LIMITED REVIEW OF CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION TASK ORDER NUMBER P1102MA0249 REPORT NUMBER A040089/P/W/R05005 March 30, 2005



U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Office of Inspector General

Date:	March 30, 2005
Reply to Attn of:	Regional Inspector General for Auditing Washington Field Audit Office
Subject:	Limited Review of Contract Administration Task Order Number P1102MA0249 Report Number A040089/P/W/R05005
То:	Donald C. Williams Regional Administrator, National Capital Region

This report presents the results of our limited review of contract administration in the Potomac Service Center. After an initial assessment of seven task orders, we focused our review on a single procurement action for anthrax remediation services. Taking into account the urgent and extraordinary nature of this procurement, we remain concerned that contract administration deficiencies compromised key elements of control over payment for services. Additionally, we offer as a "lesson learned", that procuring such emergency services under a Federal Supply Schedule Multiple Award Schedule, limited procurement flexibility and eliminated desirable cost safeguards. As such, we recommend that the Public Buildings Service, National Capital Region task a team of program experts and procurement officers to create a template acquisition plan applicable to potential emergency procurements.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact myself or Paul Malatino, Regional Inspector General for Auditing, at (202) 708-5340.

Barbara A. Boulde

Barbara E. Bouldin Audit Manager Washington Field Audit Office (JA-W)

> 7th & D Streets, SW, Washington, DC 20407 Federal Recycling Program Printed on Recycled Paper

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE	1
BACKGROUND	1
Results-in-Brief	1
RECOMMENDATION	1
INTRODUCTION	
BACKGROUND	2
OBJECTIVE, SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY	2
RESULTS OF REVIEW	
TASK ORDER HISTORY	4
Lesson Learned	4
Other Findings	4
Payments to Versar Exceeded Task Order Value5	
No Price Reasonableness Determination for Non-Schedule Items5	
Versar Paid for Work Beyond Task Order Defined Period of Performance5	
Undated, Multiple Revisions to Statement of Work5	
Required Documentation Absent in Contract Files6	
For Consideration	6
RECOMMENDATION	7
MANAGEMENT'S COMMENTS	7
MANAGEMENT CONTROLS	7
APPENDICES	
TASK ORDER HISTORY	A-1
MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSE TO DRAFT REPORT	B-1
REPORT DISTRIBUTION	C-1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose

This review responded to a complaint received regarding contract administration in Potomac Service Center (Potomac), an operating unit of the Public Buildings Service in the National Capital Region. After an initial assessment, we focused our efforts on a single procurement action, a task order issued to Versar, Inc. (Versar) in support of anthrax remediation. This task clearly met the criteria for unusual and compelling urgency (FAR 6.302-2); however, based upon our preliminary review, documentation appeared deficient. As refocused, this limited scope review offers a "lesson learned" applicable to future emergency procurements. It also points out several contract administration matters.

Background

In October 2001, Remote Delivery Site Building 410 at the Anacostia Naval Station was infected with anthrax, a malicious and potentially deadly attack testing GSA's ability to respond to an emergency event with national security implications and concentrated media coverage. This Remote Delivery Site handled the mail for the Executive Office of the President (EOP) and other government agencies. During this period, other federal facilities were also dealing with anthrax infection and remediation. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended that GSA consider the cutting-edge vaporized hydrogen peroxide remediation method employed by Versar, Inc. Potomac awarded a task order to Versar on May 16, 2002 under the Versar Federal Supply Schedule Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) contract. Although decontamination of the Remote Delivery Site was complete in October 2002, confirmatory testing and mail transport scope of work additions were made as late as June 2004.

Results-in-Brief

Having taken into account the urgent and extraordinary nature of a requirement for anthrax remediation in a facility that processes White House mail, we nevertheless remain concerned that deficiencies in contract administration have compromised some key elements of control over payment for services. In addition, the initial determination to utilize an FSS schedule contract limited procurement flexibility as well as the ability to employ certain cost safeguards especially desirable in the event of a quickly unfolding emergency.

Recommendation

We recommend that the Assistant Regional Administrator for Public Buildings Service, National Capital Region:

• Task a team of program experts and procurement officers to create a template acquisition plan applicable to emergency acquisitions. Discussion should include evaluation of alternative contract types, funding options, documentation requirements, project cost management, vendor's cost reporting responsibilities, etc.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint outlining contract administration deficiencies in the Potomac Service Center (Potomac), an operating unit of the Public Buildings Service (PBS) in the National Capital Region (NCR). The complaint alleged that: 1) non-authorized procurement actions occurred without the benefit of a contract, task order, scope of work, independent government estimate, or funding, 2) pricing of non-schedule items was not negotiated, 3) the number of procurement staff was insufficient, and 4) management did not support procurement regulations. In response to these allegations, the OIG initiated an unplanned review of contract administration within Potomac.

