

# **Subcontract Management From A to Z:**

Session 4: Small Business Subcontracting

April 13, 2023

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#### Overview of the Series

- January 12: Federal Subcontracting 101 (An Overview)
- <u>February 9</u>: Joint Ventures and Teaming Agreements
- March 9: Small Business Programs
- April 13: Small Business Subcontracting
- May 11: Contractor Purchasing Systems
- <u>June 8</u>: Awarding Subcontracts
- September 14: Flow Downs and Terms & Conditions
- October 12: Subcontract Pricing
- November 9: Subcontract Management and Administration



## <u>Agenda</u>

- Small Business Subcontracting
  - Goals
  - Plans
  - Post-Award Reporting + Compliance Reviews
- Limits on Small Businesses Subcontracting Work
  - Limitations on Subcontracting
  - Ostensible Subcontractor Rule
  - Non-Manufacturer Rule



## Small Business Subcontracting



**NOW** 





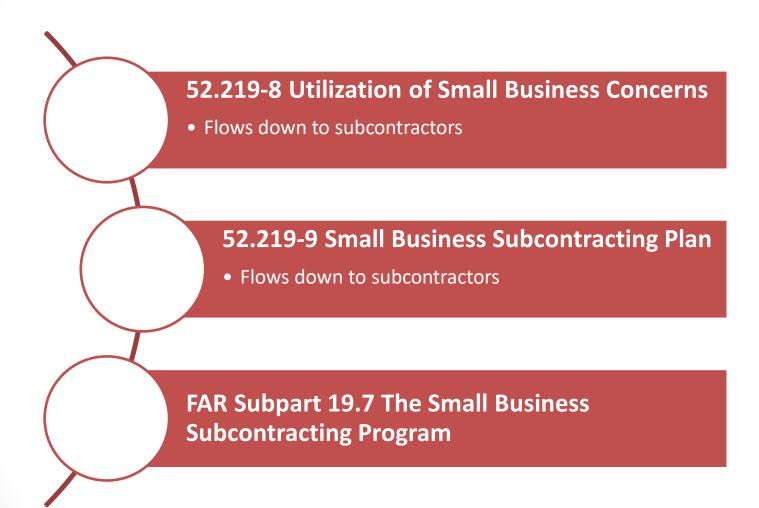


# 1. Small Business Subcontracting





# Small Business Subcontracting: Regulations





# Small Business Subcontracting: FAR 52.219-8

"It is the policy of the United States that small business concerns, veteranowned small business concerns, servicedisabled veteran-owned small business concerns, HUBZone small business concerns, small disadvantaged business concerns, and women-owned small business concerns shall have the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in performing contracts let by any Federal agency, including contracts and subcontracts for subsystems, assemblies, components, and related services for major systems."

"The Contractor hereby agrees to carry out this policy in the awarding of subcontracts to the fullest extent consistent with efficient contract performance. The Contractor further agrees to cooperate in any studies or surveys as may be conducted by the United States Small Business

Administration or the awarding agency of the United States as may be necessary to determine the extent of the Contractor's compliance with this clause."



#### **Small Business Goals**

Type of Firm			Goal	Measure of Contract Awards
Small Businesses		27%	23%	Dollar value of prime contract awards
Small Disadvantaged Businesses	15%	11%	5%	Dollar value of prime and subcontract awards
(criteria for social and economic disadvantage apply)				
Women-Owned Small Businesses		4.6%	5%	Dollar value of prime and subcontract awards
Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses	4.4%	4.4%	3%	Dollar value of prime and subcontract awards
HUB (Historically Underutilized Business) Zone Sma	II Busine	2.5%	3%	Dollar value of prime and subcontract awards

2022: Biden Goal

FY2021 Actuals

President Biden has issued several Executive Orders that aim to promote small disadvantaged businesses, in particular.



