UCSB Contracts & Grants STAR Program

Class #6: Federal Purchasing, 2023
STAR – Class #6

Why am I here?
STAR – Class #6

Pre-Award:
• Small Business Subcontracting Plan (*Federal Contracts over $750k only*)
• Service or Subaward determination

Post-Award:
• Purchase orders for commercial goods/services
• Contracts for commercial goods/services
Procurement does NOT cover:

- Research/Subawards
- Real Estate
- Construction/Facilities Management
- Gift processing
- Travel & Entertainment/Form 5 advice
- Reimbursements
- Honoraria
- Relocations (personnel moving)
Agenda

- Pre-Award
  - Small Business Subcontracting
  - Services vs. Subawards

- Post-Award
  - Purchases – PO’s and Contracts
  - Funding: Award Types
  - Form A walkthrough
  - Price Reasonableness workshop
  - Sole Sources
  - Delegation + Signatures
Pre-Award:  
Small Business Subcontracting Plan
Federal Contract proposals

- When your proposal budget exceeds $750k...

- a Small Business Subcontracting plan is required.
Federal Contract proposals

Request a Plan in Procurement’s ServiceNow Catalog:

- **Small Business Sub-Contracting**
  Use this form to request a small business sub-contracting plan.

- **Procurement Help - Other**
  Use this form only for help not otherwise categorized.

- **Small Business First Policy**
  Use this form to request assistance or training on the UC Small Business First Policy.

- **Sustainable Purchasing**
  Use this form to request assistance or training on sustainable purchasing.
Pre-Award:
Services vs. Subaward
If dept./PI determines a budget line service is NOT a subaward:

Please send the SOW to contracts@bfs.ucsb.edu at the time of (or before) Proposal submission over to SPO
WHY?
Services (Vendor) vs. Research (Subaward)

This helps to ensure you will NOT experience a delay when submitting a service request in Gateway
Services (Vendor) vs. Research (Subaward)

Subrecipient vs. Contractor Determination Sheet
&
Subaward Determination Tip Sheet

www.bfs.ucsb.edu/procurement/forms

www.research.ucsb.edu/spo/subawards
Post-Award:
Purchasing Goods and Services
Federal Funds

When the OR/Sponsored Projects receives a Federal Award, Extramural Funds assigns a Fund number to the Account String.

In general, the federal fund blocks are:

21000-24999: Grants
25000-28999: Contracts
57xxx-59xxx - Flow-Down Grants and Contracts
Federal Funds

Those awards are governed by:

**Contracts:** Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR)

**Grants + Cooperative Agreements:** Office of Management and Budget ("Uniform Guidance")
## FAR vs. UG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR)</strong> - Contracts -</th>
<th><strong>Office of Management &amp; Budget (&quot;Uniform Guidance&quot;)</strong> - Grants and Coop Agmts -</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation of federal purchasing policy</td>
<td>Clearer requirements, <strong>using FAR as base</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefers use of Small Businesses</td>
<td>Allows small businesses as a source selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set of specific references to FAR, DFARS, and NFS need to be <strong>added to orders</strong></td>
<td>Set of <strong>specific provisions</strong> in the Uniform Guidance need to be added to orders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debarment required at $30k</td>
<td>Debarment required at all levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FFATA</strong> reporting at $30k</td>
<td>No FFATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract awards exceeding $700k <strong>require a Small Business Subcontracting Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>No Subcontracting</strong> plan requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does <strong>not allow “No Competition”</strong> as a sole source option;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FFATA** reporting at $30k and Debarment required at $30k in FAR are not mentioned in UG. UG prefers using FAR as the base for clearer requirements, with specific provisions added to orders. UG also requires Debarment at all levels, no FFATA reporting, and no subcontracting plan requirements for contract awards exceeding $700k.
ONR Audit Results

[Bar chart showing competition rate, price reasonableness, and overall documentation with comparison between 2013 and 2017.]
General Procurement Standards

We must maintain documentation to record the history of the procurement, including: rationale for method of procurement, contract selection type, contractor selection/rejection, and basis for contract price.
General Procurement Standards

How do we do that??

