



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC 20330-1060

AUG 11 2009

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM A6/A7K

FROM: SAF/AQ

SUBJECT: NETCENTS Mandatory Use Waiver Process clarification for Small Business

The NETCENTS contract for Network Centric Information Technology (IT) products and services was originally awarded to four large and four small businesses. I recently gave approval to extend the ordering periods for 12 months while a follow-on acquisition is completed. Currently, of the four original small business firms there are only two that are still considered small business on NETCENTS. I firmly believe that small business IT firms bring the innovation, agility and efficiency needed to address cyber challenges.

The current contracts are covered by a mandatory use policy (Atch 1) for most Network Centric IT products and services. This is to assure that IT products and services conform to standard Air Force network infrastructure and architecture. However, this policy does allow for waivers to use small businesses to achieve installation small business goals, or obtain other technical benefits or cost savings.

Ordering activities may exercise the waiver process when requirements can be met by two or more small businesses. The Contracting Officer may approve such waivers with coordination by the local Communications Squadron to ensure compliance with Air Force systems architectures. While exploring potential waivers, please include the local Small Business Specialist in the determination. Additionally, refer to the NETCENTS contract and associated work statement for essential standards. Upon award of a contract associated with a NETCENTS waiver request, decentralization ordering offices must provide a copy of the non-NETCENTS contract/task order/delivery order to their MAJCOM CIO and reference the associated approved NETCENTS waiver. This information will be used for MAJCOM quarterly reporting.

NETCENTS has contributed greatly to the small business community; however, we feel that is necessary to increase customer awareness of the waiver process, specifically, as it applies to small business goals. My point of contact for this action is the Program Manager for the NETCENTS contract, Mr. John Taylor. He may be reached by email at, John.Taylor@Gunter.AF.MIL.

David M. Van Buren
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force