## Small Business Goals (cont'd)

- Every year the U.S. Small Business Administration issues a Government-Wide Small Business Procurement Scorecard
  - The annual "grade" is based on:
    - 50%: Prime contracting
    - 20% Subcontracting
    - 10%: Comparison of the Number of Small Business Prime Contractors
    - 20%: OSDBU Peer Review on Agency Compliance with Section 15(k) of the Small Business Act (21 requirements)
  - FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act expands reporting requirements for the Scorecard to include percentage of sole-source awards and set-aside contracts for the various socioeconomic small business programs (SDVOSB, WOSB, HUBZone, 8(a))



### Small Business Goals (cont'd)

FY 2021\* Scorecard Subcontracting Overview

	FY 2021 Subcontracts Goal	FY 2021 Subcontracts	Increase/Decrease from FY 2020 (in total percentage point change)
Small Business	29.36% 3		-1.59%
SDVOSB	3%	2.25%	+0.11%
Small Disadvantaged Business	5%	5.24%	+0.04%
WOSB	5%	5.25%	+0.38%
HUBZone	3%	1.6%	-0.05%



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## Small Business Goals (cont'd)

- But the Scorecard doesn't tell the full story...
  - Subcontracting data is generally drawn from eSRS.gov, the government's Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System
  - eSRS.gov only captures some (not all) subcontract spending
  - So, in reality, subcontracting figures are likely higher, but there's no way to know by how much





# Small Business Subcontracting Plans

- If contract (base year + options) is expected to exceed
   \$750,000 (\$1.5M for construction), large business prime must have a small business subcontracting plan
  - Does not apply to prime contracts without subcontracting possibilities or contracts performed entirely outside the United States
- Each agency has unique subcontracting goals
- The contracting officer may provide subcontracting "goals" for the prime contractor that the agency is hoping to meet





There are two types of small business subcontracting plans (52.219-9):

#### **Commercial Plan**

- One subcontracting plan covering all of contractor's contracts for that fiscal year
- Offeror's total projected sales (in dollars) and the total value of projected subcontracts, including all allowed indirect costs (see next slide for exceptions)

#### **Individual Plan**

- Contract-specific plan
- Total dollars planned to be subcontracted on that specific contract
- Indirect costs on common/joint purposes may be allocated on a prorated basis



#### Individual Plan

- Covers the entire contract period (including options)
- Goals are based on the planned subcontracting opportunities for the specific contract
- May be tailored to implement or reference a Master Subcontracting Plan
  - 3-year periods
  - Reviewed/approved by Contracting Officer
  - No changes without CO approval
  - Master Subcontracting Plans do not have goals; goals are typically implemented via individual subcontracting plans
- Individual/Master plans are less practical if a company has more than a few prime contracts covered by FAR 19.7



#### Commercial Plan

- Preferred plan for commercial products and commercial services
- Applies to commercial and government business
- Contractor includes in subcontracting goals and reports all indirect costs, except for:
  - Employee salaries and benefits
  - ✓ Petty cash payments
  - ✓ Depreciation
  - ✓ Interest
  - ✓ Income taxes
  - ✓ Property taxes
  - ✓ Lease payments
  - ✓ Bank fees
  - ✓ Fines, claims, and dues
  - ✓ Philanthropic contributions

- ✓ Original equipment manufacturer relationships during warranty periods (negotiated up front with the product)
- ✓ Utilities and other services purchased from a municipality or an entity solely authorized by the municipality to provide those services in a particular geographical region



- Note: a small business subcontracting plan is <u>NOT</u> required <u>from subcontractors</u> if:
  - X Prime contract contains FAR 52.212-5, Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders-Commercial Products and Commercial Services
  - X Subcontractor provides a commercial product or commercial service subject to FAR 52.244-6, Subcontracts for Commercial Products and Commercial Services, under a prime contract

## Subcontracting Plan Requirements

What does the subcontracting plan include? FAR 19.704; 52.219-9(d)

Model Small Business Subcontracting Plan

#### SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN OUTLINE (MODEL)

(For information purposes only. The following outline meets the minimum requirements of Section 8(d) and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 19.7. It is intended to be used as a guideline. It is not intended to replace any existing corporate plan, which may be more extensive. If assistance is needed to locate small business sources, contact the Office of Enterprise Development at 18th and F Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20405 (Phone (202) 501-1021 or Fax (202) 208-5938.)

