

cial who is independent of the contracting officer for the contracts and may be the agency's competition advocate.

(g) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies to task and delivery order contracts entered into under sections 2304a and 2304b of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 103-355, title I, §1004(a)(1), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3252; amended Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title VIII, §843(a)(2), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 237; Pub. L. 111-350, §5(b)(14), Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3843; Pub. L. 111-383, div. A, title VIII, §825, title X, §1075(f)(5)(A), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4270, 4376; Pub. L. 112-239, div. A, title VIII, §830, Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1842; Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title VIII, §§825(b), 835(a), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2280, 2285.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 114-328, §825(b), added par. (5).

Subsec. (e)(1)(B). Pub. L. 114-328, §835(a), substituted “\$25,000,000” for “\$10,000,000”.

2013—Subsec. (e)(3). Pub. L. 112-239 struck out par. (3) which read as follows: “Paragraph (1)(B) and paragraph (2) of this subsection shall not be in effect after September 30, 2016.”

2011—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 111-350 substituted “section 1708 of title 41” for “section 18 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 416)”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 111-383, §1075(f)(5)(A), made technical correction to directory language of Pub. L. 110-181, §843(a)(2)(C). See 2008 Amendment note below.

Subsec. (e)(3). Pub. L. 111-383, §825, amended par. (3) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (3) read as follows: “This subsection shall be in effect for three years, beginning on the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.”

2008—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-181, §843(a)(2), added subsec. (d). Former subsec. (d) redesignated (e).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 110-181, §843(a)(2)(C), as amended by Pub. L. 111-383, §1075(f)(5)(A), added subsec. (e) and struck out former subsec. (e). Former text read as follows: “A protest is not authorized in connection with the issuance or proposed issuance of a task or delivery order except for a protest on the ground that the order increases the scope, period, or maximum value of the contract under which the order is issued.”

Pub. L. 110-181, §843(a)(2)(A), redesignated subsec. (d) as (e). Former subsec. (e) redesignated (f).

Subsecs. (f), (g). Pub. L. 110-181, §843(a)(2)(A), redesignated subsecs. (e) and (f) as (f) and (g), respectively.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title VIII, §843(a)(3)(B), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 238, provided that: “The amendments made by paragraph (2) [amending this section] shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 28, 2008], and shall apply with respect to any task or delivery order awarded on or after such date.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

For effective date and applicability of section, see section 10001 of Pub. L. 103-355, set out as an Effective Date of 1994 Amendment note under section 2302 of this title.

#### PROVISIONS NOT AFFECTED BY PUB. L. 103-355

This section not to be construed as modifying or superseding, or as intended to impair or restrict, authorities or responsibilities under former 40 U.S.C. 759 or chapter 11 of Title 40, Public Buildings, Property, and Works, see section 1004(d) of Pub. L. 103-355, set out as a note under section 2304a of this title.

### § 2304d. Task and delivery order contracts: definitions

In sections 2304a, 2304b, and 2304c of this title:

(1) The term “task order contract” means a contract for services that does not procure or specify a firm quantity of services (other than a minimum or maximum quantity) and that provides for the issuance of orders for the performance of tasks during the period of the contract.

(2) The term “delivery order contract” means a contract for property that does not procure or specify a firm quantity of property (other than a minimum or maximum quantity) and that provides for the issuance of orders for the delivery of property during the period of the contract.

(Added Pub. L. 103-355, title I, §1004(a)(1), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3253.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

For effective date and applicability of section, see section 10001 of Pub. L. 103-355, set out as an Effective Date of 1994 Amendment note under section 2302 of this title.

#### PROVISIONS NOT AFFECTED BY PUB. L. 103-355

This section not to be construed as modifying or superseding, or as intended to impair or restrict, authorities or responsibilities under former 40 U.S.C. 759 or chapter 11 of Title 40, Public Buildings, Property, and Works, see section 1004(d) of Pub. L. 103-355, set out as a note under section 2304a of this title.

### § 2304e. Contracts: prohibition on competition between Department of Defense and small businesses and certain other entities

(a) EXCLUSION.—In any case in which the Secretary of Defense plans to use competitive procedures for a procurement, if the procurement is to be conducted as described in subsection (b), then the Secretary shall exclude the Department of Defense from competing in the procurement.

(b) PROCUREMENT DESCRIPTION.—The requirement to exclude the Department of Defense under subsection (a) applies in the case of a procurement to be conducted by excluding from competition entities in the private sector other than small business concerns in furtherance of section 8 or 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637 or 644).

