

News You Can Use

Upgrades to VA FSS Website

On November 22, 2011, the [Office of Acquisition and Logistics \(OAL\)](#) launched its redesigned and restructured Internet website, including all FSS webpages. The redesign initiative was undertaken to provide enhanced usability for OAL customers and a cohesive/updated interface across the sites, as well as a web address consistent with their identity. The restructuring effort addressed the recent Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction reorganization as part of the Secretary's initiative to transform VA's acquisition and facilities management activities.

While the FSS Web Portal address remains the same (<http://www.fss.va.gov/>), the addresses for all of our other pages have changed. A complete list of FSS web pages and their new addresses is included on page 4 and can be accessed [online](#).

Using this list, we recommend that you update your bookmarks since you will no longer be able to access the old addresses. Please note that the pages will be redirected to the main [OAL Web Portal](#) for 90 days.

Within the new web-pages, all FSS stakeholders are able to view a variety of information that will provide helpful training. Also, FSS contractors can obtain important tips that will help them better manage and market their FSS contract, such as:

- [VA Schedule programs](#);
 - [Online training](#) and best practices tip sheets;
 - A list of [useful resources](#) and [regulatory guidance](#);
 - Important [VA](#) and [General Service Administration](#) electronic tools (e.g. [GSA eLibrary](#) and [GSA Advantage](#));
 - FSS [Frequently Asked Questions](#);
 - A listing of the different relevant [compliance requirements](#) all FSS contractors must follow, including a complete list of [Designated Countries](#), and comprehensive guidance for how contractors can effectively [manage](#) their contract;
 - Vital information about the [VA online sales reporting system](#) (e.g. the applicable reporting timeframes, how to obtain a user ID and password, how to remit the Industrial Funding Fee, etc.);
 - A review of the VA FSS [modification](#) and [contract extension](#) processes;
 - A listing of [request for modification forms](#) and Mass Modifications for each Schedule program
- All mass modification documents (e.g. a copy of the SF 30, updated/revised clauses, etc.) can be obtained from the [Modification Forms](#) page. To submit a Mass Modification, select the applicable Schedule and mass modification number, sign the document and return it to your assigned Contract Specialist.*
- Information on [Marketing to the Federal Government](#), including tips on identifying your potential customer base, and creating new and innovative sales strategies.

[Email](#) or call the FSS Helpdesk (708-786-7737) if you have any questions about the redesigned FSS website.

Report broken links to [PMRS](#)

Training Topic

Set-Aside Orders for Small Businesses

On November 2, 2011, an [interim rule](#) was issued that amended the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) in order to implement section 1331 of the [Small Business Jobs Act of 2010](#). More specifically, section 1331 provides agencies the ability to set-aside orders and Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) issued against FSS contracts. Prior to this rule, ordering activities were prohibited from setting aside orders and BPAs under FSS contracts.

- **Are set-asides authorized under the VA FSS Program?**
Contracting Officers, **at their discretion**, may set-aside orders and BPAs for small businesses or for one of the small business subcategories listed in FAR [19.000\(a\)\(3\)](#).
- **What are the applicable ordering procedures for set asides?**
For set-aside orders, a Contracting Officer must use the ordering procedures identified in FAR [8.405](#) (except limit consideration only to small businesses).

Size of Order/BPA	Competition Strategy
Order/BPA at or below the Micro-purchase Threshold (i.e. \$3,000)	Distribute orders among contractors that meet the needs of the agency
Order/BPA is over the Micro-purchase Threshold but not over the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) (i.e. \$150,000)	The agency posts a Request-for-Quote (RFQ) on e-Buy OR considers reasonably available information about the product or service by surveying at least 3 small businesses
Order/BPA exceeds SAT	The agency posts a RFQ on e-Buy AND sends quote out to enough small businesses to receive quotes from at least 3 small businesses

- **What clause(s) should be incorporated into a RFQ when an order/BPA is set-aside?**
It should be noted that the specific small business program eligibility requirements identified in [FAR part 19](#) apply, including the subcontracting limitations and non-manufacturing rule that are outlined in the set-aside clauses. VA FSS is currently in the process of updating all of its contracts to incorporate the appropriate set-aside clauses. Ordering activities should also incorporate the appropriate FAR clause(s) referenced below in all RFQs for orders that are set-aside under the FSS program:
 - o [52.219-13](#) Notice of Set-Aside of Orders (NOV 2011);
 - o [52.219-3](#) Notice of HUBZone Set-Aside Award (NOV 2011);
 - o [52.219-6](#) Notice of Total Small Business Set-Aside (NOV 2011);
 - o [52.219-14](#) Limitations on Subcontracting (NOV 2011);
 - The non-manufacturing rule is applicable (i.e. non-manufacturers must furnish only end items manufactured or produced by small business concerns in the U.S.).
 - o [52.219-27](#) Notice of Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Set-Aside (NOV 2011);
 - o [52.219-29](#) Notice of Set-Aside for Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB) Concerns (NOV 2011); and/or
 - o [52.219-30](#) Notice of Set-Aside for Women-Owned Small Business Concerns Eligible Under the Women-Owned Small Business Program (NOV 2011).
- View Small Business Set Aside [FAQ's](#) and a [Process Map](#)
- [Sample Request-For-Quote Language](#) (making small business the primary evaluation factor)

VA FSS Working for You

VA FSS in Action

As many of you know, we have begun the year-end [Public Law](#) season. We have implemented a combination of changes in the past couple of years in order to increase our resources for these larger projects, and to ensure that our other operations would not be affected. In the past, we had a very small group of individuals that worked on the Public Law project and we stopped any other assignments for that group during this period of time each year. We now have a much larger group working these year-end changes and we do not halt any other assignments during this timeframe. We are now well on our way to completing the year-end project and continuing to move forward with our other assignments and priorities.

