance Assessment Reports System, CPARS; and Past Performance Information Retrieval System, PPIRS; and the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, FFATA.

"Once the modernization is complete, we will have one homepage with a single sign-on, one powerful search tool, one robust reporting tool and one workspace where users can access the information and tools they need to make, receive and manage federal awards," according to the new SAM.gov, which is currently in beta.

Two sites have already made the jump: CFDA and WDOL. The PPIRS site was decommissioned, as its functionality is covered by CPARS.

FedBizOpps is scheduled to make the migration in the first quarter of fiscal 2020-or before the end of the

calendar year-along with FPDS and remaining capabilities under the old SAM.gov. Once on the new SAM.gov, the FedBizOpps name will go away, replaced by a section of the site titled "Contract Opportunities." [Keep Reading](#)

(Accessed 09/13/2019)

GSA Answers 105 Questions About Transition From DUNS To Unique IDs

by Aaron Boyd, Nextgov Sr. Editor

Before the end of 2020, organizations doing business with the government - from vendors to grantees - will have a new unique number by which they will be identified, ending use of a configuration in place for nearly 60 years.

With such a significant shift affecting so many, there are many questions still left to be answered. After an information session held in late July, the General Services Administration, which manages the entity verification system, collected and answered 105 of those questions.

Earlier this year, GSA awarded a five-year, \$42 million contract to Ernst & Young to manage the new unique identifier system, which is being dubbed the Unique Entity ID, a 12-character alphanumeric string. The new ID will replace the DUNS number, a nine-character identifier that has been used since 1962.

The DUNS number system has been managed by Dun & Bradstreet since its inception, and was codified in the Federal Acquisition Regulation in 1998.

As the DUNS number is phased out and the Unique Entity ID comes online, vendors, universities and others doing business with the government will have to ensure they are registered with SAM.gov. Those who are registered will automatically be assigned a UEI number that will be used after the December 2020 cutoff.

While assignment of new identifiers will happen automatically, the transition work will be extensive, as organizations and federal agencies will have to make adjustments to any system that uses the DUNS to accept that old identifier, if appropriate, as well as the new UEI.

After the information session July 25, GSA collected all the questions and set out to compile answers. Those questions and answers were published in full this week on GSA's Unique Entity Identifier Update page. Here is a sample of 10 pertinent questions and GSA's responses:

What if an organization has multiple DUNS numbers?
Any entity which currently has a DUNS number will be assigned a new UEI in SAM. Organizations with multiple DUNS registered in SAM will obtain a UEI for each unique entity.

[More Questions](#)

(Accessed 09/20/2019)

About Us

The PTAC at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The PTAC stands ready to support businesses in the central PA Alleghenies region in the pursuit to secure contracts with local, state and/or federal government agencies nationwide.

Due to the generous support of our Commonwealth and Federal funding partners, services provided by the PTAC are free of charge.

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the PTAC will provide one-on-one counseling utilizing all of the program resources necessary to increase your share of contract awards.

Contact us today at The PTAC at SAP&DC to get started!

Email: ptac@sapdc.org

Phone: (814) 949-6500

Web: [PTAC @ SAP&DC](#)

SAP&DC | 814-949-6528 | jgerraughty@sapdc.org | <http://www.sapdc.org>
3 Sheraton Drive
Altoona, PA 16601



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SAP&DC, 3 Sheraton Drive, Altoona, PA 16601

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