

Questions from the January 12th and 18th WSSC IDIQ Contractor Outreach Webinars

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1. Danny Warren; Epoxy Coated Systems:

Q: Is there a “Wounded Warriors” program?

A: No.

2. Unidentified Participant:

Q: What is the contact for the Small, Local and Minority Business Enterprise Office?

A: The SLMBE Office (Supplier Diversity) can be reached via telephone at 301-206-8800 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (EST) and via email at: SLMBE@wsscwater.com, or please visit the SLMBE Office at the WSSC headquarters at 14501 Sweitzer Lane, 8th Floor, Laurel, MD 20707. A member of the SLMBE Office staff will be available to assist.

3. Unidentified Participant:

Q: If the material supplier is an MBE, does that count?

A: Yes, if the supplier is performing a Commercially-Useful Function in accordance with our SLMBE Program policies. The SLMBE Program policies may be viewed at www.wsscwater.com.

4. Asma Tirmizi, Ta Meer Company (registered in Virginia):

Q: Can my Virginia SLMBE be accepted for working on these contracts?

A: The SLBE program is specifically for firms residing in Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties, Maryland. SLMBE is for Small Local and Minority Business Enterprise. It may be possible to obtain WSSC-approval as a SLBE if you have employees which reside in these counties.

WSSC will recognize you as an MBE if you are currently and/or become certified by any of the five (5) approval agencies listed below or if you obtain comity for the program you are already certified under within your state. To obtain Comity you must submit a letter requesting approval of Virginia’s MBE certification program as equivalent to the programs WSSC accepts prior to the Bidding. The SLMBE Office reviews the letter of request to ensure the certification is in accordance with the MBE Program policy.

WSSC-Recognized MBE Certifying Agencies

Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT): <http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/>

Prince George's County Minority Business Development Division (**PGMBDD**):
<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov>

D.C. Department of Small and Local Business Development (**DSLBD**):
<http://dslbd.dc.gov/DC/DSLBD>

Maryland/District of Columbia Minority Supplier Development Council (**MD/DC MSDC**):
<http://affiliate.nmsdc.org/mddc/>

Women's President Educational Organization (**WPEO**):
<http://www.womenpresidentsorg.com/>

5. Unidentified Participant:

Q: Can I be a subcontractor, if I am not a registered MBE?

A: Yes

6. Jenny McGregor-Hutton; JCC Labor Enterprises Inc. (Florida):

Q: How do I get an out of state MBE program approval?

A: Submit the request in writing to WSSC to the attention of Towanda R. Livingston, SLMBE Director.

Towanda R. Livingston
Director
SLMBE Office (Supplier Diversity)
14501 Sweitzer Lane
Laurel, MD 20707

7. Reginald Veasley; Materials Engineers (Atlanta, GA):

Q: My firm is certified as an MBE in Atlanta and Federal. Is this acceptable?

A: The Federal program is not equivalent to WSSC's. You may request comity as described in the questions #4 and #6.

8. Mark Morris; National Gunite:

Q: Are pre-bid meetings done as Webinar?

A: No, all pre-bid meetings are conducted in person. Your participation is encouraged; however, the meetings are not mandatory.

9. Tim Cook; Pleasant Construction:

Q: Debriefings have been requested but we have not been able to get one scheduled.

A: The Acquisition Office will contact you to arrange a debriefing. In general you should be able to contact the Acquisition Buyer listed in the Solicitation regarding scheduling a debriefing.

10. Ralph Ifeagwu; Apex Petroleum:

Q: I assume there is an MBE goal?

A: Each contract has a contract specific goal. This will be noted in the Appendix A.

11. Kevin Kelley, ESA Today:

Q: Is a firm doing design work on an existing IDIQ excluded from this next round of IDIQ contracts?

A: Yes, your firm would be excluded as your bid would be deemed a conflict of interest. However, if you are a Contractor with construction contracts you can bid on more than one Construction contracts.

12. Bill Monville, Michael's Tunneling:

Q: Are you looking at pipe jacking and tunneling?

A: We do not have these in our current IDIQ's. However we have work where these techniques will be needed in future contracts. Currently, we do not have these activities defined in our current IDIQ's. These activities as well as slip-lining, SPR and micro tunneling are tools we have in our toolbox. Should the need arise, we would likely craft a work order assignment outside of the IDIQ realm and bid it separately.

13. Unidentified Participant:

Q: Do all the subs have to be registered with the CBR?

A: Yes. The registration for subs may occur after the award.

14. Unidentified Participant:

Q: If you are using subs to make material purchase, is that included in the MBE calculation?

A: Yes, if the supplier is performing a Commercially-Useful Function in accordance with our SLMBE Program policies. The SLMBE Program policies maybe viewed at www.wsscwater.com.

