

Question Number	Vendor Question	GSA Response
1	When does GSA plan to post the responses to the questions and comment from the previous RFI that was due from potential offerors on 26 August, 2015?	The last RFI conducted was in May 2015. All vendor feedback from that RFI has been considered in the latest posting of the Draft RFQ. No separate response documents will be posted based on that May 2015 RFI. Please reference this current posting of Q&A, as well as additional attachments posted for the most current information. GSA intends this Q&A posting, along with the final RFQ (anticipated October 2015) to constitute an answer to any and all outstanding questions that haven't previously been specifically addressed in either a formal posting response, an updated Draft RFQ, and/or a Q&A document. Please note that GSA will also allow at least one Q&A round during the official RFQ posting period, should any questions remain unanswered.
2	The vague item descriptions provided by GSA makes it very difficult for potential offerors to identify and quote similar products. There are a significant number of items that of which the IPDs provided creates a wide range of items that could be interpreted as matching. Many of the IPD data sheets refer to Mil Specs as Mfg. part #s and they are of no assistance in product identification. Can GSA provide a clear Mfg. name and Mfg. part # for each of the items in the market basket? If no clear Mfg. part number is available, then will items be removed from the Market Basket?	Please be advised that the actual Item Purchase Description documents were included with the Interact post and not with the eBuy attachments. Please verify that you have viewed the IPD documents which are posted in full with this response. As to providing a clear manufacturer part number on market basket (MB) items: items in the market basket that are Brand Name or Equal will always provide at least one part number in the IPD. MB items that are 'specification' based will not reference a part number in accordance with GSA Global Supply standard practice on this matter. Many of the MB items are specification (or generic)-based IPDs; they will not be removed based on not having a part number listed in the IPD.
3	Would GSA consider having all vendors provide industry standard Mfg. Part numbers that could be used to create a market standard Market Basket based upon all vendor submissions? Using Mfg. part #s will ensure all vendors quote exactly the same item and provide fairness across the board.	GSA intends to solicit the Market Basket items via National Stock Number (NSN).
4	Is GSA allowing suitable substitutes for Market Basket items? If so, what specific criteria will be used to determine a product is a suitable match?	Market Basket NSN's must meet the IPD provided. In the case of Brand Name or Equal IPDs, an acceptable part number reference(s) is provided in the IPD.
5	Is there a timeline or channel to have items removed from the Market Basket due to lack of information provided by GSA to adequately identify the product needed?	GSA does not anticipate having to remove items from the market basket, however, should this occur, GSA will give the appropriate amount of time for vendors to update their quotes. Please be sure you have reviewed the IPD documents posted.
6	Do offerors have to quote all items in a Market Basket or is a partial submission sufficient?	Quoters must submit quotes on all Market Basket items, for the category(s) in which they wish to compete. Having an equal set of items ensures a fair evaluation of the quotes.

