



VA National Acquisition Center's (NAC)

# FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE (FSS)

Our mission is to provide world class healthcare products & services to the federal marketplace



FSS Monthly e-Newsletter

March 2011

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## GSA Website Updates

### Upgrades to GSA Websites Are More User Friendly

Recently, the General Services Administration (GSA) upgraded three of its websites in order to add new tools, improve a combination of features, and enhance its social media capabilities.

- 1) **[Multiple Award Schedules \(MAS\)](#)**: The website now uses new technology to consolidate online resources and provide enhanced education for federal agencies, state, and local governments, as well as the vendor community. Redesigned to better serve the needs of users, the portal provides a central location for customers to access all of the resources and tools available online. Improved features include video and audio training, a searchable [MAS Desk Reference Guide](#), and access to the MAS Blog and discussion forums in [Interact](#).
- 2) **[GSA Advantage!](#)**: The changes to *GSA Advantage!* make the website more user friendly by:
  - o Incorporating a streamlined format;
  - o Adding an enhanced search function;
  - o Creating a tool that allows users to compare prices from multiple suppliers for the same product;
  - o Allowing contractors to add more detailed information, such as video and high-resolution pictures, for products on their pricelist.

*Please note that GSA Advantage is experiencing slower than normal processing time-frames for vendor catalog files, which is resulting in various display inaccuracies, such as missing products, products that are in search results but no detail page, and missing photos. The GSA Advantage! portal offers access to more than 18,000 Multiple Award Schedule Program contracts and more than 28 million products, services and solutions. The site has about 800,000 registered users, and receives 500,000 visits per day.*
- 3) **[WebContent.gov](#)**: The [WebContent.gov](#) website has a new address at [Howto.gov/web-content](#), as well as a new design. The new website offers advice to federal agencies on developing their web content, including guidance on plain writing, best practices, accessibility, and web analytics.
  - [Read GSA Statement Addressing Backlog](#)
  - [GSA Vendor Support Center](#)
  - [SIP Online Training](#)
  - [GSA Advantage Vendor FAQs](#)

## Training Topic

### Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS)

#### 1) **[What is a PPIRS?](#)**

[PPIRS](#) is a web-based, government-wide system that serves as the single source for retrieval of contractor past performance data to the Federal acquisition community. PPIRS provides a query capability for authorized users to retrieve information detailing a contractor's past performance.

#### 2) **[When did PPIRS become effective?](#)**

On July 3, 2002, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a [memorandum](#) that designated PPIRS as the centralized government-wide system to provide federal procurement officials with contractor past performance data. Subsequently, a [final rule](#) was published in the Federal Register on July 1, 2009 that required agencies to use PPIRS, which is stated in subpart [42.15](#) of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

#### 3) **[What is CPARS and how does it relate to PPIRS?](#)**

The Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System ([CPARS](#)) is an automated web-based application used to input data on contractor performance. "A contractor performance assessment report assesses a contractor's performance, and provides a record (both positive and negative) on a given contract during a specific period of time." Once the data is input to the CPARS system, the data is then uploaded to the PPIRS database and becomes available to acquisition officials. Please note that CPARS can be used to effectively communicate a contractor's strengths and weaknesses to acquisition officials.

#### 4) **[What is FAPIIS and how does it relate to PPIRS?](#)**

[The Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System \(FAPIIS\)](#) is a centralized database that consolidates information on the integrity and performance of contractors across the federal Government. FAPIIS is a distinct application that is accessed through PPIRS and is available to federal acquisition professionals for their use in award and responsibility determinations.

#### 5) **[Who has access to PPIRS?](#)**

Governmental PPIRS access is limited to Government contracting officials, while contractors may access their own data in PPIRS through the [Central Contractor Registration \(CCR\)](#) database. In CCR, contractors can assign themselves a [Marketing Partner Identification Number \(MPIN\)](#) to gain access to PPIRS.

- [PPIRS FAQs](#)
- [CPARS User Manual](#) & [Training](#)
- [Best Practices for Collecting & Using Performance Information](#)

## VA FSS Working For You

### VA FSS in Action

The members of the FSS Service are looking forward to the upcoming NAC Industry Conference in a couple of weeks. We will be discussing the overall transformation of the FSS Service in a breakout session that we are hopeful many will attend. We plan to elaborate on the discussions from the [October 2010 Supplier Transformation](#) forum, as well as talk about the progress that has occurred since that time. We will also be chatting about our future initiatives that will help keep the FSS Service focused on forward progress.

