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The Acquisition Gateway, built by GSA, helps federal government buyers from all agencies act as one acquisition community. Our goal is to help make government acquisition great.

REGION 4 FEDERAL ACQUISITION SERVICE CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

# What our clients say...



## National IT Commodity Program

### Open Market for USCENTCOM

**Challenge:** United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) is one of nine Unified Combatant Commands (UCC) of the U.S. military. It is responsible for U.S. security interests in twenty nations, stretching through the Arabian Gulf region into Central Asia. USCENTCOM required a new contract to bring mission critical software back online to support six UCCs. The previous support services were placed on hold, because the client's contracting office was experiencing a transition.

This critical contract provides a program that can rapidly acquire and ingest publicly available information to combat terrorist recruitment as well as support to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief events. The support includes directed missions to

1. Counter threats from Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)/Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and violent extremist organizations' operations,
2. Support counterdrug and counterterrorism operations,
3. Support the Presidential-directed and Congressionally-funded European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) which is focused on countering the Russian narrative, and
4. Provide US Army Reserve support to the six UCCs.

USCENTCOM considers the program vital to national security. The new contract needed to be awarded in less than thirty days to prevent a lapse in support.

**Action:** GSA's Federal Acquisition Service's (FAS) National Information Technology Commodity Program (NITCP) engaged crucial team members (including senior contracting

officer, competition advocate, customer representatives, legal counsel) early in the acquisition process to begin reviews of the critical documents and accelerate the required approvals. All key members met at the same time to reduce miscommunication. By simultaneously preparing the pre-award documents while negotiating with the contractor, the Contracting Officer was able to award the contract in record time.

**Solution:** NITCP conducted the acquisition on the client's behalf. A limited competition procurement using the national security justification was used for this requirement.

The Contracting Officer used the Acquisition Gateway to research solutions. The Acquisition Gateway, built by GSA, helps federal government buyers from all agencies act as one acquisition community and offers feds the ability to connect with other acquisition officers and find research and advice on different contract vehicles. Other potential solutions discovered via the Acquisition Gateway were reviewed and evaluated. However, the market research on the other contracting vehicles revealed that the cost would be 10% over the Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE).

USCENTCOM determined the FAS solution, open market, to be the best value for the government. To streamline the award, the Contracting Officer used Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 13.5 - Simplified Procedures for Certain Commercial Items. This process saved the client time, money and allowed an expedited award.

**Result:** In July 2016, GSA awarded a one-year bridge contract for \$4.9 million to ensure uninterrupted mission support. The bridge ensured the continued operation of the critical software and was awarded in twenty calendar days (two weeks ahead of schedule) with a 5% savings against the IGCE. For decades, engineers have been saying, "You can have it good, fast, or cheap. Pick two." FAS chose all three.

**Reference:**

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