SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Other Significant Changes

Updated Clauses**.....**

I-FSS-599 -- ELECTRONIC COMMERCE - FACNET (APRIL 2018)

Other Significant Changes

Updated Clauses

Begin Regulation

I-FSS-599 ELECTRONIC COMMERCE—FACNET (APRIL 2018)

(a) General Background.

The Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act (FASA) of 1994 establishes the Federal Acquisition Computer Network (FACNET) requiring the Government to evolve its acquisition process from one driven by paperwork into an expedited process based on electronic commerce/electronic data interchange (EC/EDI). EC/EDI means more than merely automating manual processes and eliminating paper transactions. It can and will help to move business processes (e.g., procurement, finance, logistics, etc.) into a fully electronic environment and fundamentally change the way organizations operate.

(b) Trading Partners and Value-Added Networks (VAN's).

Within the FACNET architecture, electronic documents (e.g., orders, invoices, etc.) are carried between the Federal Government's procuring office and contractors (now known as "trading partners"). These transactions are carried by commercial telecommunications companies called Value-Added Networks (VAN's) and there are some instances where direct connections may be offered as an alternative.

EDI can be done using commercially available hardware, software, and telecommunications. The selection of a VAN is a business decision contractors must make. There are many different VAN's which provide a variety of electronic services and different pricing strategies. If your VAN only provides communications services, you may also need a software translation package.

(c) Registration Instructions.

DOD will require Contractors to register as trading partners to do business with the Government. This policy can be reviewed via the INTERNET at http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/1999/b03011999_bt079-99.html.

A central repository of all trading partners, called the System of Award Management (SAM), has been developed and is available at SAM.gov. All Government procuring offices and other interested parties will have access to this central repository. The database is structured to identify the types of data elements which are public information and those which are confidential and not releasable.

To register, contractors must provide their Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS) number. The DUNS number is available by calling 1(800)333-0505. It is provided and maintained free of charge and only takes a few minutes to obtain. Contractors will need to provide their Tax Identification Number (TIN). The TIN is assigned by the Internal Revenue Service by calling 1(800)829-1040. Contractors will also be required to provide information about company bank or financial institution for electronic funds transfer (EFT).

(d) Implementation Conventions.

All EDI transactions must comply with the Federal Implementation Conventions (IC's). Many VAN's and software providers have already built the IC requirements into their products. If you need to see the IC's, they are available on a registry maintained by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). It is accessible via the INTERNET at http://www.nist.gov. IC's are available for common business documents such as Purchase Order, Price Sales Catalog, Invoice, Request for Quotes, etc.

(e) Additional Information.

Several resources are available to vendors to assist in implementing EC/EDI:

(1) Electronic Commerce Resource Centers (ECRC's) are a network of U.S. Government-sponsored centers that provide EC/EDI training and support to the contractor community. They are found in over a dozen locations around the country.

(2) Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC's) and Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's) provide management assistance to small business owners. Each state has several locations.

(3) Most major US cities have an EDI user group of companies who meet periodically to share information on EDI-related subjects.

(f) GSA *Advantage!* ®

(1) GSA *Advantage!* ® will use EC/ECI to receive catalogs, and text messages; and to send purchase orders, application advice, and functional acknowledgments and other transactions as needed. GSA *Advantage!* ® enables customers to:

(i) Perform database searches across all contracts by manufacturer; manufacturer's model/part number; vendor; and generic product categories.

(ii) Generate their own EDI delivery orders to contractors, generate EDI delivery orders from the Federal Acquisition Services (FAS) to contractors, or download files to create their own delivery orders.

(iii) Use the Federal IMPAC VISA.

(2) GSA *Advantage!*® may be accessed via the GSA Home Page. The INTERNET address is: https://gsaadvantage.gsa.gov.