



Weekly Update Report for April 25, 2014

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

DOD, GSA, and NASA Issue Proposed Rule to Amend FAR Incorporating Section K in Contracts

Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) issued a proposed rule to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to standardize the incorporation by reference of representations and certifications in contracts, [79 Fed. Reg. 22615](#). Comments are due June 23, 2014 to be considered in the formation of the final rule.

DOD Issues Final Rule to Amend DFARS Contracting Officer's Representative (DFAR Case 2013-D023)

The Department of Defense (DoD) issued a final rule to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to remove coverage concerning contracting officer's representative responsibilities that is procedural in nature, [79 Fed. Reg. 22036](#). The final rule will be effective April 21, 2014.

CAPITOL HILL

The 7 Agencies Where Contract Spending Sped Up Despite the Sequester

On Tuesday, April 22, 2014, Bloomberg reported, the federal government's spending on contracts was down 11 percent last year. The sequester, other budget cuts, and the drawdown in Iraq and Afghanistan took a toll on spending at 12 of 19 major agencies. However, seven departments managed to resist the general downward trend. They are: i) Homeland Security (2.1 % increase over fiscal 2012); ii) Health and Human Services (4.6 % increase); iii) Veterans Affairs (5.3 % increase); iv) Justice (7 % increase); v) Housing and Urban Development (9.5 % increase); vi) Treasury (16.4 % increase); vii) Education (27 % increase); [The 7 Agencies Where Contract Spending Sped Up Despite the Sequester](#).

Budget Cuts Bring 11 Percent Decline in Contract Spending for 2013

On Tuesday, April 22, 2014, Bloomberg released its federal industry leaders study, showing overall federal contracting fell from \$516.3 billion in fiscal year 2012 to \$462.1 billion in fiscal year 2013. Budget cuts produced an 11 percent decline in federal

contract spending in fiscal year 2013, with spending on defense contracts slowing by 15 percent. A key trend, the report said, is that “products survived better than services. Of the top 10 companies primarily involved in products, five protected or increased their contract award dollars, compared with three of the top 10 companies that provide services.” Many moved from defense to markets more insulated from budget cuts, such as health care, information technology and cybersecurity, [Budget Cuts Bring 11 Percent Decline in Contract Spending for 2013](#).

SMALL BUSINESS

SBA Issues a Notice to Request Comments on SBA Model Form of Agreement of Limited Partnership for a SBIC Issuing Debentures Only

The Small Business Administration (SBA) issued a notice to request comments on the SBA Model Form of Agreement of Limited Partnership for an SBIC Issuing Debentures Only (“Model”) to conform its contents to current industry norms and practices while maintaining the regulatory and policy provisions necessary to ensure that the Model remains consistent with SBA's requirements and to minimize the risk of loss in the SBIC program, [79 Fed. Reg. 22568](#). The Agency welcomes comments from the public on how to achieve this objective. The notice will be effective April 22, 2014. Comments on the Model are due June 23, 2014.

Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled

The Following Notice Was Issued:

[79 Fed. Reg. 22103](#), April 21, 2014, proposing to add products (Bungee Rope, Flexible, w/Crimped Loops; Gauze, Petrolatum, Sterile, White, 36 x 3) and services (Base Operations Support Service, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, NGA Campus West, St. Louis, MO; Janitorial Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6, National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository and Law Enforcement Office, (Except wildlife property storage area (warehouse)), Commerce City, CO) to the Procurement List. The proposed additions will be effective May 20, 2014.