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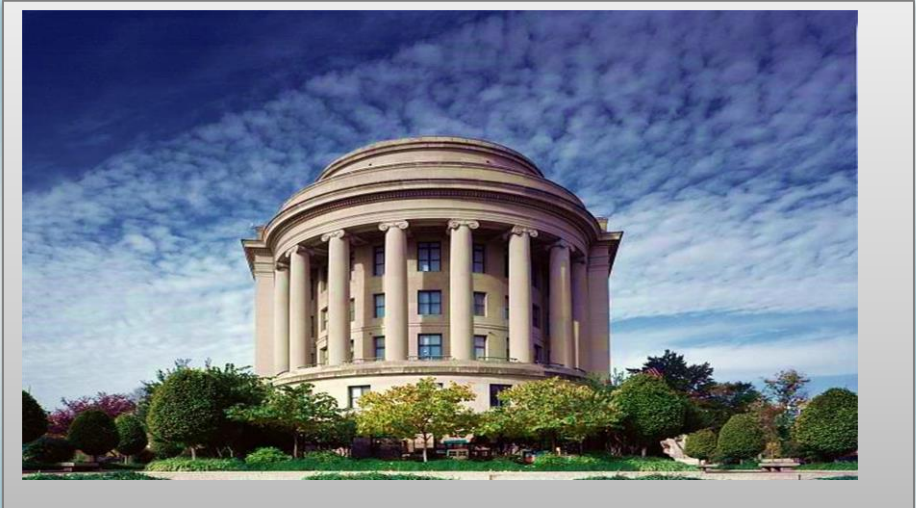
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Domain Expertise

EIS: The other transition

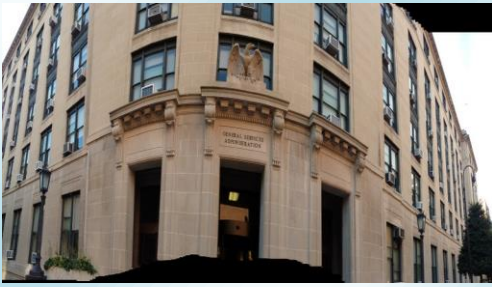
With a spring award planned for the next-generation, \$50 billion, 15-year Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions (EIS) telecommunications contract, the General Services Administration wants agencies to share the details of their transition efforts to help others with the shift.

"There are a lot of transitions going on now," said Mary Davie, assistant commissioner of GSA's Office of Information Technology Category, during a presentation at a FedScoop's Next-Gen Network Summit on Nov. 30. "With the administration transition happening, it can be hard to keep a focus on this **other transition**, but we must."

GSA is helping agencies develop their plans to move from the Networx telecom contract to the EIS vehicle when it is awarded next year, Davie said. She didn't give an exact date for the award, but some federal IT executives listed April 1 in their slide presentations at the event.

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Federal Marketplace Matters

House-Senate Conference Members Reach Compromise on \$619B FY 2017 Defense Policy Bill

House and Senate lawmakers have reached a compromise on a bill that would allocate \$619 billion in defense budget for fiscal year 2017, Breaking Defense reported Tuesday.

Sydney J. Freedberg Jr. writes the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act is approximately \$3.2 billion higher than President Barack Obama's FY 2017 budget request and is scheduled to be put up for a vote in the House by Dec. 2 and the Senate by next week.

The bill would add 1,000 soldiers to the U.S. Army, 4,000 airmen to the U.S. Air Force and 3,000 service personnel to the U.S. Marine Corps, the report said.

The proposed NDAA would reduce the size of the National Security Council to 200 positions, impose a 2.1 percent raise in military pay and require a study on the selective service system, according to a report by Patricia Zengerle on Reuters.

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IWACenter plans for the Packaged Office SIN under Schedule 71.

The IWACenter has been working with the Coalition for Government Procurement to update the Packaged Office SIN under Schedule 71. A special working group has met several times and several changes have been recommended, as follows:

- 1) The SIN description will be changed to allow products from all of the GSA Schedules provided the products will be used for the outfitting of an office, conference room or common area.
- 2) The contractor will need to demonstrate that it is an experienced "project integrator" for the newly expanded SIN by showing corporate experience and past project experience.
- 3) The sale of one product only would be allowed if it were a "logical follow-on" to a previous Package order. In the current solicitation, there is the requirement that each sale must consist of the required three items (desk, chair and file unit – see technical requirements for actual descriptions).

A working draft of the proposed changes is attached. The goal to implement these changes to the SIN description is by a refresh to Schedule 71. Before the refresh can occur, however, the change must be reviewed and approved by GSA's Acquisition Management office with input from the other FAS acquisition centers. There will also be a posting of the changes on GSA's Interact and there will be a thirty-day comment period before the Refresh is issued.

