

# How to Do Business with the US Government

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## U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Procurement Process Overview

- DoD offers numerous business opportunities for local companies in the United States European Command (EUCOM)
- Understanding the procurement process and applicable regulations is critical to success



#### DoD's 7-Step Services Acquisition Process

Source: https://www.acq.osd.mil/asda/dpc/cp/cc/docs/corhb/ref/Guidebook\_for\_Acquisition\_of\_Services\_24March2012.pdf



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#### **Required Registrations**

- SAM Registration: Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) to do business with the U.S. Government. You will receive a "Unique Entity Identifier" (UEI) identifier.
- NCAGE Code: Obtain a NATO Commercial and Government Entity Code assigned by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)



Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-aB763ohe8



#### **NAICS Codes Necessity**

- Identify the industrial sector for which a contract award is • intended.
- Companies must provide their primary North American • Industry Classification System (NAICS) code(s) when registering with the System for Award Management (SAM).
- Incorrect classification can result in important • opportunities being missed or problems with the awarding process. Therefore, choosing the correct NAICS code(s) for your business is important.
- Find the NAICS codes that apply to your business (there  $\bullet$ are 689 five-digit codes & 1,012 six-digit codes!)

#### NAICS Code Drill-Down Table Click Any NAICS Code to Identify the Six-Digit NAICS Codes listed within that sector. Number of Number of Code Sector Title Code Sector Title **US Entities** US Entities Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing 53 **Real Estate Rental and Leasing** 947,112 11 376,065 and Hunting Professional, Scientific, and 54 2,576,732 Mining **Technical Services** 33,725 21 22 Utilities 52,025 Management of Companies 55 97,749 and Enterprises 1,564,895 23 Construction Administrative and Support 56 1,641,698 667.833 31-33 Manufacturing and Waste... Services Wholesale Trade 719,282 42 61 Educational Services 439,219 44-45 Retail Trade 1,893,740 Health Care and Social 62 1,724,350 Assistance Transportation and NAICS Code Industry Title **Business** Count Collapse Arts, Entertainment, and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services 2,576,732 397,633 Recreation 5411 361,566 Legal Services Accommodation and Food 541110 Offices of Lawyers 331,100 928,144 Services 11,401 541120 Offices of Notaries 541191 Title Abstract and Settlement Offices 13,545 Other Services (except Public 1,986,470 Administration) 541199 All Other Legal Services 5,520 Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, and Payroll Public Administration 259,365 5412 Services 189,533 **Total US Business Entities** 10,998,472 541211 Offices of Certified Public Accountants 77,713

64,775

3.223



▼ 54

541213

541214

Tax Preparation Services

Payroll Services

#### **Track Procurement Activities**

- **SAM.gov** is the primary source of information (including database).
- **Ebuy.gov** is also an expansive tool for tracking General Services Administration (GSA) tenders specifically.
- Many companies offer web-based tools and software solutions for tracking U.S. Government procurement activities.





## Understand the FARs and DFARs

- Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR): regulates all procurement processes within the US Government.
  (2,368 pages; 1.55 kg)
- Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS): DoD-specific requirements that supplement the FAR.
   (1,326 pages; 1.1 kg)
- Purpose: to ensure transparency, fairness, and compliance in procurement.
- Frequent updates can lead to significant additional work even for awarded contracts!





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#### Types of Contracts

I		Firm Fixed Price	Cost-Reimbursement	Time-And-Materials
WARNING! A contractor may end up losing money because their FFP may not be enough to cover costs for five years and a good understanding of how to claim appropriate additional reimbursement is required.	Government	Pays a fixed price regardless of whether the actual cost of producing the product ore providing the service differs from the agreed to price	Pays contractor's allowable costs. Also may pay a fee, which may be related to performance	Pays fixed per-hour labor rates that include wages, overhead, admin costs, and profit
	Contractor	Provides an acceptable deliverable at the time, place, and price specified in the contract	Makes good faith effort to meet the government's needs within the estimated cost.	Makes good faith effort to meet government's requirements needs within the ceiling price
	Who assumes the risk of a cost increase?	Contractor	Government	Government

#### **Evaluation Criteria**



**Lowest Price** Technically Acceptable (LPTA) Process

When proposals are deemed technically acceptable, price is the determining factor.

**Tradeoff Process** Non-cost factors less Non-cost factors more Non-cost factors equal to important than price. important than price. price. • Requirements are clearly defined • Requirements not clearly defined • Minimal development work • Critical development work • Contract performance risk is low • Contract performance risk is high Analysis of Federal Acquisition Regulation § 15.101

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#### B. French Consulting GmbH – Lessons Learned

- 1. Understand the procurement process & regulations
- 2. Create strategic partnerships & seek out mentors and supporters
- 3. Learn U.S. Military and Government jargon
- 4. Submit compliant and convincing proposals
- 5. Offer relevant past performance
- 6. Develop competitive prices
- 7. Request debriefings
- 8. Beware of political events impacting payments
- 9. Learn that not every order is lucrative
- 10. The DoD world is smaller than you think





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#### Conclusion

- Understanding and navigating the procurement process is critical to success
- Collaboration with strategic/strong partners is a winning approach
- It takes patience, perseverance, and a bit of luck.
- This industry has enormous potential and offers countless business opportunities





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