Initially, the OIG reviewed seven task orders to arrive at a preliminary assessment of the allegations. We communicated the results of that review and provided a fact sheet to Potomac management in August 2004. We learned that PBS had previously undertaken its own internal procurement review, had noted similar deficiencies, and was in the process of formulating corrective actions. For that reason, we refocused our audit efforts toward a more in-depth look at one of the seven orders, a task order issued to Versar, Inc. (Versar) in support of anthrax remediation. This task clearly met the criteria for unusual and compelling urgency (FAR 6.302-2); however, based upon our preliminary review, documentation appeared deficient. As refocused, this limited scope review offers a "lesson learned" applicable to future emergency procurements. It also points out several contract administration matters.

Objective, Scope and Methodology

The objective of our limited review was to assess whether the Versar task order was administered in accordance with procurement regulations. We included analyses of pre-award actions and post-award contract administration. To get a full history of the service procured, we also gathered information regarding the original contractor selected to perform anthrax remediation.

To accomplish the review objectives, we:

- Held an entrance conference with the Regional Administrator, including the Deputy Regional Administrator, Assistant Regional Administrator for Public Buildings Service, and Deputy Regional Counsel;
- Held discussions with the Public Buildings Service's Contracting Officers, Project Manager, Safety and Occupational Health Specialist, and Budget Analysts;
- Held discussions with the Federal Supply Service Multiple Award Schedule Contracting Officer;
- > Reviewed laws, regulations, policies and procedures relative to contract administration;
- Reviewed the terms and conditions of the Versar Federal Supply Schedule, Multiple Award Schedule (GS-00F-0007L);
- Reviewed the contract files for the Versar anthrax remediation task order, which included an examination of the task order, modifications, and statements of work; and

- Conducted financial analysis of the Versar task order, where we:
 - Determined the cumulative task order value;
 - Queried the Financial Management Information System from FY 2002 to FY 2005, through 11/29/04;
 - Obtained invoices from <u>www.finance.gsa.gov</u> to quantify total amount paid to Versar, Inc.;
 - Obtained an understanding of project funding through Reimbursable Work Authorization and interagency fund transfer.

The review was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

RESULTS OF REVIEW

Task Order History

In October 2001, Remote Delivery Site Building 410 at the Anacostia Naval Station was infected with anthrax, a malicious and potentially deadly attack testing GSA's ability to respond to an emergency event with national security implications and concentrated media coverage. This Remote Delivery Site handled the mail for the Executive Office of the President (EOP) and other government agencies. Potomac Service Center (Potomac) initially contracted with KC Industries (KCI) for environmental remediation. The remediation effort soon grew too large for KCI to handle; KCI ceased working at the Remote Delivery Site in January 2002. Potomac paid \$330,000 to KCI for remediation services.

During this period, other federal facilities were also dealing with anthrax contamination and remediation. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended that GSA consider the cutting-edge vaporized hydrogen peroxide remediation method employed by Versar, Inc. Potomac awarded a task order to Versar on May 16, 2002 under Versar's Federal Supply Schedule Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) contract. Although decontamination of the Remote Delivery Site was complete in October 2002, confirmatory testing and mail transport scope of work additions were made as late as June 2004.

Lesson Learned

This emergency requirement was accomplished under what appears to have been a fixed price task order initially valued at \$900,674 and issued under Versar's Federal Supply Service Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) contract. Subsequent modifications for the most part took the form of incremental time and materials (T&M) type tasks with no clear ceiling price. The MAS contract vehicle was arguably not an optimal choice from which to acquire an emerging technology under unfolding, urgent conditions¹. The schedule contracts are an expedient resource for acquisition of commercial goods and services, but do not provide a FAR compliant mechanism for pricing a substantial quantity of non-commercial or out-of-scope goods and services (see below for discussion of non-schedule items). In this instance, a cost reimbursable type contract with an audit provision would have better protected the interests of all parties. Pressure and time constraints imposed under emergency conditions can preclude such considerations, so the need for advance preparations is a lesson learned. *We suggest that emergency response planning include consideration of acquisition issues such as selecting an appropriate contract type under crisis conditions*.