#### I. <u>IDENTIFICATION DATA</u>:

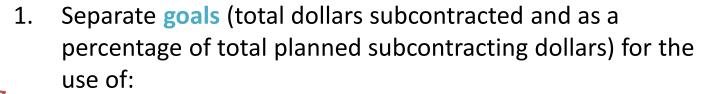
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Addres	SS:	
Date P	repared:	Solicitation Number:
Item/S	ervice:	
Estima	ted Contract Dollar	alue:
Individ	lual Contract Period	
	Base:	Option:
Comm	ercial Plan Period: _	
п.	TYPE OF PLAN	(Check only one).
	applies to a spec and purchasing for common or j	ONTRACT PLAN: Covers the entire contract period (including option periods), fic contract, and has goals which are based on the company's planned subcontracting a support of the performance of a specific contract, except that indirect costs incurred int purposes may be allocated on a prorated basis to the contract.
	the required ele contract plans p	ONTRACT PLAN INCORPORATING MASTER PLAN: Master plans containing all ents of an individual contract plan, except goals, may be incorporated into individual oviding the master plan has been approved. A master plan must be approved once every e incorporated into a contract with specific goals, it is valid for the life of the contract.
	the-shelf commo Plan is done an awarding a con every additional	PRODUCTS PLAN: Used when the company sells large quantities of commercial off- ities to many Government agencies. Goals are negotiated on a company-wide basis. adly, effective during the company's fiscal year, approved by the first Federal agency act for commercial products during the contractor's fiscal year, and is applicable to Federal contract for commercial products awarded to that contractor during the fiscal year. A new plan must be obtained and approved 30 days prior to the expiration in.

#### III. GOALS:

(For information purposes only: FAR 19.704(a)(1) requires separate percentage goals for using small, HUBZone small, small disadvantaged, women-owned small, veteran-owned small, and service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns as subcontractors; and a statement of the total dollars planned to be subcontracted to small, HUBZone small, small disadvantaged, women-owned small, veteran-owned small, and service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns. NOTE: The dollar amounts planned for subcontracting to SB, to HZSB, to SDB, to WOSB, to SDVOSB must be expressed as percentages of total subcontracting dollars as shown below.)









- VOSBs/SDVOSBs
- HUBZone
- 8(a)/SDBs
- WOSBs
- Includes all subcontracts that contribute to contract performance, and may include proportionate share of products/services that are normally allocated as indirect costs
- ANC and Indian tribes: counted as small business and small disadvantaged businesses, regardless of size or SBA certification status





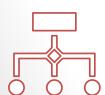
2. Total dollars planned to be subcontracted (individual plan) or the contractor's total projected sales (commercial + government) in dollars, and the total value of projected subcontracts to support the sales (commercial plan), with breakdown of total dollars planned to be subcontracted to each type of small business



 Principle types of supplies and services to be subcontracted, and an identification of the types planned for subcontracting to each type of small business



4. Method used to develop subcontracting goals



- 5. Method used to identify **potential sources** (e.g., existing company source lists, SAM, trade associations, etc.)
  - May rely SAM as accurate representation of a business's size and status
  - But using SAM as a source list isn't enough; still must pursue outreach, assistance, counseling, or publicizing subcontracting opportunities



### **SheppardMullin**



6. Description of how **indirect costs** will be used in establishing subcontracting goals,



7. Name of contractor employee who will administer the subcontracting program and a description of his/her duties



8. Efforts the contractor will take to assure each type of small business will have an equitable opportunity to compete for subcontracts



O. Assurances the contractor will **flow-down** 52.219-8, "Utilization of Small Business Concerns," in all subcontracts that offer further subcontracting opportunities, and that contractor will **require all non-small subcontractors** receiving awards above \$750,000 with subcontracting possibilities to adopt a subcontracting plan



#### 10. Assurances the contractor will:

Cooperate in any required studies/surveys

Submit periodic reports

Include order-level
subcontracting data for IDIQ
contracts with individual
subcontracting plans where
contract is for multiple
agencies

Submit required reports and ensure subcontractors submit required reports using eSRS

Provide required information to subcontractors with subcontracting plans

Require subcontractors
with subcontracting
plans to provide
required information



11. Description of the types of records the contractor will maintain to document/implement procedures



- Checklists
- Source lists
- Description of the offeror's efforts to locate each type of small business
- Description of award incentives
- And more...

