

### Subpart 1871.6—“Best Value Selection”

#### 1871.601 General.

(a) Best Value Selection (BVS) seeks to select an offer based on the best combination of price and qualitative merit of the offers submitted and reduce the administrative burden on the offerors and the Government.

(b) BVS takes advantage of the lower complexity of MidRange procurements and predefines the value characteristics which will serve as the discriminators among offers. It eliminates the use of area evaluation factors and the highly structured scoring.

#### 1871.602 Specifications for MidRange procurements.

BVS refines the traditional approach to preparing specifications. BVS envisions that the requirement will focus on the end result that is to be achieved and will serve as a statement of the Government's baseline requirements. The offeror will be guided in meeting the Government's needs by a separate set of value characteristics which establish what the Government considers to be valuable in an offer beyond the baseline requirement. These value characteristics will be performance based and will permit the selection of the offer which provides better results for a reasonable marginal increase in price.

[64 FR 36606, July 7, 1999]

#### 1871.603 Establishment of evaluation criteria.

(a) The requiring organization will provide, along with the requirement, a list of value characteristics against which the offers will be judged. There is no limit to the number or the type of characteristics that may be specified. The only standard will be whether the characteristic is rationally related to the need specified in the specification. Characteristics may include such factors as improved reliability, innovativeness of ideas, speed of service, demonstrated delivery performance, higher speeds, ease of use, qualifications of personnel, solutions to operating problems, level of service provided on previous similar contracts, or any of nu-

merous other characteristics that may be of value to the Government in satisfying its needs.

(b) For unrestricted acquisitions, small disadvantaged business (SDB) participation shall be evaluated as a BVS value characteristic (see FAR 19.1202-3). In order to receive consideration under the value characteristic, the offeror must propose a target for SDB participation greater than the baseline requirement. The baseline requirement for SDB participation is zero or no SDB participation. SDB concerns that choose the price evaluation adjustment under FAR 19.11 shall receive no consideration under this Mid-Range BVS value characteristic. Like other value characteristics, offerors meeting the baseline, but proposing no value above the baseline, and which are otherwise acceptable, are to be considered for award if they are finalists.

(c) Past performance may be included as a value characteristic or considered as a separate evaluation criteria. If considered as a separate criterion, the relative importance of past performance in relation to cost and technical must be defined in the solicitation.

(d) Cost and technical will be considered equal in importance. The value characteristics will not be assigned weights.

(e) All subsequent evaluations will consider these characteristics when determining the finalists or making the final selection for award.

[61 FR 55758, Oct. 29, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 19928, Apr. 23, 1999]

#### 1871.604 Evaluation phases.

##### 1871.604-1 Initial evaluation.

(a) Offers will be reviewed to determine if all required information has been provided and the offeror has made a reasonable attempt to present an acceptable offer. Offerors may be contacted only for clarification purposes during the initial evaluation. No further evaluation shall be made of any offer that is deemed unacceptable because:

(1) It does not represent a reasonable effort to address itself to the essential requirements of the RFO or clearly demonstrates that the offeror does not