Other Findings

Our review highlights a number of contract administration deficiencies, taking into account the extraordinary nature of this procurement action. To provide additional context, we have included a summary of task order activity and invoice payment history (Appendix A).

¹ Although surface contamination was expected at the time of award, the building was actually contaminated throughout and required a complete fumigation. Additionally, GSA was answering to an independent industry committee, the Environmental Clearance Committee (ECC), which was developing anthrax remediation standards as the decontamination progressed.

Payments to Versar Exceeded Task Order Value

As of February 2005, GSA has paid Versar \$3.73 million related to the anthrax remediation, which exceeds the documented task order modifications by nearly \$1 million². The task order value was ultimately modified to \$2.79 million, funded through Reimbursable Work Authorizations (RWA) and interfund transfers from agencies affected by the contamination: Executive Office of the President (EOP), Department of Defense (DOD), and United States Postal Service (USPS). The sum of these RWAs and fund transfers was \$4.17 million, which covered payments to both KCI and Versar. It is clear that Versar's work beyond the original task order scope was both necessary and anticipated by GSA and the affected agencies, but the full extent of these additional services were not incorporated as changes to the contract. As a result, PBS lost the means to ensure that all payments to the contractor were for authorized activities at agreed upon prices.

No Price Reasonableness Determination for Non-Schedule Items

Sixty percent of the value of the original task order, approximately \$537,970, was for items not on Versar's schedule contract. Additionally, future modifications to the task order also included non-schedule items. The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 8.402(f) allows a contracting officer to add non-schedule items to a schedule task order only if the contracting officer has determined that the price for the non-schedule items is fair and reasonable. For this task order, the contracting officer made no determination of price reasonableness for the nonschedule items. Although we realize the procurement was made in an urgent and compelling situation, such a determination should still have been made. If such determination would have unreasonably delayed the acquisition, the file should have been documented after the fact to explain the circumstances and basis for non-schedule item pricing.

Versar Paid for Work Beyond Task Order Defined Period of Performance

Much of the work performed under the Versar task represents labor costs incurred outside the task order defined period of performance. The contract was not modified to incorporate all of the various scope of work and period of performance changes that occurred throughout the life of this task. The existing modifications define a period of performance that runs from May 16, 2002 thru December 15, 2002, and then an additional 14 days beginning June 9, 2004. As can be seen in Appendix A, Versar performed a substantial portion of work outside this period. As a result, an important control mechanism was defeated, introducing the potential of payment for unauthorized services.

Undated, Multiple Revisions to Statement of Work

The original statement of work outlining the vaporized hydrogen peroxide process Versar would employ was neither present in the contract file nor located by cognizant contracting and program officials. PBS has subsequently provided this statement of work after draft report issuance; it appears complete and adequate but was not present in the contract file at the time of our review. The earliest statement of work document on file or known by current contract administration personnel accompanied Modification PC03, which was effective 19 months after the start of the

 $^{^{2}}$ In its response to the draft audit report, the region provided evidence that contract payments did not exceed authorized funding. This does not alter the observation that the underlying contract was never modified to reflect the full scope of changes.

contract. The modification adds \$867,920, which appears to represent funding for work already performed. The attached SOW offered only a generic description of work in the form of several brief bullet statements, none of which appeared fully germane to the task at hand. The document also did not address the expired period of performance nor explained the reason for the additional funding. Modification PC06, issued six months later, included a significantly revised statement of work that addressed additional work to be completed during a newly established 14-day period of performance. PC06 is the only modification with relatively complete documentation. Still, as of the date of that modification, even with the additional funding provided, vendor payments exceeded the authorized contract value by over \$400,000.

Required Documentation Absent in Contract Files

The Versar schedule contract calls for the development of a Request for Quote (RFQ) for all task orders exceeding \$2,500. This RFQ must be sent to three schedule holders to promote competition. Due to the urgent and compelling nature of this requirement, Potomac did not develop an RFQ but rather issued a sole source award to Versar. FAR Subpart 6.302-2 allows for other than full and open competition in such a situation, with justification, which can be prepared after task order award if such a process would unreasonably delay the urgent procurement. During our review, the justification was not present within the contract files nor acknowledged by the existing contracting officer as to the rationale for the need to procure with Versar. PBS has subsequently located a copy of the signed justification, which appears adequate.