During the morning of the second day at the conference, the FSS Service will be hosting a Town Hall session that will allow us to discuss relevant issues in the vendor community. We will soon be sending out a survey to query the attendees about specific topics they would like presented and/or discussed at this forum. Please be sure to look for this survey and provide your comments and/or suggestions. For more information about the upcoming conference, please visit <http://vanac.eventiveinc.com/>.

If you are experiencing any issues, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Carole O'Brien, Director of the FSS Service, at (708)786-4957 and/or [Carole.O'Brien@va.gov](mailto:Carole.O'Brien@va.gov) or Mr. Craig Robinson, Executive Director of the VA National Acquisition Center, at (708)786-5157 and/or [Craig.Robinson@va.gov](mailto:Craig.Robinson@va.gov).

Thank you for your continued support and suggestions.

## National News

### Recent Emergency & Disaster Declarations

Under the [Disaster Recovery Program](#), state and local Governments may purchase products/services off of FSS contracts in order to facilitate the recovery from a major disaster. As such, there were [nine declarations](#) by President Obama during the month of February 2011, which can be seen below.

#### Major Disaster Declarations

Number	Date	State	Disaster Type	Designated Counties
<a href="#">1953</a>	2/01	ME	Severe Storms	
<a href="#">1954</a>	2/04	NJ	Severe Snowstorm	
<a href="#">1955</a>	2/11	UT	Severe Storms & Flooding	
<a href="#">1956</a>	2/17	OR	Severe Storm & Flooding	
<a href="#">1957</a>	2/18	NY	Severe Snowstorm	

#### Emergency Declarations

Number	Date	State	Disaster Type	Designated Counties
<a href="#">3316</a>	2/02	OK	Severe Storm	
<a href="#">3317</a>	2/03	MO	Severe Storm	

#### Fire Management Declarations

Number	Date	State	Incident
<a href="#">2860</a>	2/20	VA	Smith Fire
<a href="#">2861</a>	2/20	VA	Coffman Fire

- o [Disaster Recovery Purchasing Program FAQs](#)

## Upcoming Events

### VA NAC INDUSTRY DAY

#### Acquisitions in a Transitional World



The National Acquisition Center (NAC) Industry Day Conference will be held on March 15 – 16, 2011 at the [InterContinental Chicago O'Hare](#). This year's theme is "Acquisitions in a Transitional World," so please bring your questions and suggestions, and be prepared to discuss how we can all help the NAC provide quality healthcare products/services in a

transitional world!!! In order to obtain specific information about the conference, such as presentation topics and a copy of the agenda, please review the [NAC's homepage](#).

Throughout the *Acquisitions in a Transitional World* industry conference, the Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) Service will be hosting one-on-one appointments with vendors. During the one-on-one meeting, vendors will have an opportunity to discuss relevant, general topics with a knowledgeable FSS Contract Specialist. We will not discuss specific contract actions with any inquiring party.

We currently do not have any available one-on-one appointments for the industry conference at this time. However, vendors that were unable to schedule a one-on-one appointment will be able to meet with a knowledgeable Contract Specialist during a "general meeting" at the end of the conference on the second day.

If you scheduled a one-on-one appointment, please be sure to review the reminders below.

#### REMINDERS

- o Appointments are scheduled for 15 minutes.
- o This is not the time or place to submit contract modifications or any other documentation pertaining to a specific contract.
- o Please email [pms@va.gov](mailto:pms@va.gov) if you are unable to make your scheduled appointment.

### VA NAC FSS Customer Training

#### o FSS Customer Training Schedule:

- We do not currently have any FSS customer training classes scheduled at this time. However if you would like to attend a training session, schedule a new one, or request additional information, please contact Ms. Veronica Hazen at [Veronica.Hazen@va.gov](mailto:Veronica.Hazen@va.gov).

