

GSA Awards the 8(a) STARS III GWAC

June 17, 2021

New STARS GWAC has a \$50 billion ceiling and focus on emerging technologies

WASHINGTON — The U.S. General Services Administration has awarded the first phase of the 8(a) STARS III Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC). The 8(a) STARS GWACs are known governmentwide as best-in-class, easy-to-use, streamlined procurement solutions to purchase information technology services from 8(a) prime contractors. This fourth-generation GWAC includes an even greater focus on emerging technologies as well as performance outside of the continental United States (OCONUS). The STARS III contract has a ceiling of \$50 billion.

GSA's 8(a) STARS GWACs leverage a long-standing partnership with the Small Business Administration (SBA) to support the development of 8(a) firms and provide federal agencies a way to deliver mission-critical IT services working with small, disadvantaged businesses. STARS III will deliver opportunities to these firms and will drive progress on important public policy objectives including the [President's Executive Order 13985 On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#) as we work to improve diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.

"This fourth generation 8(a) GWAC represents GSA's long-term commitment to supporting our nation's small businesses in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration," said GSA Acting Administrator Katy Kale. "STARS III will create opportunities for small disadvantaged businesses that have solid expertise in providing advanced and emerging technologies to the federal government."

"The 8(a) STARS GWAC program represents an inclusive opportunity for small, disadvantaged firms to compete within the federal marketplace and gain valuable experience in navigating agency requirements" said GSA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Associate Administrator, Exodie C. Roe, III. "More than \$18 billion has been awarded through GSA's 8(a) GWACs, and many successful firms have graduated from the SBA's 8(a) Program to compete on a larger scale. GSA joins SBA in looking forward to seeing this next-generation contract provide excellent opportunities for small, disadvantaged businesses."

8(a) STARS III represents GSA's efforts to support small businesses while meeting ever-evolving agency requirements. The enhancements on this iteration of the STARS GWAC focus on meeting agency needs for emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, robotic process automation and more. 8(a) STARS III also incorporates a designated scope sub-area for OCONUS requirements.

Federal Acquisition Service Commissioner, Sonny Hashmi, emphasized "GSA is rolling out this new contract vehicle in cohorts, balancing the need to provide innovative products and services that agencies require quickly, with the intent to on-board the broadest number of small businesses over time. Through this strategy, GSA can start to create an immediate positive impact to our partner agencies' mission, while increasing opportunities for our small business partners."

Stakeholders are encouraged to read the award notice and list of initial awardees on [SAM.gov](#) and the 8(a) STARS III GWAC website, [www.gsa.gov/stars3](#), for more information. Additional awards are anticipated later this calendar year following a discussion and offer revision process with remaining offerors. No task orders may be placed until GSA issues the notice to proceed for this GWAC, planned for this summer.

Questions related to the 8(a) STARS III GWAC may be directed to S3@gsa.gov. Media inquiries should be sent to press@gsa.gov.

About GSA

GSA provides centralized procurement for the federal government, managing a nationwide real estate portfolio of nearly 370 million rentable square feet and overseeing approximately \$75 billion in annual contracts. GSA's mission is to deliver the best value in real estate, acquisition, and technology services across government, in support of the Biden-Harris administration's priorities. For more information, visit [GSA.gov](#) and follow us at [@USGSA](#).