15. Ralph Ifeagwu; Apex Petroleum:

Q: Can I get the presentation and the names of people attending? I want to offer my MBE services to others.

A: Yes, the list of attendees will be provided with this email as an attachment. The presentation is available at the WSSC web site; <http://www.wsscwater.com/file/IDIQWebinar.pdf>, as well as the CBR information and the list of approval agencies on the right side quick links; <http://www.wsscwater.com/home/jsp/content/sewer-rehab-proj.faces>

16. Unidentified Participant:

Q: Are there any IDIQ's out for bid?

A: Three projects are scheduled to be posted on the Centralized Bidder Registration (CBR) System at the end of this month. One will be a roads contract with significant lining and two will be Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) contracts. The ESA contracts will include construction in off-road areas, parks, and stream areas.

17. Asma Tirmizi, Ta Meer Company:

Q: How can I get a contractor list of past bidders?

A: Call the Jessica Wright, Acquisition Consultant in the Acquisition Office at 301-206-8276.

18. Bill Monville; Michaels Tunneling:

Q: Do you have a list of registered MBE contractors?

A: You may locate a list of MBE contractors registered with WSSC on WSSC's Centralize Bidder Registration, or via MDOT. You may also contact the SLMBE Office for assistance.

19. Danny Warren; Warren Environmental:

Q: Who are the design engineers?

A: The design engineers are:

Black & Veatch Corporation
18310 Montgomery Village Ave., Suite 500
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
(301) 921-2861

Brown & Caldwell
1600 Duke St.
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 340-1087

O'Brien & Gere
8401 Corporate Dr., Suite 400
Landover, MD 20785
(301) 731-5622

URS Corporation
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 410
Baltimore, MD 21230-1708
(410) 468-0875

Malcolm Pirnie / Arcadis
3101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 550
Arlington, VA 22201
(703) 351-9100

Hazen & Sawyer, P.C.
One South St., Suite 1150
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 539-7681

20. Unidentified Participant:

Q: If I have additional questions, who should I call?

A: Please call Tyrone Williams, 301-206-8012 or email twilli1@wsscwater.com.

Questions from the January 18th WSSC IDIQ Contractor Outreach Webinar:

1. Bob DePalma; JED Mechanical:

Q: Is there going to be consideration from WSSC for a SLMBE to contract directly on these task orders.

A: No, these contracts are bid and awarded to the Prime Contractors. No individual purchase orders will be written to SLMBE Contractors. Everything will be through the master contract.

2. Chris Hamilton (specializes in only MH rehab; Atlanta, GA):

Q: We assume the master contract is more comprehensive than just MH's and would like to know the best way to get with the potential bidders.

A: You may request a list from the Acquisitions Buyer. Also, they can be added as substitution materials in the contract documents. Ideally, you should review the WSSC specification and find out if the materials are included on the spec and if not, request a review by WSSC's Material Evaluation Committee group to be added.

3. Greenhorne & O'Mara:

Q: Are any designs still needed or permitting services? Can we bid on any designs or permitting services?

A: Currently, all the designs and permitting requirements of this program have been bid and awarded.

4. Tim Kenny; State Pipe Services (Pennsylvania):

Q: We participated in one of the previous IDIQ's (Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity). The unit quantity of 1 is difficult to provide costs against. Usually in bidding we have a defined scope with specific quantities. With these contracts we do not know MH depths, pipe lengths, traffic patterns, etc. Can you provide more definitions?

A: The unit costs provided by the contractor will be used to populate a spreadsheet that contains a "Mock" project with quantities unknown to the bidder pool that will be used for evaluative purposes. Within the mock project, the contractor's unit price for a particular bid item will be multiplied against a fictitious estimated quantity to yield a total price. These prices will be summarily added and ranked to determine an apparent low bidder. The unit quantity of 1 is being used because the actual quantities are unknown at this time. This is the nature of Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity, IDIQ contracts.

5. Mike Hall; Hall Contracting (NC):

Q: Will there be slip lining included in the contracts?

A: Currently no; but it is a tool in our tool box and may be used on future contracts.

6. Tyrone Duggins, CTI:

Q: Are you seeking counter measures for FOG? Will FOG removal be a part of these contracts?

A: No, we are not including this type of work in the IDIQ Contracts. This work is on mainline sewers and within the limits of the rights-of-ways. Our work stops at the property line.

7. Norman Brooks, NDB Services, LLC:

Q: What is the required percentage for SLMBE-MBE participation?

A: This will be noted in Appendix A. Each contract is different and it is determined at the time of solicitation. The past contracts have been about 20 to 30% participation.