1. Departments:
   a) Collect quotes from multiple vendors
   b) Fill out Form A

2. Procurement:
   a) Fill out and attach a Federal Funds Checklist and Form D
   b) Ensure the supplier is not currently suspended or debarred
Federal Funding

Thresholds:

Federal:
- $10,000 (microcap) for Contracts
- $50,000 (microcap) for Grants + Coop Agmts.
- $250,000 (small purchase/formal competition)

BUT...
- California State: $100,000 (formal competition)
- "When procuring property and services under a Federal award, a state must follow the same policies and procedures it uses for procurements from its non-Federal funds."
Uniform Guidance

§200.320 – Methods of Procurement to be Followed – “The Claw”
Have your PI/Researcher/End User fill this out!

This document must be completed by the requesting Department for federally funded contract purchases ≥$10,000 (including tax and shipping), federally funded grant/cooperative agreement purchases ≥$50,000 (including tax and shipping), and non-federally funded purchases ≥$100,000 (excluding tax, but including shipping). Locations are strongly encouraged to seek competition even in cases where goods and/or services are exempt from the requirement to competitively bid.

Requisition #: ___________________________  Dollar Amount: ___________________________
Desired Supplier: ___________________________  Campus Department: ___________________________
Form A: Source Selection

The laws and regulations governing non-federal and federal are different!
Form A: Source Selection

- these are pre-existing, competitively bid agreements
  - examples from UCOP: Dell, Fisher Scientific, Marriott, Airgas
  - examples from UCSB: any bid conducted by Procurement for your department

- If you check this box, and fill in the Bid #, move on to Section VII

NOTE: UCOP Price Schedule agreements (price list agreement only, not competitively bid) can be used for Price Reasonableness, but not as a Source Selection option.
Form A: Source Selection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Funds:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑ New or Existing Formal Competitive Bid/Contract#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Competitive Proposals of &lt; $100K (Complete II, VII, VIII)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Sole Source (Complete III, IV, VII, VIII)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ Certified Small Business (Only &lt;$100K; Complete III, VII, VIII)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Allowable **under** $100k
- Your department collects quotes
- Backup quotes/email/price list **must** accompany the order as an attachment
Form A: Source Selection

Using the Sole Source option must meet one of the criteria on Page 2:

- New or Existing Formal Competitive Bid/Contract# [ ]
- Competitive Proposals of < $100K (Complete II, VII, VIII) [ ]
- Sole Source (Complete III, IV, VII, VIII) [ ]
- Certified Small Business (Only < $100K; Complete III, VII, VIII) [ ]

- One-of-a-kind [ ]
- Emergency [ ]
- Awarding Agency Approval [ ]
- No Competition (Grant and Cooperative Agreement Funds Only) [ ]
Form A: Source Selection

- Can be used if the supplier is certified in Sam.gov or UC’s Supplier IO
- FAR (contracts) allows this under Subparts 13 and 19.5
  - We must utilize small businesses where applicable
  - OMB (grants) has agreed to use FAR allowance for UCSB
- Price Reasonableness is required
Form A: Competitive Proposals

II. COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS: (Complete only if Federal Funds: Competitive Proposals is checked in Section I) Please use price or rate quotations from three (3) qualified sources (including your selected supplier). This section is required by 2 CFR § 200.320(a)(2)(i).

NOTE: If you are selecting the lowest-priced supplier, skip Sections III-VI. If selecting a supplier other than the lowest-priced supplier, write your justification in the text box below.

Please obtain a total of 3 informal, competitive quotes. Attach copies of quotes, and complete the following:

| Supplier A: | Price: |
| Supplier B: | Price: |
| Supplier C: | Price: |

*If selecting other than the lowest-priced supplier, write your justification here:

- ✔ Allowable under $100k
- ✔ Your department collects quotes, and fills out Sections III and VII
- ✔ Backup quotes/email/price list must accompany the order as an attachment
Form A: Price Reasonableness

III. PRICE REASONABLENESS: (Complete only if Sole Source, Small Business/DVBE, Professional/Personal Services is checked in Section I.) This section is required by the CA Public Contract Code 10508 and FAR provision Subpart 15.4.

