

Industry Meeting
November 2016
Questions and Answers

1. Question - When viewing the Pending Responses in eBuy - How are these items updated and whom is enforcing the updating of the Quote Status field? Viewing our past contract, this screen would be several pages long, dating back years not months. The Quote status is a very important tool, if up to date and relevant. How can this Status field become important to the Buyers to keep current?

Answer – These items are updated by the owner/buyer of the RFQ. They should be updated after the buyer has made their award decision. There is no mechanism in place that forces the buyer to update this field after an award decision has been made.

2. Question - What is the dollar amount for total open market items threshold?

Answer – It is the micro-purchase threshold. Pursuant to Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 2.101, the current micro-purchase threshold is \$3,500, with some exceptions noted in the definition which are not typically applicable to vehicle acquisitions.

3. Question - Why does eBuy say, "Do not include open market items?"

Answer – The preference for all Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) quotes/orders is to only include items already awarded to the FSS contract.

4. Question - On 23V what allows an organization (State or local) to use GSA?

Answer - GSA's Disaster Purchasing Program allows state and local governments to buy supplies and services directly from all GSA Schedules to facilitate recovery from major disaster or facilitate disaster preparation and response. Additional information regarding this program can be found on the GSA website at - <https://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/202321>.

5. Question - To clarify open market items - if there are three open market items, the limit isn't \$3,500 per line, but the three lines must be under \$3,500, correct?

Answer – That is correct, the total value of all open market items per order cannot exceed the micro-purchase threshold of \$3,500.

6. Question - The RFQ requires us to quote freight included in all US states including Hawaii, Puerto Rico, etc. The freight is much higher to go overseas, how do we quote?

Answer - The answer for this can be different depending on the items, destination, and agency. The best course of action would be to ask the identified point of contract for the RFQ on a case-by-case basis as needed. Please note that if the quoted item is not F.O.B. Destination, or if the RFQ requests you to quote shipping separately, shipping is treated as an open-market item.

7. Question - Is there a credit \$ amount open market threshold? Understand Max total open market = \$3500, but is there a less than \$0 max?

For example - What if truck spec on schedule is more than what the new RFQ truck specification requires....this would provide a credit to that buyer...in other words the truck on schedule is a bit more complex, then the RFQ truck spec? Credit threshold open market?

Answer – The preference is that the product specifications are not altered from what is approved on the GSA contract. But it is ultimately up to the end user (buyer) to determine if the product being offered is the same as what is on the GSA Vendor's FSS contract. In terms of price discounts, there is no maximum credit/discount amount that can be offered by the vendor.

8. Question - Should we send you an email if we want a copy of the presentation?

Answer – Requests for a copy of the presentation should be sent to either Bridget Duffy at bridget.duffy@gsa.gov or Sharon Hamer at sharon.hamer@gsa.gov.

9. Question - If item on RFQ is not on our schedule, and we have it available for under the \$3500 amount, can we quote as "Open Market"?

Answer – The allowance for open market items on a quote is for the convenience of the Contracting Officer. See FAR 8.402(f). On an order or BPA issued off of an FSS contract, the open market item should be a compliment to the items offered off of the FSS contract, included for administrative convenience, and should not be the majority or sole item being offered.

10. Question - It is understood that if an item is not listed on the FSS schedule, then by default it is considered an open market item. But am I to understand that the term open market item only applies to items with a dollar value less than \$3500? What if the item is over the \$3500.00 threshold how is it handled?

Answer – Open market applies to any item that is not awarded on the FSS contract regardless of the dollar value of that item. If the dollar value of an open market item or items together on a quote for FSS contract items is over the micro-purchase threshold of \$3,500 it will not be eligible for an award.

11. Question - Noticed that many of the contractors that have hourly services under the repair / maintenance services SINs don't have corresponding parts SINs. How do they handle selling the parts, if they are not covered under fixed-price services?

Answer – That is a question for the contractors themselves; GSA is not able to answer that question.

12. Question - What is the mechanism for tracking the micro-purchase threshold limit? Seems unlikely that there are no parts being sold when there are only hourly services on a contract.

Answer – There is no mechanism for tracking the micro-purchase threshold limit on an order. It is up to each Contracting Officer (buyer) to ensure that all applicable regulations and policies are followed.

13. Question - Are open market purchases to be reported in the quarterly sales figures and IFF fees to be remitted?

Answer – Open market items are not to be reported as sales and are not subject to the Industrial Funding Fee (IFF).

14. Question - We have a customer who would like to purchase a product that is currently listed on our GSA schedule, but they would like us to remove some of the components to lower the price of the product, is this something we are able to offer through our approved contract, but at a reduced price.

Answer - The preference is that the product specifications are not altered from what is approved on the GSA contract. But it is ultimately up to the end user (buyer) to determine if the product being offered is the same as what is on the GSA Vendor's FSS contract.

15. Question - What about the Contracting Officer determining if the open market items meet a reasonable cost exceeding 3500 micro threshold?

Answer – There is no guidance that allows for a “reasonable cost” exceeding the micro-purchase threshold for open-market items. However, it is ultimately up to each Contracting Officer individually to ensure that all regulations and policies are followed.

16. Question - Do you have a GSA meeting scheduled for face to face guidance and information?

Answer – At this time, GSA does not have any planned meetings scheduled for face-to-face guidance and information for Schedules 23V and 751. If you would like to schedule a meeting with someone from this Branch, please feel free to contact Bridget Duffy (bridget.duffy@gsa.gov), Sharon Hamer (sharon.hamer@gsa.gov), or Eric VanderVeen (eric.vanderveen@gsa.gov).

NOTE – Additional information regarding basic ordering guidelines for GSA Schedules can be found on the GSA website at - <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/200369>.