#### o FSS Personnel will be attending the following conferences:

- ASAP 4th Annual National Training Conference – Las Vegas, NV (March 6 – 9, 2011)
- Ohio Small Business Matchmaker – Dayton, OH (March 22 – 23, 2011)
- 58<sup>th</sup> Congress AORN Conference – Philadelphia, PA (March 18 – 24, 2011)
- 2011 OSDBU Procurement Conference – Chantilly, VA (April 21, 2011)

## Recently Awarded FSS Contracts (February 2011)

### Pharmaceutical, Dental, Patient Mobility, & X-Ray Contracts:

- Primus Pharmaceuticals, Inc.: V797P-5225B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)
- Baxter Healthcare Corporation: V797P-5229B (Large Pharmaceutical Business)
- Millennium Pharmaceuticals: V797P-5226B (Large Pharmaceutical Business)
- Octapharma USA, Inc.: V797P-5227B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)
- Rhodes Pharmaceuticals: V797P-5165B (Large Pharmaceutical Business)
- J&J Health Care Systems on behalf of Centocor Ortho Biotech, Inc.: V797P-5230B (Large Pharmaceutical Business)
- Ranbaxy Laboratories, Inc.: V797P-5231B (Large Pharmaceutical Business)
- Paddock Laboratories: V797P-5232B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)
- Swiss-American Products, Inc.: V797P-5228B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)
- MGS Soapopular, Inc.: V797P-5222B (Small, Woman-Owned Pharmaceutical Business)
- NeurogesX, Inc.: V797P-5154B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)
- Hi-Tech Pharmacal Company, Inc.: V797P-5221B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)
- Medicis Pharmaceutical Corporation: V797P-5224B (Small Pharmaceutical Business)
- KLS Martin L.P.: V797P-3232M (Small Dental Business)
- Innerlite Inc. DBA Isolite Systems: V797P-3233M (Small Dental Business)
- Broda Enterprises USA Inc.: V797P-3229M (Small Patient Mobility Business)
- iCRco, Inc.: V797P-3230M (Small X-Ray Equipment & Supplies Business)

### Medical/Surgical Equipment Contracts:

- Med-Con USA, Inc.: V797P-4397B (Small Med/Surg Business)
- Urologix, Inc.: V797P-4393B (Small Med/Surg Business)
- Medical Modalities: V797P-4402B (Small Med/Surg Business)
- Demarius Corporation DBA Progressive Medical International: V797P-4394B (Small Med/Surg Business)
- Bruno Independent Living Aids: V797P-4399B (Small, Woman-Owned Med/Surg Business)
- Microlife Corporation: V797P-4382B (Large Med/Surg Business)
- OmniCare Group, Inc.: V797P-4387B (Small Med/Surg Business)
- Nonin Medical, Inc.: V797P-4395B (Small Med/Surg Business)
- Mobile Aspects, Inc.: V797P-4389B (Small Med/Surg Business)
- Primus Sterlizer Company, LLC.: V797P-4400B (Small Med/Surg Business)
- Hamilton Medical, Inc.: V797P-4396B (Small Med/Surg Business)

### Medical Professional & Laboratory Testing Services & Cost-Per-Test Contracts:

- Axis Medical Staffing, Inc.: V797P-7330A (Small Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- Triage Staffing, Inc.: V797P-7331A (Large Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- Critical Care Nurses DBA CCN, Inc.: V797P-7332A (Small, Woman-Owned Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- Med-Scribe, Inc.: V797P-7325A (Small, Woman-Owned Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- Eagle Applied Science, LLC.: V797P-7326A (Small Disadvantaged, 8(A) Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- CentralCare, Inc.: V797P-7327A (Small, Woman-Owned Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- Advanced HRO Solutions DBA TotalMed Staffing, Inc.: V797P-7329A (Small Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- Nitelines USA, Inc.: V797P-7324A (Small Disadvantaged, 8(A) Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)
- Complete Healthcare Staffing, Inc.: V797P-7321A (Small Professional Medical Healthcare Services Business)

**In order to obtain pricing information for all of the companies referenced above or any other FSS contractor, please review the [NAC Contract Catalog Search Tool \(CCST\)](#) or [GSA E-Library](#). If you have any questions/concerns or would like to learn more about a specific topic and/or issue, please feel free to contact the FSS helpdesk by phone at (708)786-7737 and/or by e-mail at [helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov](mailto:helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov).**