For transparency purposes and a greater understanding of our operations, we wanted to share some information from our 2011 Fiscal Year (FY) (i.e. 10/1/2010 – 9/30/2011) year-end report.

- Offers and extension proposals received FY 2011: 639
- Offers and extension proposals completed FY 2011: 696
- Average days to complete offer by end of FY 2011: 165 days
- Average days to complete extension proposals offer by end of FY 2011: 137 days
- Modification requests received FY 2011: 5,111
- Modification requests completed FY 2011: 5,080
- Average days to complete modification requests by end of FY 2011: 42 days

As you can see, our office received and completed a large amount of work during FY 2011. We will continue to work towards improved efficiencies in FY 2012 in order to continue to decrease these overall timelines.

As always, if you are experiencing any issues, please do not hesitate to contact Carole O'Brien, Director of the FSS Service, at (708) 786-4957 and/or carole.obrien@va.gov or, Craig Robinson, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for National Healthcare Acquisitions, at (708) 786-5157 and/or craig.robinson@va.gov. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. Happy Holidays to you and your families!!!

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit." [Aristotle](#)

65IB Solicitation Updated

The 65IB Drugs, Pharmaceuticals, & Hematology Related Products FSS solicitation has been updated!!! The new solicitation ([M5-Q50A-03-R5](#)) can currently be downloaded from FedBizOpps. Also, all interested parties can download a summary of the formatting changes and a complete listing of the updated clauses and provisions by viewing the [R5 Update Summary](#).

We will continue to accept proposals submitted using the previous solicitation format (M5-Q50A-03-R4) until February 3, 2012. After this date, all proposals submitted under the old solicitation package will be returned without further consideration.

4th Quarter FY 2011 Sales Due

At this time, all FSS contractors should have reported their 4th quarter FY 2011 (i.e. July 1, 2011 – September 30, 2011) sales figures in accordance with contract [clause 552.238-74](#), Industrial Funding Fee (IFF) and Sales Reporting. Please note all FSS contractors are required to submit their sales data for the 4th quarter (even if no sales occurred under the contract) through the [VA sales portal](#). In order to avoid confusion and having an IFF payment returned, all sales figures should be reported **BEFORE** an IFF payment is submitted to our office (regardless of how the IFF is remitted).

- [Access the VA online sales reporting system](#)

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. In addition, state and local Government entities may use FSS contracts to purchase products and services in advance of a major disaster declared by the president. State and local Governments are responsible for ensuring that the products/services purchased are to be used to facilitate recovery. As such, there were [10 declarations](#) by President Obama in November 2011.

MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATIONS

Number	Date	State	Disaster Type	Designated Counties
4042	11/04	VA	Earthquake	
4043	11/08	VT	Severe Storm	
4044	11/08	DC	Earthquake	
4045	11/17	VA	Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee	
4046	11/17	CT	Severe Storm	
4047	11/23	NM	Flooding	
4048	11/30	NJ	Severe Storm	

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

Number	Date	State	Disaster Type	Designated Counties
3343	11/01	MA	Severe Storm	
3344	11/01	NH	Severe Storm	

FIRE MANAGEMENT DECLARATIONS

Number	Date	State	Incident
2973	11/18	NV	Pinehaven Fire

- [Disaster Recovery Program FAQs](#)

Did You Know...

According to the [VA National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics](#) (NCVAS), there are approximately 25 million Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces alive today, of which 7.5% are women. NCVAS is responsible for "developing statistical analyses and reports on a broad range of topics, operating VA's data and statistics web portal to disseminate Veteran data and statistics, and developing estimates and projections on Veteran populations." Some additional (interesting) statistics about Veterans that was provided by NCVAS can be seen below.