A similar logic holds with the Office of Governmentwide Policy's (OGP) requirement for acquisition planning. Although a written acquisition plan may not be feasible in the case of an emergency, OGP requires that an oral acquisition plan be developed with a written summary, noting the nature of the urgency, included in the contract file. This documentation may be completed after task order award if such a process would delay an urgent procurement. The contract file contained no evidence of an acquisition plan.

For Consideration

It may be useful to incorporate a standardized checklist for contracting officers to complete prior to task order award. The checklist could include a confirmation that contracting officers have:

- a. Prepared an acquisition plan;
- b. Verified that services ordered are related to the contract selected;
- c. Determined price reasonableness;
- d. Written detailed statements of work with performance metrics;
- e. Prepared detailed task order modifications when necessary;
- f. Included determination and findings and not-to-exceed amounts for time-and-materials orders; and
- g. Included explanation of solicitation method or justification for sole source award.

Recommendation

We recommend that the Assistant Regional Administrator for Public Buildings Service, National Capital Region:

• Task a team of program experts and procurement officers to create a template acquisition plan applicable to emergency acquisitions. Discussion should include evaluation of alternative contract types, funding options, documentation requirements, project cost management, vendor's cost reporting responsibilities, etc.

Management's Comments

PBS NCR was provided the opportunity to respond to the draft report and agreed with three of five review findings as presented. PBS NCR's response provided the original task order statement of work, a document that was not available in the contract files during our review. PBS NCR takes exception with the review's finding regarding payments to Versar exceeding task order value. Our review finding has not been altered based on PBS NCR's response, as the task order itself was never modified to the \$3.73 million value that PBS NCR refers to. Finally, PBS NCR agrees with the review recommendation and is taking steps to prepare for potential emergency procurements.

Management Controls

We evaluated the management controls in effect over administration of the Versar, Inc. task order awarded by the Potomac Service Center. The related management control issues are discussed in the context of the limited review findings and recommendation provided. We have concluded that enacting the recommendation in this report should enhance the management control structure and the effectiveness and efficiency of the division's operations.

APPENDIX A

Task Order History

Date	Action	Comment	Amount	Balance					
5/16/02 Task order awarded		Period of performance (PoP) 5/16/02- 7/12/02; No statement of work in file.	\$900,674	\$900,674					
7/12/02	Initial PoP expires								
10/23/02	Modification PC01	Added funding and tasks; PoP extended to 12/15/02.	\$625,000	\$1,525,674					
11/15/02	Invoices (2) paid	Work within defined PoP	(\$282,477)	\$1,243,197					
11/16/02	Invoice paid	Work within defined PoP	(\$241,217)	\$1,001,980					
11/21/02	Invoice paid	Work within defined PoP	(\$93,520)	\$908,460					
12/2/02	Invoice paid	Work within defined PoP	(\$332,417)	\$576,043					
12/15/02	Modified PoP expires								
1/13/03	Invoice paid	Performance dates obscured on copy	(\$33,726)	\$542,317					
2/13/03	Invoices (2) paid	Work within defined PoP	(\$474,071)	\$68,246					
5/1/03	Modification PA02	Changed Contracting Officer							
5/9/03	Invoice paid	Work beyond defined PoP	(\$756,765)	(\$688,519)					
12/17/03	Modification PC03	Added funding; Incorporated generic statement of work. PoP not revised.	\$867,920	\$179,401					
12/23/03	Modification PA04	Changed Contracting Officer							
2/23/04	Invoices (3) paid	Work beyond defined PoP	(\$428,621)	(\$249,220)					
3/4/04	Invoice paid	Work beyond defined PoP	(\$190,086)	(\$439,306)					
3/29/04	Modification PC04	Added funding; Modification refers to a statement of work addendum. None in file. CO states none was prepared.	\$150,000	(\$289,306)					
3/31/04	Invoice paid	Work beyond defined PoP	(\$211,231)	(\$500,537)					
5/21/04	Invoice paid	Work beyond defined PoP	(\$154,529)	(\$655,066)					
6/8/04	Modification PC06 (There is no modification PC05)	Added funding and statement of work for mail decontamination and transport; Included a PoP of 14 days (6/9/04- 6/23/04.)	\$247,000	(\$408,066)					
6/18/04	Invoice paid	Work beyond defined PoP	(\$47,590)	(\$455,656)					
6/23/04	Modification PC06 PoP	expires							
7/19/04	Invoice paid	Work beyond defined PoP	(\$169,452)	(\$625,108)					
8/26/04	Invoices (2) paid	Work partially beyond defined PoP	(\$277,776)	(\$902,884)					
9/15/04	Modification PA07	Changed accounting codes							
10/20/04	Invoice paid	Work beyond defined PoP	(\$17,545)	(\$920,429)					
2/4/05	Invoice paid	Work beyond defined PoP	(\$14,239)	(\$934,668)					
Total auth	orized contract value		\$2,790,594						
Total payr	nents for work within def	\$1,735,204							
Total payments for work beyond defined PoP				\$3,725,262					
Total payr	nents in excess of contract		<u>\$934,668</u>						

