

## THE U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (NCLIS)

### Sunshine Act Meeting and Open Hearing

**TIME, DATE, AND PLACE:** July 8, 1999 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Kellogg Conference Center, Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

### Hearing on Library and Information Services for Individuals With Disabilities

Purpose of the Hearing: The Commission recognizes that recent advances in information technology have improved conditions for some people with disabilities while presenting new challenges to others. Commission members wish to explore the gamut of issues raised in order to develop policy recommendations to appropriate government agencies and other organizations.

The NCLIS hearing is being held to offer the NCLIS members an opportunity to hear from individuals with disabilities of all types, as well as from legislators, educators, parents, library and information service professionals, representatives from national associations and organizations, volunteers, physicians, and researchers. The Commission wants to hear, first hand, of the various kinds of assistance being provided by libraries to persons with permanent or temporary disabilities, including assistance in ordering materials in alternative formats, searching and retrieving materials (both online and print), accessing library buildings and parking facilities, providing adequate space for study and testing, and furnishing special equipment.

Requests to present oral testimony should be received by June 18, 1999. Because of time constraints, participation will be limited. Written comments will be accepted before, during or up to 30 days after the hearing. All comments must be received at NCLIS no later than the close of business on July 8, 1999 to become part of the hearing record.

Written request for invitations must be submitted to NCLIS, Attn: Barbara Whiteleather, 1110 Vermont Avenue, NW., Suite 820, Washington, DC 20005-3522; fax 202-606-9203; or e-mail <bw\_nclis@inet.ed.gov>

To request further information or to make special arrangements for physically challenged persons, contact Barbara Whiteleather (202-606-9200)

no later than one week in advance of the meeting.

For further information contact Robert Willard, Executive Director (202) 606-9200.

Dated: May 27, 1999.

**Robert S. Willard,**  
*NCLIS Executive Director.*

[FR Doc. 99-14094 Filed 5-28-99; 3:57 pm]

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## OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

### Office of Federal Procurement Policy

#### Comment Request Entitled Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program

**AGENCY:** Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**ACTION:** Notice of request regarding the reinstatement, with changes, of a previously approved collection (OMB Clearance 9000-0100) for which approval is now being requested by OFPP.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), OFPP notified the public concerning a request to reinstate, with changes, a previously approved information collection requirement concerning the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program. A request for public comment was published at 63 FR 51962, September 29, 1998. No comments were received. This is a second request for comments and notice that the proposed information collection has been submitted to OMB for approval.

**COMMENTS:** Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden should be submitted to Edward Springer at the Office of Management and Budget, Desk Officer for OMB, Room 10236, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Please cite the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program.

**DATES:** Comments may be submitted on or before July 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda G. Williams, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, 202-395-3302.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### A. Purpose

The Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program Act of 1988

(Title VII, Public Law 100-656), as amended, established the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program (Program). The Program was established to (1) demonstrate whether or not small businesses in certain industry groups can compete successfully on an unrestricted basis for Federal contracts, and (2) to demonstrate whether or not targets goaling and management techniques can expand Federal contract opportunities for small businesses in industry categories where such opportunities historically have been low despite adequate numbers of small business contractors in the economy. Section 401 of the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-135) extends the Program indefinitely.

Under the current Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), small businesses are required only to represent their status (i.e., whether small, small disadvantaged, or women-owned small businesses). Section 714(c) of the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program Act requires each participating agency to collect data pertaining to the size as well as the status of the small business concern receiving any award for services in the designated industry groups and products or services in the agencies' ten targeted industry categories. The size of the small business is collected in terms of the number of employees or dollar volume of sales. The number of employees is based on the average of the pay periods for the last twelve months. The volume of sales is based on the average annual gross revenue for the last three fiscal years (See FAR 19.101). The size information is collected during the solicitation process as part of the representation requirement. This data will be used to evaluate the small business impact of the Program.

The former information collection requirements set forth in Section 714(b) of the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program Act, pertaining to the simplified system to collect data on the participation of small business concerns as subcontractors under prime contracts for architectural and engineering (A&E) services, expired on September 30, 1997. Accordingly, this proposed reinstatement excludes that data collection requirement.

##### B. Annual Reporting Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average five minutes per response, including the time to gather the information and complete the solicitation provision. The annual



reporting burden is estimated as follows: Respondents, 603,524; responses per respondent, 1; total annual responses, 603,524; preparation hours per response, .08333, and total response burden hours, 50,273. The collection is voluntary.

#### **Copies of the Proposal**

A copy of the Paperwork proposal is available from the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Room 352, OEOB, Washington, DC 20503. Please cite the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program in all correspondence.

