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The GSA Multiple Award Schedules (MAS) program provides long-term, governmentwide contracts that provide easy access to more than 25 million commercial products and services whereby you can place orders at volume discount pricing.

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ASSISTED ACQUISITION SERVICES DIVISION



AASD Uses Professional Services for Air Force Adjunct Contract Professor Program

Challenge: The United States Air Force (USAF) relies on select retired general officers and retired Senior Executive Service (SES) members to contribute to the development of their current generation of airmen. Specific and uniquely separate roles for both Highly Qualified Expert-Senior Mentors and Department of Defense (DoD) academic faculty are prescribed in DoD instructions and public law. The USAF needed a way to implement a new Adjunct Contract Professor (ACP) cadre program designed to complement their existing Highly Qualified Expert-Senior Mentor (HQE-SM) program.

The USAF required high-caliber, retired senior leaders, including three and four-star generals and retired SES members for this critical developmental program. They wanted to ensure that hiring these individuals did not violate public law barring the provision of "Senior Mentor" tasks that can only be performed by individuals employed by the USAF in a government civilian program called "Highly Qualified Expert-Senior Mentor" (HQE-SM). Additionally, the USAF contracting activity did not have the capacity to award prior to funds expiring. In May 2017, the USAF approached the General Services Administration's (GSA) Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) requesting assistance with requirements development, acquisition planning, solicitation, and award by late-September 2017.

Action: FAS' Assisted Acquisition Service Division (AASD) worked with the USAF to develop a full requirements package, conduct market research, and identify a

streamlined acquisition approach using GSA's Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) contract program. Through the MAS program, GSA establishes long-term, governmentwide contracts that provide easy access to more than 25 million commercial products and services whereby a customer can place orders at volume discount pricing. Because of established contractor relationships and the streamlined ordering procedures found in FAR Subpart 8.4, GSA Schedules offer shorter procurement lead times and lower administrative costs compared to establishing a new contract.

The contracting officer travelled to the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama to conduct evaluation training and assist the Air Force evaluation team during their activities to ensure a timely contract award.

Solution: By conducting thorough market research by analyzing procurement history and engaging with industry early to ensure requirements and terms were fully understood, AASD achieved competition for the task order under the Professional Services Schedule to provide adjunct contract professor services supporting the USAF Chief of Staff Office. As designed and awarded, the task order fully supports the customer's requirements and includes management controls to specifically exclude any role or task reserved exclusively in public law for an HQE-SM. The selected contractor will be responsible for the recruiting, travel and administrative support for all of the ACP cadre.

Result: The acquisition used was the best value – tradeoff process, which sought to select an offer with the best value to meet the Government's need. The \$4 million task order was awarded a week earlier than planned to accommodate the USAF's needs and achieved an 18% savings against the Independent Government Cost Estimate. This award also helped the Air Force meet their small business goals by awarding to a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB).

Reference:

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