#### .... You must have records of:

Source lists, guides, and other data to identify each type of small business

Organizations contacted in an attempt to locate each type of small business

Each subcontract solicitation for award above simplified acquisition threshold:

- Whether each type of small business was solicited (if not, why not)
- If applicable, the reason award was not made to a small business

Outreach efforts to contact trade ass'ns, business dev't orgs, conference and trade fairs, and veterans service orgs

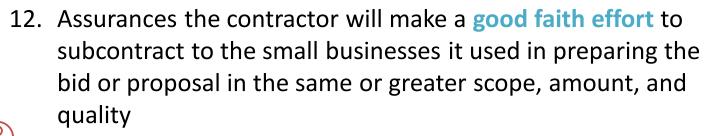
Internal guidance & encouragement to buyers through workshops, seminars, trainings, etc.; & monitoring performance to evaluate compliance

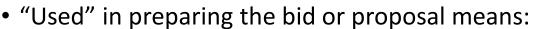
Individual plans only:
Records to support award
data submitted to the gov't,
including the
name/address/business size
of each subcontractor



The government is **NOT**a matchmaking agency
— you're expected to
find small businesses on
your own and
DOCUMENT,
DOCUMENT,
OCCUMENT your
outreach efforts







- Contractor identified the small business as a subcontractor in the bid or proposal or subcontracting plan to furnish certain supplies or perform part of the subcontract; or
- Contractor used the small business's pricing, cost information, or technical expertise in preparing the bid or proposal and there is written evidence of an intent/understanding the small business will be awarded a subcontract for the related work upon Contract award
- Not merely responding to a request for a quote



#### Assurances the contractor will:



13. Provide the CO with a written explanation if offeror fails to acquire the goods/services used in preparing the bid or proposal



- 14. Not prohibit a subcontractor from discussing any material matter pertaining to payment or utilization of a subcontractor with the CO
  - See also FAR 52.203-6, Restrictions on Subcontractor Sales to the Government



15. Pay its small business subcontractors on time and in accordance with the subcontract's terms and conditions, and notify the CO when the prime makes either a reduced or untimely payment



- Contractor's obligations to effectively implement the plan (to the extent consistent with efficient contract performance)
  - 1. Provide assistance to small businesses:
    - Arrange solicitations
    - Allow time for the preparation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules to facilitate the participation of small businesses
    - If a contractor's lists of potential small businesses are excessively long, contractor must make reasonable effort to give all such small businesses an opportunity to compete over a period of time
  - 2. Provide adequate and timely consideration of the potentialities of each type of small business in all "make-or-buy" decisions
  - 3. Counsel and discuss subcontracting opportunities with each type of small business

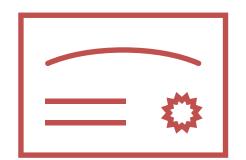


- 4. Confirm a subcontractor representing itself as a HUBZone small business is SBA-certified by accessing SAM or the Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS)
- 5. Provide notice to subcontractors regarding penalties and remedies for misrepresenting small business size or status to obtain a subcontract
- 6. For competitive subcontracts above the simplified acquisition threshold (\$250,000) in which a small business received a small business preference, prior to award but after selection of awardee, the contractor must notify each unsuccessful small business offeror of the apparent awardee and whether it is a small business
- 7. Assign the appropriate NAICS code to each subcontract



#### **Small Business Certifications**

- Company must be small on the date it certifies its size for the subcontract
  - If a company qualifies as "small" for a procurement, it is generally considered small for the life of the contract
- A prime contractor may generally accept a subcontractor's written representations or SAM representations of its size and socioeconomic status with its offer if they are presented as current, accurate, and complete as of the date of the subcontract offer
  - Independent certifications of WOSB or SDVOSB may not be required
- A prime acting in good faith is not liable for a subcontractor's misrepresentations regarding its size or socioeconomic status





## Post-Award Reporting Requirements

- Contractor must submit Individual Subcontract Report (ISR) for individual plans and/or Summary Subcontract Report (SSR) for individual or commercial plan via eSRS.gov
- Contractor will report information on subcontracts to small businesses, including VOSB/SDVOSBs, HUBZone, 8(a)/SDBs, and WOSBs
  - NASA only: also report Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions







# Post-Award Reporting Requirements (cont'd)

- Individual Subcontracting Report
  - Submitted semi-annually during performance for periods ending March 31 and September 30 as well as within 30 days of contract completion
    - If CO rejects report, the contractor has 30 days to correct it
  - CO acknowledges/rejects prime's ISR
  - Prime acknowledges/rejects subcontractor's ISR







# Post-Award Reporting Requirements (cont'd)

#### Summary Subcontract Report

- Submitted annually for previous fiscal year
- For <u>individual</u> plans:
  - If CO rejects report, the contractor has 30 days to correct it
  - Agency awarding the prime contracts can acknowledge/reject SSR
- For <u>commercial</u> plan:
  - Where contractor is performing work for multiple agencies, the contractor must specify the percentage of dollars attributable to each agency
  - CO who approved commercial plan can acknowledge/reject SSR



# Post-Award Reporting Requirements (cont'd)

- Subcontractors that are required to have subcontracting plans must also submit information using eSRS
- CO will acknowledge or reject reports
- There is a pending proposed rule on how primes will receive credit for subcontracts lower than the first-tier that is a decade in the making but it has been criticized as lacking clarity on what subs are covered and who is required to submit the data...







