

WM2008 Conference Panel Reports

Session 49

Panel: U.S. DOE Procurement and Contracting Opportunities

Panel Reporter: Charlie McVay, URS Corporation

Panelists: Jack Surash, Deputy Asst. Secretary, Acquisition & Project Management; Keith Klein, Longenecker and Associates, Retired DOE, George Johnson, Johnson and Associate

Jack Surash- Deputy Asst. Secretary, Acquisition & Project Management

- Presented acquisition center infrastructure
- Presented 2007 awards & 2008 award
- Upcoming RFPs, proposals under review and 2007 and 2008 awards. Presented future procurements which include six large opportunities, biggest effort will be Portsmouth which is in the acquisition planning stages
- IDIQ- large success and would like to use in a larger role
- DUF-6- large issues – in the 2010 time frame looking to support a procurement for operations of the plants
- Small Business work- 7.2% for 2007 (Percent of dollars assigned to small business). Target of 5-5.5% in 08
- Working hard for Level Planning field in procurement process

Keith Klein – Retired DOE

- Discussed transition of DOE Procurement over time
- DOE change focus from technical to have DOE Procurement Specialist
- A lot more visibility needed as well as for typed procurements
- Procurement and acquisition strategy drove changes in the way DOE is organized
- DOE experimented with different types of contract types
- Drove trend/path for a diversified procurement platform
- Various projects are very well defined and drives the type of contract where others are not
- Need to be able to address the variation, sometimes that lends itself to bundling of scopes
- Lots of resistance to change
- Term type vs scope type contracts works well in the correct setting
- River Corridor is excellent example of it working well. Project has 30-40% improvement in efficiency
- Having baselines helps measure the performance and feed procurement strategies
- Small, focused business can be very effective but may not work best under the prime contractor.
- Prime responsible for small business subcontractor and gets penalized for their poor performance therefore Prime does not have incentives to utilize small businesses
- Large transition cost for utilizing small businesses, lots of oversight, no incentives, unless put in prime contract.
- Believe DOE procurement is working well, and DOE is very interested in input to improve process.

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George Johnson

- Walked audience through the history of DOE procurement types and the results.
- Results on cost for proposals, time for the procurement cycle, and protests were shared.
- Going forward DOE needs to simplify proposal by only requiring information on key items
- Delays have a large impact on companies and people.
- IPS- not a good face for DOE, out of date, uninformative, does not show awards; and should use “what’s new”.
- See future trends in DOE RFP will place weight on orals and key personnel

Questions

- Major decision for pending 08 Awards – end of 08 or June or July
DOE response: 4th quarter on separate paths
- Is the pain worth the gain on corporate changes?
Mr Surach response: Clarified contracts allow extensions- part of contract structure. This was in response to earlier presentation that implied most RFP/procurement awards were just an extension of existing contracts.
- ETIBA question: can see significant improvement in procurement process and believes web page is helpful. Provided the status of comments provide on IFDP
- Questions on SIC codes for TRU RFP Mr. Surash was not aware and will check.
- WCM-Portsmouth – DOE issued 5 page document – briefing for industry - How can the process be accelerated – can EM look at what RW is doing Yucca – DOE wants to accelerated the cycle time. SRS M&O was 6 months but wants’ to do better
- DOE want to work on the front end / focusing to accelerate the process
- IDIQ – though 09 -\$800 million capacity – used \$400 million (see putting in place multiple IDIQs, Tech Service, cost analysis support , REA support , Invoice review)
- Hold industry one on ones (3-25 & 3-26) debriefs – DOE intent to have open book debrief – open end

Future Changes

- Contract specialist policy / procedures are in place and DOE now needs to execute. Need to align funding to procurements, address regulator issues and bring it all together
- Post award-not enough federal assets – short 20-30 people contract management resources. May see same organizational changes to address shortages.