

## 1819.302

such concerns in applying for such assistance, and ensure that small business concerns' requests for financial assistance are not treated as a handicap in securing the award of contracts.

(G) Participate in responsibility determinations (see FAR 9.103) when small business concerns are involved.

(H) Participate in the evaluation of prime contractors' small business subcontracting programs (see FAR 19.705-4).

(I) Review and make appropriate recommendations to the contracting officer on any proposal to furnish Government-owned facilities to a contractor if such action may hurt the Small Business Program.

(J) Ensure that participation of small business concerns is accurately reported.

(K) Make available to SBA copies of solicitations when requested.

(L) Act as liaison between contracting officers and SBA area offices and representatives in connection with set-asides, certificates of competency, and any other matters in which the Small Business Program may be involved.

(M) In cooperation with contracting officers and technical personnel, seek and develop information on the technical competence of small business concerns for research and development contracts. Regularly bring to the attention of contracting officers and technical personnel descriptive data, brochures, and other information regarding small business concerns that are apparently competent to perform research and development work in fields in which NASA is interested.

(N) When a small business concern's offer has been rejected for non-responsiveness or nonresponsibility, assist that concern, upon its request, in understanding such requirements for future awards.

(O) Advise center personnel, as necessary, on new Governmentwide and Agency-approved small business programs and initiatives.

(f)(1) The NASA Ombudsman, the Director of the Contract Management Division (Code HK), is the designated official for determining whether the use of the SDB mechanism in FAR subpart 19.11 has resulted in an undue burden

## 48 CFR Ch. 18 (10-1-02 Edition)

on non-SDB firms in the Department of Commerce designated NAICS Major Groups, or is otherwise inappropriate.

[62 FR 36707, July 9, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 25215, May 11, 1999; 65 FR 38777, June 22, 2000; 65 FR 58932, Oct. 3, 2000; 67 FR 53547 Oct. 23, 2001]

### **1819.302 Protesting a small business representation. (NASA supplements paragraph (d))**

(d)(1) The contracting officer shall not make awards of small business set-aside acquisitions before the expiration of the period for receipt of a size standard protest.

## **Subpart 1819.5—Set-Asides for Small Business**

### **1819.502 Setting aside acquisitions.**

#### **1819.502-70 Non-initiation of set-asides.**

(a) All cases involving the non-initiation of a set-aside, whether resulting from a joint decision of the small business specialist and the contracting officer or a decision by the contracting officer alone, require referral to the SBA representative (if one is assigned and available) for review.

(b) If the small business specialist recommends that an individual acquisition or a class of acquisition, or a portion thereof, be set aside, the contracting officer shall promptly either concur in or disapprove the recommendation, stating in writing the reasons for disapproval.

(c) When an SBA representative is assigned and available and the contracting officer disapproves the small business specialist's recommendation, the contracting officer shall promptly refer the case to the SBA representative for review. The small business specialist shall take no further appeal action. The SBA representative must either concur with the decision or appeal the case to the procurement officer under FAR 19.505. If the procurement officer approves the contracting officer's decision and the SBA appeals under FAR 19.505(c), the procurement officer shall forward the required written justification, including a history of discussions between the center and the SBA and rationale for the decision, to

the Headquarters Office of Procurement (HS).

(d) When an SBA representative is not assigned or available and the contracting officer disapproves the small business specialist's recommendation, the small business specialist may appeal in writing to the procurement officer. The procurement officer's decision shall be final. The contracting officer shall place a memorandum of the procurement officer's decision in the contract file. If the procurement officer's decision approves the contracting officer's action, the small business specialist shall forward complete documentation of the case to the Headquarters Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (Code K).

(e) The contracting officer shall prepare, sign, and retain in the contract file a memorandum of nonconcurrence in a recommended set-aside action.

**§ 1819.502-3 Partial set-asides.**

**§ 1819.502-370 NASA reporting requirements.**

The contracting officer shall separately report, in accordance with Subpart 1804.6, awards of the non-set-aside portions of small business set-aside acquisitions.

**1819.505 Rejecting Small Business Administration recommendations.**

See 1819.502-70.

**1819.506 Withdrawing or modifying small business set-asides. (NASA supplements paragraph (b))**

(b) If an SBA representative is not assigned or available, and the small business specialist disagrees with the contracting officer's written decision of withdrawal or modification of a set-aside determination, the small business specialist may appeal to the procurement officer in accordance with the procedures in 1819.502-70(d).

**Subpart 1819.6—Certificates of Competency and Determinations of Responsibility**

**1819.602 Procedures.**

**1819.602-1 Referral. (NASA supplements paragraph (a))**

(a) On proposed awards exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold, the contracting officer should consider requesting a preaward survey (see FAR 9.106) before determining that a responsive small business firm is not responsible. The scope of the preaward survey request should be limited to those elements of responsibility that are questioned.

(2) The contracting officer shall forward a copy of the referral to SBA through the procurement officer to the Headquarters Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (Code K).

**1819.602-3 Resolving differences between the agency and the Small Business Administration.**

**1819.602-370 NASA procedures.**

(a) When agreement cannot be reached between the contracting officer and the SBA Area Office, the contracting officer shall forward to the Headquarters Office of Procurement (Code HS) on an expedited basis, a complete case file with a request that the case be considered for appeal to SBA Headquarters. The contracting officer shall include the data already furnished to SBA, SBA's rationale for proposing to issue a COC, and the contracting officer's comments. The contracting officer shall suspend acquisition action until informed by Code HS of the final decision in the case.

(b) If the Office of Procurement concludes that the referral to SBA should be withdrawn and a contract awarded without benefit of a COC, Code HS shall inform the contracting officer.

(c) If the Office of Procurement agrees with the contracting officer's