1) How did you determine this is a fair and reasonable price? Base price reasonableness on comparable/similar quotes or compare the price to historical prices paid for the same or similar items. For the Small Business option, provide a brief narrative of the price comparison, and attach a copy of the comparison quote from another certified small business/DVBE.

2) (Complete only for Federal grant and cooperative agreement orders ≥ $250,000) Section III.1) above must be filled out, regardless of how the purchase was sourced (CFR §200.324(a)), and profit negotiation must be included in your narrative if such purchase has no price competition (CFR § 200.324(b)).

3) (Complete only for sole-sourced Federal non-commercial contract orders ≥ $750,000.) FAR subsection 15.403-4 requires Suppliers to submit certified cost or pricing data. Check box if the ‘UC Certified Cost or Pricing Data for Federal Contract Purchases’ form (located on UCOP website) is attached.

Required per government; ensuring that the price we pay under a federal award is fair and reasonable.
## Form A: Price Reasonableness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Selection</th>
<th>Price Reasonableness Required?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New or Existing Formal Bid/Contract</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitive Proposals</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sole Source</td>
<td>Yes, with strong narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Small Business</td>
<td>Yes, by using another certified small business quote.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Form A: Price Reasonableness

Acceptable substantiation for Price Reasonableness, in order of preference:

1. Price competition - comparison of quotes
2. UCOP, State, or GSA contract pricing, or comparison with prices under these existing contracts
3. Prior price history, or comparison with current or recent prices for the same or similar item(s). Reasonable inflation/market changes are allowable.
4. Market Research, and/or catalog or established price list (sales to the general public)
Form A: Price Reasonableness

- Whatever justification is used, we MUST be able to prove the statement with backup.

“Just make sure you can back up what they write with listings, price histories, or other data. **Back up is the key.** An auditor should not have to question anything. The buy should be able to stand alone. Usually just one item cannot do it alone.”
Price Reasonablenss
Workshop
To our knowledge, there are no other suppliers capable of providing rare earth metals at this purity, which is necessary for our experiments. For this reason, comparison with other suppliers is not possible. Further, I have significant experience with rare earth metals and find this price reasonable.
To our knowledge, there are no other suppliers capable of providing rare earth metals at this purity, which is necessary for our experiments. For this reason, comparison with other suppliers is not possible. Further, I have significant experience with rare earth metals and find this price reasonable. The raritarium we’re purchasing on this order is $54.99 per metric ton. While this is the only provider of raritarium, we can demonstrate price reasonableness in the attached previous purchase orders from this vendor in 2014 and 2015, where the price was $52.50 and $53.05 per metric ton, respectively.
Sole Sourcing
These are the only allowable sole source justifications per the FAR and Uniform Guidance.
Form A: Sole Sourcing

- Necessity of propriety item which must be compatible with existing equipment or systems and which is available only from the original manufacturer.

- Necessity of possessing specific features essential for the completion of the task or project at hand, and which are available from only one source in the world.

- Change of brands or manufacturers would compromise the continuity and integrity of the project.
Form A: Sole Sourcing

- Not to be used in lieu of time management
- Not purchasing now would result in bodily harm
- National emergency
- Achieve industrial mobilization

Federal Funds
- One of a kind
- Emergency
- Awarding Agency Approval
- No Competition (Grant Funds Only)
Form A: Sole Sourcing

- Specific email approval from your awarding agency officer authorizing “noncompetitive proposals” – **NOT** a sole source

- Avoids the competitive bid and sole source requirements

- A line item on the budget/proposal naming this equipment or vendor does **NOT** constitute automatic Awarding Agency Approval.
Dear xxx,

Per the terms of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200 (most commonly referred to as Uniform Guidance), the Awarding Agency can authorize noncompetitive proposals as outlined in 200.320 (f)(3).

UCSB, as the Awardee, wishes to source directly with the vendor _____, for the equipment ____. This vendor and the specific equipment was identified in our Proposal as necessary because the other vendors could not provide the following specs: ______. UCSB is requesting your approval to purchase directly with this vendor without going out into the open market via formal, competitive bid. Going out for formal, competitive bid at this point would not identify a different vendor, and, it would reduce our performance time to complete the research.