**Deidre A. Lee,**  
*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 99-13880 Filed 6-1-99; 8:45 am]

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#### **OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

##### **Office of Federal Procurement Policy; Small Business Administration**

##### **Final Policy Directive, Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program**

**AGENCIES:** Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP), and Small Business Administration (SBA), OMB.

**ACTION:** Notice of final policy directive.

**SUMMARY:** The OFPP and SBA are issuing a final policy directive and implementation plan to implement the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program established by the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-656), as amended, 15 U.S.C. 644 note. As a result of comments received following publication of an interim policy directive and implementation plan in the **Federal Register** on September 19, 1998 (63 FR 51981), we are revising the interim policy directive and implementation plan as indicated below. The changes to the implementation plan include:

1. We added a new subparagraph 7. in section III.A. to make clear that the very small business pilot program does not apply to any requirement that is subject to the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program.

2. We revised section IIIC.1. to allow participating agencies to apply the 40 percent small business goal separately for east coast non-nuclear ship repair and west coast non-nuclear ship repair.

3. We revised section IVA.5. to clarify that SBA has the authority to request quarterly reports from the Federal

Procurement Data System (FPDS) to monitor agencies' progress towards meeting their annual goals.

4. We revised section V.A.1 to delete reference to the solicitation date, but retained the requirement for agencies to distinguish awards made under the Program from other contract awards.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Linda G. Williams, Deputy Associate Administrator, (202) 395-3302.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **A. Background**

Congress established the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program in 1988 to test the effectiveness of eliminating small business set-asides in certain industries. (See Pub. L. 100-656, the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program Act of 1988 ("Act"), as amended, at 15 U.S.C. 644 note.) The Program has two primary objectives: (1) to demonstrate whether or not small businesses in certain industry groups can compete successfully on an unrestricted basis for Federal contracts, and (2) to demonstrate whether or not targeted goaling and management techniques can expand Federal contract opportunities for small businesses in industry categories where such opportunities historically have been low despite adequate numbers of small business contractors in the economy. A separate program to expand small business participation in the dredging industry, to be overseen by the Department of the Army, was also included in the Act. As originally established, the Demonstration Program extended through December 31, 1992.

To implement the Program, Congress in section 715(a) of the Act, authorized the OFPP Administrator to issue a test plan pursuant to section 15 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 413). In addition, in section 715(b), Congress directed the OFPP Administrator, in cooperation with the SBA Administrator, to issue a policy directive (binding on all participating agencies) to ensure consistent government-wide implementation of the Act in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).

After requesting public comment on an interim policy directive and test plan (53 FR 52889 (December 29, 1988)), OFPP implemented the Program by issuing a final policy directive and test plan dated August 31, 1989, 54 FR 37741 (September 12, 1989). In accordance with section 715(b) of the Act, the policy directive and test plan

were implemented in the FAR (48 CFR subpart 19.10).

In 1992, Congress in sections 201-203 of the Small Business Credit and Business Opportunity Enhancement Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-366; "1992 Act"), extended the Demonstration Program through September 30, 1996, and made amendments to the Program. To carry out these amendments, Congress in Section 202(i) of the 1992 Act directed the OFPP Administrator to issue conforming modifications to the test plan and policy directive. The conforming modifications were issued in an interim policy directive with request for comments (58 FR 19849, April 16, 1993), and were incorporated into the FAR (48 CFR subpart 19.10). In 1996, Congress extended the Demonstration Program for one year, through September 30, 1997. Public Law 104-208, Div. D, Title I, Sec. 108. In 1997, Congress also extended the aspect of the Program covering expansion of small business participation in the dredging industry. Public Law 105-18, Title II, Sec. 2002.

In December 1997, the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-135) was enacted into law ("1997 Act"). Sections 401-405 of the 1997 Act made the Demonstration Program permanent, and made further amendments to the Program.

In order to respond to the comments that we received on the April 1993 interim policy directive and test plan, and to make conforming changes to reflect the amendments made by the 1997 Act, we issued a newly revised interim OFPP policy directive and implementation plan on September 29, 1998. In addition to making conforming revisions to reflect the amendments made by Congress in the 1997 Act, we made non-substantive revisions in various parts of the document, which are intended to improve its clarity. For ease of reading, we reissued the interim policy directive and implementation plan in its entirety for comment.

##### **B. Public Comments**

OFPP received seven letters in response to the request for comments on the September 29, 1998, interim policy directive and implementation plan. A summary of the main issues and concerns raised in the comments follows:

1. *Comment:* SBA should change the small business size standard for the construction industry to make appropriate adjustments for inflation.

*Response:* SBA is reviewing the size standards for construction and will make adjustments for inflation if deemed necessary. SBA will publish