(Added Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title VIII, §848(a)(1), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1724, §2304a; renumbered §2304e, Pub. L. 104-106, div. D, title XLIII, §4321(b)(6)(A), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 672; amended Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title VIII, §812(a)(2)(C)(vi), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1847.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 115-232 substituted “other than” for “other than—”, struck out par. (1) designation before “small business”, and struck out par. (2) which read as follows: “entities described in subsection (a)(1) of section 2323 of this title in furtherance of the goal specified in that subsection.”

1996—Pub. L. 104-106 renumbered section 2304a of this title as this section.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title VIII, §848(b), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1725, provided that: “Section 2304a [now 2304e]

of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 30, 1993].”

**§ 2305. Contracts: planning, solicitation, evaluation, and award procedures**

(a)(1)(A) In preparing for the procurement of property or services, the head of an agency shall—

- (i) specify the agency’s needs and solicit bids or proposals in a manner designed to achieve full and open competition for the procurement;
- (ii) use advance procurement planning and market research; and
- (iii) develop specifications in such manner as is necessary to obtain full and open competition with due regard to the nature of the property or services to be acquired.

(B) Each solicitation under this chapter shall include specifications which—

- (i) consistent with the provisions of this chapter, permit full and open competition; and
- (ii) include restrictive provisions or conditions only to the extent necessary to satisfy the needs of the agency or as authorized by law.

(C) For the purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), the type of specification included in a solicitation shall depend on the nature of the needs of the agency and the market available to satisfy such needs. Subject to such needs, specifications may be stated in terms of—

- (i) function, so that a variety of products or services may qualify;
- (ii) performance, including specifications of the range of acceptable characteristics or of the minimum acceptable standards; or
- (iii) design requirements.

(2) In addition to the specifications described in paragraph (1), a solicitation for sealed bids or competitive proposals (other than for a procurement for commercial items using special simplified procedures or a purchase for an amount not greater than the simplified acquisition threshold) shall at a minimum include—

(A) a statement of—

- (i) all significant factors and significant subfactors which the head of the agency reasonably expects to consider in evaluating sealed bids (including price) or competitive proposals (including cost or price, cost-related or price-related factors and subfactors, and noncost-related or nonprice-related factors and subfactors); and
- (ii) the relative importance assigned to each of those factors and subfactors; and

(B)(i) in the case of sealed bids—

(I) a statement that sealed bids will be evaluated without discussions with the bidders; and

(II) the time and place for the opening of the sealed bids; or

(ii) in the case of competitive proposals—

(I) either a statement that the proposals are intended to be evaluated with, and award made after, discussions with the offerors, or a statement that the proposals are intended to be evaluated, and award made, without

discussions with the offerors (other than discussions conducted for the purpose of minor clarification) unless discussions are determined to be necessary; and

(II) the time and place for submission of proposals.

(3)(A) In prescribing the evaluation factors to be included in each solicitation for competitive proposals, the head of an agency—

(i) shall (except as provided in subparagraph (C)) clearly establish the relative importance assigned to the evaluation factors and subfactors, including the quality of the product or services to be provided (including technical capability, management capability, prior experience, and past performance of the offeror);

(ii) shall (except as provided in subparagraph (C)) include cost or price to the Federal Government as an evaluation factor that must be considered in the evaluation of proposals; and

(iii) shall disclose to offerors whether all evaluation factors other than cost or price, when combined, are—

- (I) significantly more important than cost or price;
- (II) approximately equal in importance to cost or price; or
- (III) significantly less important than cost or price.

(B) The regulations implementing clause (iii) of subparagraph (A) may not define the terms “significantly more important” and “significantly less important” as specific numeric weights that would be applied uniformly to all solicitations or a class of solicitations.

(C) If the head of an agency issues a solicitation for multiple task or delivery order contracts under section 2304a(d)(1)(B) of this title for the same or similar services and intends to make a contract award to each qualifying offeror—

(i) cost or price to the Federal Government need not, at the Government’s discretion, be considered under clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) as an evaluation factor for the contract award; and

(ii) if, pursuant to clause (i), cost or price to the Federal Government is not considered as an evaluation factor for the contract award—

- (I) the disclosure requirement of clause (iii) of subparagraph (A) shall not apply; and
- (II) cost or price to the Federal Government shall be considered in conjunction with the issuance pursuant to section 2304c(b) of this title of a task or delivery order under any contract resulting from the solicitation.

(D) In subparagraph (C), the term “qualifying offeror” means an offeror that—

- (i) is determined to be a responsible source;
- (ii) submits a proposal that conforms to the requirements of the solicitation; and
- (iii) the contracting officer has no reason to believe would likely offer other than fair and reasonable pricing.

(E) Subparagraph (C) shall not apply to multiple task or delivery order contracts if the solicitation provides for sole source task or delivery order contracts pursuant to section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)).