	GSA Administrator
	GSA Administrator
R PAUL J. MAL REGIONAL WASHINGT	LATINO INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR AUDITING ON FIELD OFF/CE (JA-W)
DONALD C.	WILLIAMS MUCHULL
Task Order I	iew of Contract Administration Number P1103MA0249 ber A040089
iew is the PBS dit Office (JA-W	response to the subject draft report prepared by the V).
tions or concer	ns about this PBS response, please contact me at
	U.S. General Services Administration 1800 F Street, NW Washington, DC 20405-0002 Telephone: (202) 501-0800 Fax: (202) 219-1243 www.gsa.gov
	REGIONAL WASHINGT DONALD C. REGIONAL Limited Rev Task Order Report Num iew is the PBS dit Office (JA-V

1

Management's Response to Draft Report



Management's Response to Draft Report



Management's Response to Draft Report



Management's Response to Draft Report

Versar Contract Activity, ACT # P0265709

Action	Process	Obligations
	Date	
RWA Received from EOP, OA	11/21/2001	\$350,000.00
Contract P-11-02-MA-0249	5/16/2002	\$900,674,02
RWA Received from EOP, OA	6/11/2002	\$979,000.00
RWA Received from EOP, OA	9/23/2002	\$624,807.00
Payment – RR 1CA200209251184	9/28/2002	\$300,000.00
Payment – RR 1CA200211140474	11/15/2002	\$241,217.38
Payment – RR 1CA200211140473	11/16/2002	\$ 93,519.60
Payment – RR 1CA200211220141	11/22/2002	\$332,417.41
Payment – RR 1CA200301070027	1/10/2003	\$ 33,726.35
Payment – RR 1CA200302060155	2/8/2003	\$300,564.33
Payment – RR 1CA200302060156	2/10/2003	\$173,506.29
Adjustment – RR 1CA200209251184	5/1/2003	\$(17,522.93)
Mod PC01	10/23/2002	\$625,000.00
Mod PC02	5/7/2003	\$691,764.50
Payment – RR 1CA200305050940	5/8/2003	\$756,764.50
RWA Received from EOP, OA	9/16/2003	\$2,000,000.00
Mod PC03	2/20/2004	\$867,920.00
Payment – RR 1CA200402130417	2/20/2004	\$428,620.69
Payment – RR 1CA200402130416	3/4/2004	\$190,085.75
Payment – RR 1CA200403300576	3/31/2004	\$211,231.40
Mod PC04	4/2/2004	\$150,000.00
Payment – RR 1CA200405210303	5/21/2004	\$154.529.01
Mod PC05	6/16/2004	\$247,000.00
Payment – RR 1CA200406160292	6/16/2004	\$ 47,589.53
Payment – RR 1CA200407160427	7/16/2004	\$169,452.45
Payment – RR 1CA200408250325	8/26/2004	\$135,109.12
Payment – RR 1CA200408250326	8/26/2004	\$142,666.46
Mod PC06	9/27/2004	\$247,000.00
Mod PA07	9/27/2004	\$0.00
Cost Transfer – USSS	9/27/2004	\$145,500.00
Cost Transfer – USPS	9/27/2004	\$ 70,000.00
Payment – RR 1CA200410180207	10/19/2004	\$17,545.05
Payment – RR 1CA200501270702	1/28/2005	\$14,238.64
Total Funds Available		\$4,169,307.00
Total Obligations		\$3,729,358.52
Total Contract Payments		\$3,725,261.03

APPENDIX C

Report Distribution

Commissioner, Public Buildings Service (P)	.1
Regional Administrator, National Capital Region (WA)	.3
Office of the Chief Financial Officer (B)	.2
Audit Follow-up and Evaluation Branch (BECA)	.1
Assistant Inspector General for Auditing (JA, JAO, JAN, JAS)	.4
Regional Inspector General for Investigations (JI-W)	.1
Audit Liaison, Business Management Division (WPF)	