- 35% of all living Veterans served during the Vietnam War. In 2009, there were:
 - 7.6 million Vietnam-era Veterans (1964-1975)
 - 4.5 million Gulf War Veterans (August 1990 to present)
 - 2.3 million World War II Veterans. (1941-1945)
 - 2.7 million Veterans of the Korean War. (1950-1953)
 - 47,000 Veterans of both the Vietnam and Gulf War eras
- Every year, about 80,000 veterans are buried in one of the cemeteries of the [VA National Cemetery](#) system.
- Veterans are more than twice as likely as non-veterans to commit suicide.
- One out of every four homeless people is a Veteran.
- 9% of all U.S. non-farm businesses are owned by a Veteran.
- 26% of Veterans 25 years of age or older had a Bachelor's degree or higher in 2010. In comparison, 28% of the total U.S. population had a bachelor's degree or higher.
 - View Veteran [Quick Facts](#) and Population [Projections](#)
 - NCVAS [FAQs](#)

Recently Awarded FSS Contracts (November 2011)

Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Hematology Related Products Contracts (Schedule 65IB)

Company Name	Contract Number	Business Size	Socioeconomic Status
Bausch & Lomb Pharmaceuticals	V797P-2047D	Large	

Medical/Surgical Equipment & Supplies Contracts (Schedule 65IIA)

Company Name	Contract Number	Business Size	Socioeconomic Status
Light Tech. Inc.	V797P-2003D	Small	
Derma Sciences, Inc.	V797P-2000D	Small	
Med-I-Pant, Inc. DBA MIP	V797P-2001D	Small	
Medical Place, Inc.	V797P-2002D	Small	Small Disadvantaged, Veteran Owned Business
Melmedtronics USA, Inc.	V797P-2035D	Small	
Dr. Jill's Foot Pads, Inc.	V797P-2039D	Small	Woman Owned Business
Laser Therapy Products, LLC. DBA K Laser USA	V797P-2043D	Small	
MedEfficiency, Inc.	V797P-2048D	Small	
Wayloo, Inc.	V797P-2049D	Small	Small Disadvantaged, 8(A), Woman Owned Business
Affirmative Solutions, LLC.	V797P-2045D	Small	Small Disadvantaged, Disabled Veteran Owned Business
Circadiance, LLC.	V797P-2051D	Small	
Florida Medical Sales, Inc.	V797P-2044D	Small	

Patient Mobility Devices Contracts (Schedule 65IIF)

Company Name	Contract Number	Business Size	Socioeconomic Status
Gresham Driving Aids, Inc.	V797P-2033D	Small	

Invitro Diagnostics, Reagents, Test Kits, & Test Sets Contracts (Schedule 65VII)

Company Name	Contract Number	Business Size	Socioeconomic Status
Amity Holdings LLC. DBA Medicare Medical Supply	V797P-2027D	Small	
Quotient Biodiagnostics, Inc.	V797P-2050D	Small	

Professional & Allied Healthcare Staffing Services Contracts (Schedule 621I)

Company Name	Contract Number	Business Size	Socioeconomic Status
National Medical Resources, Inc.	V797P-2028D	Small	
Platinum Business Corporation	V797P-2034D	Small	Small Disadvantaged, Woman Owned Business

****Please visit the [VA Schedule Programs](#) page for a complete listing of all Schedules****

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 Help Desk by phone at (708)786-7737 and/or by e-mail at helpdesk.ammhinfss@va.gov.

New FSS Websites

Page Title	New Address
FSS Advantages	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/advantages.asp
FSS Purchasing Programs	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/purchasing.asp
Recovery Act 2009	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/recoveryAct.asp
Freedom of Information Requests	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/foia.asp
VA Schedules	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/schedules.asp
Commodities	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/commodities.asp
65IIA Medical Equipment & Supplies	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/schedule65IIA.asp
65IIC Dental Equipment & Supplies	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/schedule65IIC.asp
65IIF Patient Mobility Devices	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/schedule65IIF.asp
65VA X-Ray Equipment & Supplies	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/schedule65VA.asp
65VII In Vitro Diagnostics, Reagents, Test Kits & Test Sets	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/schedule65VII.asp
Pharmaceuticals	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/pharmaceuticals.asp
Public Law 102-585	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/publicLaw.asp
Services	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/services.asp
66III Cost-Per-Test, Clinical Laboratory Analyzers	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/schedule66III.asp
621I Professional & Allied Healthcare Staffing Services	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/schedule621I.asp
621II Medical Laboratory Testing & Analysis Services	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/schedule621II.asp
Prospective Contractors	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/prospective.asp
Getting on Schedule	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/gettingonschedule.asp
Current Contractors	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/contractors.asp
Managing Your FSS Contract	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/contractors.asp
Request for Modification Process	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/rfmProcess.asp
Modification Forms	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/modForms.asp
Contract Extension Process	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/extension.asp
Compliance Requirements	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/compliance.asp
Trade Agreements Act	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/taa.asp
OIG Reviews	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/oig.asp
Online Sales Reporting	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/sales.asp
Small Business Subcontracting Plans	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/sbsp.asp
Marketing to the Federal Government	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/marketing.asp
Frequently Asked Questions	http://www.fss.va.gov/faqs/customers.asp
Useful Resources	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/resources.asp
Regulatory Guidance	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/regulatory.asp
Training	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/training.asp
VA eTools	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/etoolsVA.asp
GSA eTools	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/etoolsGSA.asp
About Us	http://www.va.gov/oal/about/nacFsss.asp
Contacts	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/contacts.asp
News	http://www.va.gov/oal/business/fss/enewsletter.asp
Directions & Local Points of Interest	http://www.va.gov/oal/about/campusHines.asp