

WOSB Contract Vehicle



A Guide to Awarding Sole-Source Contracts in the WOSB Program

[Section 825](#) of the FY15 National Defense Authorization Act provided agencies with statutory authority to award sole-source contracts to women-owned small businesses (WOSBs) such as DAS Federal through the WOSB Federal Contract Program. Until now, contracts could only be restricted to competition of two or more WOSBs. On September 14, 2015, the SBA promulgated a final rule governing the awarding of these contracts. The FAR Council's Interim Final Rule implementing sole source authority became effective on December 31, 2015. The relevant portions of the CFR and FAR are noted at the end of this document.

Four Requirements for WOSB Sole Source Contracts

1. Is the contract in a WOSB eligible NAICS code?

The WOSB program is unique in that it is only applicable to contracts in certain NAICS codes. A list of all NAICS codes in the program is readily available at: <https://www.sba.gov/document/support-eligible-naics-women-owned-small-business-federal-contracting-program>

Applicable NAICS Codes for Computer Services:
541511, 541512, 541519, 519130, 519190

2. Is the contract (including options) valued at \$4.5 million or less?

Similar to other small business contracting programs, WOSB sole source contracts are limited to certain sizes. All contracts have a cap of \$4.5 million. This is including all options on the contract.

3. Can the contract be awarded to the WOSB at a fair and reasonable price?

The statute and regulations also require that the contract can be awarded at a "fair and reasonable price." This common term in federal contracting is described in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 15.4 available at: <https://www.acquisition.gov/far/subpart-15.4>.

4. In the determination of the contracting officer, is there a reasonable expectation that there is only one WOSB that can perform?

The final requirement for a sole-sourced contract in the WOSB program is the contracting officer's determination, through market research, that only one WOSB can perform the requirement and that this firm will provide a fair and reasonable price (see #3).

Note: If it is determined that 2 or more WOSBs can perform, the contract can be set-aside through the WOSB program.

If these four questions are all answered "Yes", then the contract can be awarded to a WOSB on a sole-source basis to DAS Federal.