For a copy of the working draft of the proposed changes please contact your TGG Consultant.

[Source: The Gormley Group](#)





Federal Marketplace Matters

17 Industry Groups Ask Trump to Advance Tech Infrastructure Investments

The chief executives of 17 technology industry organizations have asked President-elect Donald Trump to advance investments in technology infrastructure as part of efforts to create jobs and build up the U.S. economy.

The trade groups' CEOs wrote in a letter published Tuesday that the Trump administration should also promote technological innovation through tax reform and updates to regulations related to international data transfers.

They also submitted to Trump's transition team their recommended personnel for several key administrative posts as well as their qualifications, according to the letter.

"We recognize a critical early step in achieving your goals of moving the country forward in a productive way will be identifying the right people for critical positions," the executives added.

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eMod System

Please note that there has been a slight eMod change, GSA will now only keep 90 days of history on the main eMod page and then keep the full history archived in a separate location.

For historic records older than 90 days, Vendors are directed to click the link "MY MODIFICATION'S HISTORY" to view them.

If you have any questions about the eMod System, please contact your TGG Consultant



Senate OKs Program Management Improvement & Accountability Bill

The Senate has passed a bill that seeks to boost accountability and best practices in project and program management across the federal government.

The *Program Management Improvement and Accountability Act of 2015* was unanimously approved by the Senate for the second time and will be sent to President Barack Obama for his signature, the Project Management Institute said Thursday.

The nonprofit added PMIAA would require agencies to establish a career path for program managers in the federal government; develop a standards-based program management policy; and assign a senior agency executive to oversee program management policy and strategy.

The bill also calls for the creation of an interagency council that would facilitate the sharing of knowledge on program management approaches.

PMI said reforms outlined in the legislation align with the findings of the organization's research that shows investments in program management talent and standards can optimize outcomes, accountability and efficiency.

The institute's *Pulse of the Profession* report found that 64 percent of government initiatives meet goals and business intent and that public sector organizations waste \$101 million for every \$1 billion spent on projects and programs.

[Source](#)



Federal Marketplace Matters

GSA Solicits Letters of Interest for Construction Mgmt Support for New FBI HQ

GSA has asked potential vendors to submit letters of interest to provide construction management services for the new consolidated FBI headquarters in Washington.

GSA said in a FedBizOpps pre-solicitation notice posted December 1, CM support for the bureau's future 2.1 million-square-foot facility includes consulting and professional services, budget and finance, contracting documentation, design reviews, cost estimation, change order management and jobsite inspections.

The agency said it will consider past performance on comparable projects, CM capabilities and project staffing plan as technical factors of the solicitation process in compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

The potential contract for CM services in support of the design-build project has a base term of five years and five option years.

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IG: Challenges Remain in GSA's Data Act Implementation

With roughly six months remaining before the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act implementation deadline, the General Services Administration still lacks the ability to reliably track spending and certify the accuracy of data submissions, according to an inspector general audit released Nov. 30.

The DATA Act is an open government law that mandates the reporting of standardized spending data to USASpending.gov, and puts the Department of Treasury and the Office of Management and Budget in charge of oversight. The law also requires IGs to report on whether their agencies are fully compliant.

In the report, Office of Inspector General auditors noted the progress made by GSA to implement the Act. For example, GSA submitted implementation plans to OMB on time, has completed four of the DATA Act [Playbook's](#) eight steps and is working on or planning for the remaining ones.

However, the OIG cautioned that challenges remain that could threaten the agency's ability to ensure a timely and full implementation.

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GSA Blog: FAS Reviews FY16 Progress

Last week, the General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) published a [blog](#) reviewing efforts to improve the Schedules program during Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.

Specifically, the blog notes that GSA has provided Federal agencies with enhanced access to crucial support and information that will help strengthen security, lower costs, and enhance efficiencies through the recently released Highly Adaptive Cyber Security (HACS) Special Item Numbers (SINs) and final Transactional Data Reporting (TDR) rule.

In addition, FAS believes that the significant boost in users on GSA's Acquisition Gateway has enhanced collaboration and information sharing across the Federal government. The tool surpassed 10,000 users in FY 2016.

[Read More](#)





Federal Marketplace Matters

Health IT Services SIN – Ready to Serve Agencies by Mary Davie

This summer I announced the release of our new Health IT Services Special Item Number (SIN 132-56) on IT Schedule 70. Now, I am happy to report that the SIN has been awarded to 65 highly qualified industry partners – with that number continuing to grow daily as new contracts are being awarded. With such a robust supplier offering, the SIN is now very much ready to serve agencies' health IT services requirements.

