

Army Acquisition Reform Newsletter



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Army Acquisition Reform Web Site: <http://acqnet.sarda.army.mil/acqref/default.htm>
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AMCOM Acquisition Center's Quest for Paperless Contracting

The Acquisition Center (AC) is continuing a quest to convert contracting from a paper-based system to a digital operation in order to reduce cycle time and operational costs. To achieve this goal, we formed a Paperless Contracting Integrated Product Team comprised of our Program Executive Office (PEO's) customers, the Deputy for Systems Acquisition (DSA), the Integrated Data Environment Management Office, the Corporate Information Center, and the Acquisition Center. The team examined current business practices and received ideas from other commands.

Our technical support personnel developed an application called the Acquisition File Transfer Utility to allay security concerns associated with email while facilitating electronic transmission. This proposed solution underwent pilot testing with participation from each of our PEOs and DSAs as well as contracting offices that supported these customers. The application is now available for use by our major items teams and their customers. During the pilot testing, users of this application identified 11 ideas for improvement which are currently being programmed. At the conclusion of the programming effort, these changes will be tested by users and provided to the workforce (target date: spring FY 00). There is a feedback feature in this application which facilitates sharing additional prospective ideas for enhancements. Another integral feature of this application is the security protection through use of a secure web site that encrypts data as it is being transmitted through a 128-bit secure socket layer.

There are other initiatives that facilitate the conversion to paperless contracting. These include posting documents to our AC homepage. Solicitations are also posted to the AC homepage if the contract specialist elects this option. For technical data packages that are competitive in nature, a link is provided to facilitate prospective contractors in making informed decisions on competing on individual actions. These solicitations are also linked to the Army Single Face to Industry, a web site that displays all solicitations throughout the Army. Search features permit prospective offerors to select classes of items or locations in which they have an interest. In addition to contracts and solicitations, synopses are also displayed on the AC homepage. Coming soon to PADDs is the Vendor Response System which will permit prospective offerors to electronically submit proposals to the AC. This program will sort offers to facilitate streamlined processing within the AC.

If you have questions or interests on any of these topics, our paperless contracting representatives are Debbie Childress, e-mail: dchildre, and Kathy Mellgren, e-mail: mellgren-kh.