Frequently Asked Questions for Contractors

May 16, 2024

The IT Governmentwide Category, under the principles of Category Management (CM), engages in activities to increase small business utilization across the Federal Government. These activities raise awareness of and support contract improvements and opportunities via the IT Best-In-Class (BIC) contract solutions and how they benefit small businesses. CM has a role in promoting small business utilization through the following OMB Policy Memos: Increasing the number of new and recent entrants (M-22-03); Increasing the Share of Contract Dollars Awarded to Small Disadvantaged Businesses for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and in Subsequent FYs (M-24-01)

Increasing Small Business Participation on Multiple-Award Contracts (OMB Memo 1/25/24).

This FAQ is intended to assist small businesses with finding contracting opportunities with the IT BIC vehicles and increase the number of small businesses in the federal IT marketplace.

To find out more about BIC contracts, please check out the [Acquisition Gateway](#).

This FAQ will be updated as needed. Additional questions for Acquisition Equity may be sent to itvmo@gsa.gov.

1. What is a Best-In-Class contract?

Best in Class (BIC) is a contracting and acquisition designation used to denote contracts that meet rigorous category management performance criteria as defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), including that BICs demonstrate a commitment to small business considerations by developing and executing a strategy (e.g., on-ramps, small business representation during acquisition planning) to maintain or increase small business participation where possible. BICs are available for all federal agencies to use.

2. What are the active IT Category BIC Vehicles?

2.1.   ARMY CHESS ADMC3

2.2.   NASA SEWP

2.3.   NITAAC CIO-CS

2.4.   GSA Multiple Award Schedule (MAS IT Large for Hardware and Software)

2.5.   GSA Wireless Mobility Solutions

2.6.   GSA COMSATCOM

2.7.   GSA 8(a) STARS III

2.8.   GSA Alliant 2

2.9.   GSA Veterans Technology Services 2 (VETS2)

2.10. GSA Enterprise Infrastructure Services (EIS) & Networx

2.11. NITAAC CIO SP3 Small Business and Unrestricted

*MANDATORY BICS FOR WORKSTATIONS: Choose from four authorized sources for standard configuration laptops and desktops per OMB Memo M-16-14:

3. Which current IT BIC Vehicles are set-aside for small businesses?

- NITAAC CIO-SP3 SB

- GSA 8(a) STARS III, 8(a) set-aside

- GSA VETS 2, Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) set-aside

4. Which government-wide acquisition contract (GWAC) is set aside exclusively for Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB)?

- GSA VETS 2

5. Which IT BIC contract solution can be used to establish set-aside procurements for small businesses?

- MAS IT (including set-aside BPAs)

- NITAAC CIO-CS

6. Which IT BIC contract solutions have small business pools

- NASA SEWP V

7. What GWACs are upcoming that are planning to apply for BIC designation?

The following contracts are pre-award and plan to provide access to customized information technology (IT) services and IT service-based solutions from small businesses:

- GSA Polaris is in the evaluation phase and awards are planned to begin in 2024. Polaris will have dedicated Small Business, Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB), and HUBZone Small Business Pools.

- NITAAC SP4 is in the evaluation phase and planning awards in 2024. However, NITAAC received an extension for the CIO-SP3 and CIO-SP3 Small Business GWACs through October 29, 2024, with the option to extend even further until April 29, 2025, should that become necessary.

- NASA SEWP VI is anticipating release of its final RFP in 2024