The Health IT Services SIN simplifies the procurement process, making it easier for agencies to get access to innovative and emerging health IT services. It also fosters competition and promotes small business participation. The SIN also gives industry partners a way to distinguish their health IT services offerings from other IT related services already under the IT Schedule 70 program, letting them stand out to agencies specifically seeking health IT services.

Additionally, the Health IT SIN also supports the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan to expand adoption of health IT services, reduce prices, advance secure and interoperable health information solutions, and strengthen healthcare delivery systems.

[Read More](#)

Educational

FAR Council Clarifies 8(a) Sole Source Justification Requirements for High Value Contracts

On October 15, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council (FAR Council), issued a [proposed rule](#) to clarify contracting officer and agency responsibilities when justifying sole source awards exceeding \$22 million dollars made through the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program. The revisions directly address recommendations from a [December 2012 Government Accountability Office \(GAO\) report](#) titled, "Slow Start to Implementation of Justifications for 8(a) Sole-Source Contracts," which, among other things, highlighted agency "confusion" about the existing justification requirements in the FAR.

The 8(a) sole source justification requirement for high value contracts is a statutory mandate, established by Section 811 of the FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, presumably to ensure that these high value awards are in the government's best interest. While the FAR Council published implementing regulations in April 2012, as noted in the 2012 GAO report, a number of agencies had difficulty complying with the new requirements, which differ from those governing other sole source justifications.

In subsequent GAO reports (published in September 2014 and in June 2016) reviewing the number of DoD issued 8(a) awards exceeding \$20 million dollars, GAO identified a significant decline in high value sole source awards to 8(a) firms since implementation of the justification requirement in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).[1] Some agency officials at least partly attributed these declines to the new regulations. GAO also noted a corresponding increase in the number of competitively awarded high value 8(a) contracts.

Key aspects of the proposed rule are highlighted below:

- The rule clarifies that agencies must use the 8(a) sole source justification specified in FAR 6.303-2 when it is applicable — they may not substitute another justification for other than full and open competition set forth at FAR 6.302, such as unusual and compelling urgency.
- The rule adds a requirement for contracting officers to provide the appropriate Small Business Administration (SBA) District Office with a copy of the approved justification. Previously, there was no explicit requirement in the FAR for agencies to share the justification with SBA for review.

[Read More:](#)





Upcoming Events

Watch out for GSA Events in 2017:

MARCH 7-8, 2017 IFMIPS (51V, 03FAC) Industry Day Event
May 2017 the GSA Federal Acquisition Training Symposium penciled in for in Huntsville, Alabama, and
June 2017 the Professional Services Industry Day in Tacoma, Washington.



April 13 2017 B2G Conference & Expo Joint Base Langley / Eustice
[More Info](#)



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Compliance

Holiday Celebrations and Government Ethics

TGG employees had their Annual Government Ethics training presented by Carolyn Alston who is very knowledgeable of the Office of Government Ethics policies and insight of how to avoid even the perception of wrong doing which TGG takes very seriously.

A reminder that in most cases, a federal employee cannot accept a gift from a contractor.

A gift is any item or service that has monetary value. A gift can include anything from meals to discounted concert tickets. Generally, a federal employee may not accept gifts that are given because of their official positions or that come from "prohibited sources". A "prohibited source" is a person (or an organization made up of such persons) that --

- seeks official action, is doing or seeking to do business with, or is regulated by a federal employee's agency, or
- has an interest that may be substantially affected by performance or nonperformance of the federal employee's official duties.

There are some exceptions to the ban on gifts from prohibited sources. For example, the following gifts are allowable:

- a gift valued at \$20 or less. However, be aware that the total value of gifts from a source cannot exceed \$50 in a calendar year. In this case "source" would include an entire company.
- a gift motivated solely by a family relationship or personal friendship
- a gift based on an employee's or his spouse's outside business or employment relationships, including a gift customarily provided by a prospective employer as part of bona fide employment discussions
- modest refreshments (such as coffee and donuts), greeting cards, plaques and other items of little intrinsic value

These exceptions are subject to some limitations on their use. For example, a federal employee can never solicit a gift. Additionally, a federal employee cannot accept gifts on such a frequent basis that a reasonable person would believe that the employee was using public office for private gain.

Particularly relevant to this season of holiday celebrations, GSA's legal counsel has advised that "Generally, contractor employees should not be invited to off-site events during working hours." You can read the complete guidance [here](#).

If you have any questions on these Ethics generally and in particular with regard to the Transition please don't hesitate to reach out to your TGG Consultant.