## **Compliance Reviews**

- SBA or DCMA evaluate whether contractors comply with their subcontracting plans (as well as to any Corrective Action Plan in place, if applicable) as well as subcontracting rules, processes, and procedures
  - Compliance reviews are random, not on a set schedule
  - Contractor receives at least 90-days notice before a compliance review
  - Contractor receives a rating regarding level of compliance (or noncompliance)
    - Exceptional, Very Good, Satisfactory, Marginal or Unsatisfactory
    - Contractor must provide a written corrective action plan for a Marginal or Unsatisfactory rating
  - Follow-up review is conducted within 6-8 months to see if the contractor implemented SBA's recommendations
- 13 C.F.R. 125.3(f)







# Compliance: Consequences



- May affect future awards; contracting officer will consider the contractor's compliance with its subcontracting plans as part of determining the responsibility of the offeror
- Failure to make a "good faith effort" to comply with a small business subcontracting plan is a material breach of the contract and may:
  - Be considered in any past performance evaluation of the contractor and/or
  - Result in the government assessing liquidated damages. FAR 52.219-16,
     Liquidated Damages Subcontracting Plan.
- FAR 19.705-7, Compliance with the Subcontracting Plan, explains "good faith effort":
  - Totality of the circumstances assessment
  - Failure to meet goals is not, alone, a failure to make a good faith effort
  - Takes into account unavailability of anticipated sources or unreasonable prices



# **Compliance: Good Faith Indicators**

<b>√</b>	Breaking out work to be subcontracted into economically feasible units, as appropriate, to facilitate small business participation	<b>√</b>	Soliciting small business concerns as early in the acquisition process as practicable to allow them sufficient time to submit a timely offer for the subcontract
<b>✓</b>	Conducting market research to identify potential small business subcontractors through all reasonable means, such as searching SAM, posting notices or solicitations on SBA's SUBNet, participating in business matchmaking events, and attending preproposal conferences	✓	Providing interested small businesses with adequate and timely information about plans, specifications, and requirements for performance of the prime contract to assist them in submitting a timely offer for the subcontract
<b>✓</b>	Negotiating in good faith with interested small businesses	✓	Directing small businesses that need additional assistance to SBA
<b>✓</b>	Assisting interested small businesses in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, required insurance, necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or services	✓	Utilizing the available services of small business associations; local, state, and Federal small business assistance offices; and other organizations
<b>√</b>	Participating in a formal mentor-protégé program with one or more small business protégés that results in developmental assistance to the protégés	✓	Although failing to meet the subcontracting goal in one socioeconomic category, exceeding the goal by an equal or greater amount in one or more of the other categories





## Compliance: Failure to Show Good Faith

Failure to attempt through market research to identify, Failure to provide the contracting officer with a contact, solicit, or consider for contract award small written explanation if the contractor fails to business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled acquire articles, equipment, supplies, services, veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, or materials or obtain the performance small disadvantaged business, or women-owned small of construction work as described business concerns, through all reasonable means including in 19.704(a)(12) outreach, industry days, or the use of Federal systems such as SBA's Dynamic Small Business Search or SUBNet systems Failure to designate and maintain a company official to Failure to submit an acceptable ISR, or the SSR, administer the subcontracting program and monitor and using the eSRS, or as provided in agency enforce compliance with the plan regulations, by the report due dates specified in 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan Failure to maintain records or otherwise demonstrate Adoption of company policies or documented procedures that have as their objectives the procedures adopted to comply with the plan including frustration of the objectives of the plan subcontracting flowdown requirements Failure to pay small business subcontractors in accordance Failure to correct substantiated findings from Federal subcontracting compliance reviews or with the terms of the contract with the prime contractor participate in subcontracting plan management training offered by the Government Falsifying records of subcontract awards to small business concerns



