



THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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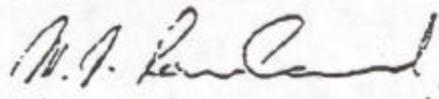
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR FOR CONTRACTING, OASA (RD&A)
DIRECTOR, CONTRACTS & BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, OASN (S&L)
DIRECTOR, CONTRACTING & MANUFACTURING POLICY, SPF/AQC
DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE ORGANIZATION
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: GSA Federal Supply Schedules as Preferred Sources of Supply

Recent inquiries from DoD field activities indicate that clarification is required in regard to the standing of the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Schedules as a source of supply. DoD considers these Federal Supply Schedules (schedules) which are optional for DoD to be "preferred sources of supplies and services" (DFARS 8.404-2 (a) (70)). There is no statutory or regulatory need to synopsise requirements, seek further competition, determine price reasonableness, or comply with small business-small purchase set-aside requirements when schedules are used. These requirements are met by the General Services Administration when they solicit and award their schedule contracts. Therefore, all statutory requirements of PL 98-369 (Competition In Contracting Act) and FAR 6.102 (Use of Competitive Procedures) are met when purchases from GSA schedules are made in accordance with applicable procedures in FAR 8.405-1 (Ordering From Multiple Award Schedules).

The use of GSA schedules offers DoD a quick and efficient way of obtaining needed requirements. This advantage led to the DoD policy that maximum use should be made of schedules. Other procedures may be used if the contracting officer judges the introduction of competition from non-scheduled sources would be in the best interest of the Government in terms of quality, responsiveness, or cost. Please note that guidance outlined herein does not apply to schedules awarded by GSA's Information Resources Management Service (IRMS) for ADP and telecommunication equipment. Use of these schedules is governed by FAR 39 and DFARS 70.

Our goal remains to simplify the DoD acquisition process and increase the contracting officer's authority and ability to make sound business judgments.


Eleanor Spector (j-r)
Deputy Assistant Secretary of
Defense for Procurement