



**FAR FACTS  
SEASON 2023, EPISODE THREE  
FAR PARTS 5 AND 6**

1. The policy rationale for the publication of contract actions is to (1) increase competition, (2) broaden industry participation, and (3) assist small business concerns. **FAR 5.002.**
2. The Government is required to publish notices at the Governmentwide point of entry (GPE), which can be found at <https://sam.gov/content/home>. **FAR 5.003.**
3. Many agencies have their own websites where they publicize contracting actions, such as <https://interact.gsa.gov>.
4. Contract modifications issued pursuant to the Changes clause or administrative modification do not need to be publicized. **FAR 5.001.**
5. An award of a government contract to a single contractor government is required to be published only if (i) the value of the contract exceeds \$25,000 **and** (ii) the contract is likely to result in the award of subcontracts. **FAR 5.301.**
6. Awards of multiple award contracts (i.e., GWACs, MACs, and Federal Supply Schedule Contracts) must be published at [www.contractdirectory.gov/contractordirectory](http://www.contractdirectory.gov/contractordirectory) within 10 days of award. **FAR 5.601.**
7. **FAR 5.207** lists the content required in the publication of a synopsis.
8. For proposed contract actions, the Government must publicize the announcement of a solicitation at least 15 days before the solicitation comes out. However, there is no 15-day rule for commercial-item solicitations, and the contracting officer may establish a shorter period for issuance of the solicitation. **FAR 5.203(a).**
9. For proposed contract actions estimated to be greater than \$25,000 but less than the simplified acquisition threshold (\$250,000), the contracting officer should consider the totality of the circumstances—such as the complexity, commerciality, availability, and urgency—when establishing the solicitation response time. **FAR 5.203(b).**
10. Contracting officers must publish awards larger than \$4.5 million at 5pm (D.C. time) on the day of contract award. **FAR 5.303.**
11. Except for the acquisition of commercial products or commercial services, agencies shall allow at least a 30-day response time for receipt of bids or proposals from the date of issuance of a

solicitation, if the proposed contract action is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold. **FAR 5.203(c)**.

12. A subcontractor or supplier may, under certain circumstances, use the GPE to publicize subcontract opportunities that have a value in excess of \$15,000. **FAR 5.206(a)(2)**.
13. The Government is required to publicize justifications and approvals (J&A) for other than full and open competitions (including limited source justifications and justifications to not provide for fair opportunity to compete for task orders). **FAR 5.406**. However, such J&As do not need to be publicized until **AFTER** contract award. **FAR 6.305**.
14. Task and Delivery Order competitions under indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (“ID/IQ”) contracts are not subject to FAR Part 6 competition requirements. **FAR 6.001(f)**. They are subject to **FAR 16.5**.
15. Eleven out of the 14 pages that constitute Part 6 of the FAR (CCH version) address situations when “full and open competition” is **NOT** required to award a federal government contract and how to properly justify it.
16. A contracting officer is not permitted to use the “Only one responsible source” exception to FAR Part 6 full and open competition requirements if another exception otherwise exists. **FAR 6.302-1(b)**.
17. A contracting officer is not permitted to use the “Unusual and compelling urgency” exception to FAR Part 6 if the urgent need is due to the Government’s lack of advance planning. **FAR 6.301(c)**.
18. Sole source contracts justified by the “Unusual and compelling urgency” exception to FAR Part 6 may not exceed one year, unless the head of the agency entering into the contract determines that exceptional circumstances apply.” **FAR 6.302-2(d)(ii)**.
19. All exceptions to FAR Part 6 free and open competition requirements are required to be supported by a written “Justification and Approval”, except for the “Public interest” exception. The Public interest exception needs to be supported by a “Determination and Finding.” **FAR 6.302-7**.
20. Unless otherwise addressed by agency procedures, a contracting officer is permitted to award a contract on a sole source basis without review and approval of another agency official provided the contract has a value that does not exceed \$750,000. **FAR 6.304**.
21. Justifications and Approvals for sole source contract awards are required to be published through the Government-wide point of entry after award and remain posted for a minimum of 30 days. **FAR 6.305**.
22. Advocates for competition are charged with responsibilities to not only promote competition but also to promote the acquisition of commercial items. **FAR 6.502(a)**.