Here is the exact language in the Uniform Guidance I am referring to:

PART 200-UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS
§200.320 Methods of procurement to be followed.
(f) Procurement by noncompetitive proposals. Procurement by noncompetitive proposals is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

(3) The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the non-Federal entity

Please respond with your answer as to whether or not you can approve this request.

Thank you,
Form A: Sole Sourcing

- Per Uniform Guidance (Grants + Coop Agmts only): “(4) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.”

- You must prove via email or written communication other vendors had been contacted, and declined to participate/provide pricing, and attach to requisition
Form A: Sole Sourcing

Detail the unique circumstances and/or specifications that make this the only supplier capable of meeting your requirement and why other suppliers were not selected (i.e. specifications that didn’t meet performance requirements) and include documentation.

NOTE: Pre-work with the selected supplier to customize the equipment, thereby excluding competition, is not an allowable justification. Price and brand names are not allowable justifications. For Federal funds only, geographical preferences are not an allowable justification.

✓ Be VERY specific
✓ There is no such thing as “too much information”, …but there certainly is too little.
Form A: Sole Sourcing

Not-allowable:

- Departmental *preference* for a specific supplier
- **Budgetary** considerations or constraints
- Historical *precedence or a claim* of best price. (Only current competitive bidding in the open market substantiates best possible pricing.)
- **Pre-work** with the selected supplier to customize the equipment, thereby excluding competition.
- Geographical preferences
Form A:

SECTIONS V & VI
(Prof Svs & Unusual Urgency)

- Not applicable to federal funds
Form A: Conflict of Interest

VII. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT (REQUIRED): To the best of my knowledge, no UC employee or near relative of a UC employee is the supplier or holds more than a 10% ownership or controlling interest in the supplier OR the UC employee is exempt because he/she has teaching or research responsibilities and the goods or service is not commercial. I am the individual who has gathered and provided this detailed information and any further questions regarding these details can be directed to my attention.

I certify that this purchase will not present a conflict of interest as defined by university policy and that I have received no income, gifts or gratuities from or have an investment in this supplier. Agree □

If you do not agree with the above statement, please provide an explanation:

§200.318 General procurement standards.

- We must monitor the actions of its employees who select vendors
- We must disclose any financial or other interest when selecting vendors
- We cannot ask for or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from vendors
Form A: Representation

VIII. **REPRESENTATION (REQUIRED):** By signing below, I hereby certify the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dept. Responsible Party Signature: ____________________________ Date: ________________

Dept. Responsible Party Name: ____________________________

Email / Phone: ____________________________

- This is a certification
- End user/Researcher/MSO should sign
Form A: best practices
Best Practices

- Utilize Informal quotes (obtaining multiple quotes) wherever possible;
  - competition should be sought with all federal orders
  - this will speed up the process of your order.

- If at all possible, use a UCOP Agreement Primary or Co-Primary (not Price Schedule) supplier;
  - This will also speed up your order
  - This is encouraged by the Funding Agency.
Best Practices

- If using a Sole Source, be sure to **answer the question completely**.
  - We are looking for specific features or parameters to explain why this is the **only vendor** that can provide the purchase.

- Remember more information is better, the more scientific specifications added, the faster the review will go.
Delegation + Signatures
Delegation:

Who Can Sign/Approve a Contract or Quote/Proposal?

- A contract signed by anyone without delegation of authority is void, but the signatory might also be personally liable for the contract obligations.

Contracts include: hotel room blocks, catering, facility rentals, etc.
Delegation:

If vendor asks for a signature:

- Our Purchase Order is a contract:
  - A vendor’s quote is an offer
  - Our purchase order is an acceptance
  - Together, these create a Contract

- If your vendor is asking for a signature, please ask them to accept a Purchase Order instead. *It will be faster!*
Our website has helpful information, FAQ’s, and policies

bfs.ucsb.edu/procurement/buying-goods-and-services/federal-funds

contracts@bfs.ucsb.edu
THANK YOU