# 2. Limits on Small Businesses Subcontracting Work





## Limitations on Subcontracting



- Generally, small business prime contractors awarded set-aside contracts must perform the majority of the work
   For set-aside supplies and/or services contracts:
  - (1) above the simplified acquisition threshold (currently \$250,000) or
  - (2) specifically set-aside for a socioeconomic category of small business (regardless of value)
- The small business must not pay more than 50% of the amount paid by the government to companies that are not "similarly situated": the small business must retain at least 50% of the amount paid by the government
  - Similarly situated = same small business status as the prime (i.e., another WOSB, SDVOSB, small business, etc.) that is small under the NAICS code the prime assigns to the subcontract
- 52.219-14, Limitations on Subcontracting



## Limitations on Subcontracting (cont'd)

- Contract for supplies
  - 50% does not include material costs in calculation
- Services
  - 50% of services performed
- Contract for services and supplies:
  - 50% limitation applies to dominant portion (per applicable NAICS code)
  - Services NAICS code = 50% limitation on services portion, no limitation on supply portion
  - Supply NAICS code = 50% limitation on supplies portion, no limitation on services portion
- Construction: small business will not pay more than 85% of amount paid by the government, excluding material costs, to non-similarly situated subcontractors
- Construction by special trade contractors: small business will not pay more than 75% of amount paid by the government, excluding material costs, to non-similarly situated subcontractors



#### Ostensible Subcontractor Rule

- On services contracts, a small business can't be merely a "front" or "pass-through" for a large business subcontractor
- Ostensible Subcontractor Rule: a subcontractor is "ostensible" when:
  - (1) it is the entity that is actually performing the "primary and vital" contract requirements and/or
  - (2) the prime is unusually reliant upon the subcontractor
- In that case, the prime and sub are deemed affiliated
  - Ostensible Subcontractor Rule impacts size eligibility...





## Ostensible Subcontractor Rule (cont'd)

- SBA looks at the entire relationship between prime and sub, including:
  - ✓ Proposal terms (contract management, technical responsibilities, and the percentage of subcontracted work)
  - ✓ Agreements between the parties (bonding assistance, teaming agreement, etc.)
  - ✓ If subcontractor is the incumbent but ineligible because of its size
- 13 C.F.R. § 121.103(h)(2)



#### Non-Manufacturer Rule

- FAR 52.219-33, Nonmanufacturer Rule
- Small contractors must supply their own products
  - But the NMR offers an exception...
- Small business may supply product of another U.S. small business manufacturer unless there's a waiver allowing small to provides products of a large
  - SBA may waive requirement if there are no small business manufacturers
  - Two types of waivers
    - Class waivers (specific NAICS and product code)
      - Any individual or organization may request
      - Request should be in writing
    - Individual waivers (solicitation-specific)
      - Only contracting officer may request waiver





#### **Conclusion**

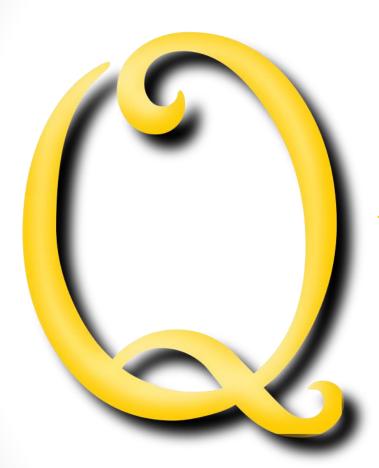




#### **Best Practices**

- √ Ensure that your plan is known and managed
  - Who's in charge of your plan?
  - Who's in charge of submitting reports?
- √ Written policies/procedures can help demonstrate good faith compliance
  - Market research is critical
  - Refresh the market research on a regular basis
- ✓ Ensure that small business subcontracting requirements are flowed down
  - 52.219-8, Utilization of Small Business Concerns (mandatory flowdown)
  - 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan (**not** a mandatory flowdown)
- √Support your small business subcontractors, but do not control them
  - Control = Affiliation
  - Affiliation = (Potential) False Certification
  - False Certification = \$\$\$
- ✓ Ensure that proposals do not describe an Ostensible Subcontractor situation
- √ Carefully monitor workshare allocations on small business set-asides





uestions?

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## Next Session on May 11, 2023

### Session 5: Contractor Purchasing Systems





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