



## Weekly Report for May 30, 2014

### **GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS**

#### ***DoD Issues Proposed Rule to Amend DFARS Special Contracting Methods, Major System Acquisition, and Service Contracting (DFARS Case 2014-D004)***

The Department of Defense (DoD) issued a proposed rule to amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to revise and update clauses and their prescriptions for special contracting methods, major system acquisition, and service contracting to create basic and alternate clauses structured in a manner to facilitate use of automated contract writing systems, [79 Fed. Reg. 30535](#). The rule also includes the full text of each alternate, rather than only showing the paragraphs that differ from the basic clause. Comments on the proposed rule are due July 28, 2014.

### **CAPITOL HILL**

#### ***House Defense Bill Would Raise Small Business Contracting Goals***

Inside the 700-plus page National Defense Authorization Act ("NDAA") that cleared the House on Thursday, May 22, 2014, there are provisions to open more federal contracting opportunities to small businesses, and some of these measures are troubling to major contractors. "The contracting amendments offered in the NDAA are common-sense reforms that will provide opportunities for small companies trying to break into the federal marketplace," said Rep. Sam Graves, R-Mo., chairman of the House Small Business Committee. "These amendments address many of the barriers created due to the federal procurement system's bureaucracy and inefficiency." The Graves-sought provisions include an increase to the government-wide small business prime contracting goal from 23 percent of contracting dollars to 25 percent and establish a 40 percent subcontracting goal. Another would require that the administration publish contract bundling and consolidation justifications before issuing requests for proposals for awards under the General Services Administration-run Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative; [House Defense Bill Would Raise Small Business Contracting Goals](#).

#### ***Agencies Get Tougher on Misbehaving Contractors***

Federal agencies are strengthening programs to find and punish unethical contractors. The Government Accountability Office reported Government wide suspensions and debarments have increased from 1,836 in fiscal 2009 to 4,812 in fiscal year 2013, [GAO-](#)

[14-513](#). Six agencies with minimal suspension and debarment activity, made changes to staffing, guidance and the case referral process as recommended by GAO in 2011. These agencies went from a total of 19 suspension and debarment actions in fiscal 2009 to a collective 271 actions in fiscal 2013; [Agencies Get Tougher on Misbehaving Contractors](#).

***Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled***

***The Following Notice Was Issued:***

[79 Fed. Reg. 29747](#), May 23, 2014, proposing to add products (Drying Mat, Microfiber, Holiday Themed; Bottle, Water, Reusable, 26oz; Pen, Ergonomic, Low Viscosity Ink, Retractable, Wide body) and a service (Laundry Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System and VA Central Iowa Health Care System, 2501 West 22nd Street, Sioux Falls, SD) and delete products (Cord Assembly, Elastic; Powder Free, Latex and Polyisoprene; Mattress, High Density Lumbar; Hydramax Hydration System) from the Procurement List. Comments on the proposed additions and deletions are due June 23, 2014.