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7	Is this the final version of the Market Basket or will it change again?	Any further, major changes to the market basket are not planned. Some minor changes could still occur with the final posting. NSN demand is subject to changing market conditions based on customer spend. NSNs themselves also periodically get terminated, cancelled, or replaced with other NSN numbers.
8	When is the actual RFQ expected to post?	Anticipated posting, at this time, is October 2015.
9	On page 22 of the Draft RFQ (last sentence of 7.6 PRIME), it states that offerors can ask the contracting officer for a list of PRIME items. We would like to submit a request for a list of these PRIME items at this time.	All PRIME information is included in the IPD attachments. For Tools PRIME items, see page 900 of Tools IPD attachment. For Hardware PRIME items, see Hardware IPD attachment pages 275, 284, 288, 291, and 302. All IPD attachments were included with 08/12/2015 Interact posting at https://interact.gsa.gov/document/mro-requisition-seeks-feedback-expanded-market-basket and are included with the post as well.
10	Please make Attachments 1 thru 9 associated with this RFQ available for retrieval.	See attached 1 thru 9, along with other attachments planned. Please note that these attachments are still in draft mode and subject to change.
11	Section 4.2 states that 13 of the 18 BPAs will be set aside for small businesses, and then lists each of these 13 BPA categories. Three of the 13 set-aside BPAs are in Hardware categories; the other ten are in Tools categories. For the three Hardware set-asides, the list in section 4.2 indicates that GSA has obtained Non-Manufacturer rule waivers from the SBA. But there is no indication that such waivers have been obtained for the set-asides in the Tools categories. In relation to the Non-Manufacturer rule waivers, please see below:	This has changed. 13 of 18 BPAs will still be set aside by category and coast, as shown in Section 4.2 chart. However, the Non Manufacturer Rule Waiver has been obtained and will now apply to all of the Set Aside BPAs without exception.
12	Please confirm that Non-Manufacturer rule waivers have been, or will not be, obtained for any of the set-asides in the Tools categories.	A Non Manufacturer Rule Waiver has been obtained for this acquisition and will now apply to all of the Set Aside BPAs without exception.
13	Assuming waivers have been or will not be obtained for the set-asides in the Tools categories, it is our understanding that the small business contractors awarded BPAs in these categories must supply only the end items of small business manufacturers, processors or producers made in the United States. 13 C.F.R. 121.406(b)(1). In other words, to qualify as a small business, these contractors cannot supply any end items manufactured by large businesses. Please confirm that our understanding is correct. If our understanding is incorrect, please explain.	Your understanding of the Rule is correct, however, our application of the Waiver has changed as indicated above. A Non Manufacturer Rule Waiver has been obtained for this acquisition and will now apply to all of the Set Aside BPAs without exception.
14	Has GSA concluded that at least two small businesses are capable of meeting the requirements of the Non-Manufacturer rule (assuming no waivers are obtained) in each the Tools categories?	A Non Manufacturer Rule Waiver has been obtained for this acquisition and will now apply to all of the Set Aside BPAs without exception.
15	Given that the vast majority of the products offered under the Schedule 51V contracts are manufactured by large businesses, how could GSA conclude that any resellers or manufacturers are capable of complying with the Non-Manufacturer rule in the Tools categories?	A Non Manufacturer Rule Waiver has been obtained for this acquisition and will now apply to all of the Set Aside BPAs without exception.

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16	Page 9 of 65, Can you clarify the expectations of shipping OCONUS? Our MAS contract is setup as FOB Origin for these locations. Can we safely assume that we can charge shipping for OCONUS like we do on our MAS contract? Is the BPA terms going to follow the underlined terms of our MAS 51V contract?	For the vast majority of OCONUS orders, vendors will be shipping these to a Defense Transportation System Container Consolidation Point, which are all CONUS. For OCONUS orders, with respect to vendors' quotes on CLIN MB and CLIN CC, vendors would not be expected to cover shipping costs to OCONUS that would exceed CONUS shipping costs. Please see final RFQ Section 7 for details on how OCONUS orders will work.
17	Page 10 of 65. Can you clarify the 3rd paragraph from the bottom where you discuss the difference between the CLIN MN and CLIN CC. What allowances or variances will GSA accept for an item in the CLIN CC? There are items where the Mfg part being quoted maybe off slightly to the IPD spec. We need to know what to include for those NSNs? Are there plus and minuses allowances?	Variances or allowances for CLIN CC will generally not apply since these are Part Number based. Items submitted under CLIN CC as Part Numbers that are later (post-award) matched to an NSN will be verified to match the specs of that NSN's IPD. Plus and minus allowances, if any, will be included in the NSN IPD - whether for an NSN match to a CLIN CC item submitted, or to a CLIN MB item.
18	Page 11 – Set-Asides. For the Tool categories especially. There are many Mfg's that we currently sell where the NSN's only match their skus but they are large businesses. For example: Snap-on, Proto, Mac, Gerber, Leatherman. There's no small business Mfg meeting the vigorous specific NSN spec. There really should be a Non Mfg Rule Waiver for this entire 9 categories please strongly consider this. At the very least it should be by item/sku where there's proof it can be obtained by a small business Mfg but to post it to a whole category is not realistic.	A Non Manufacturer Rule Waiver has been obtained for this acquisition and will now apply to all of the Set Aside BPAs without exception.
19	Page 21 of 65 – PRIME. What items are in this program? How many items are in this group that require this? Also are we also talking about packaging is the concern and not the product itself?	All PRIME information is included in the IPD attachments. For Tools PRIME items, see page 900 of Tools IPD attachment. This page describes what you need to know about PRIME and which items it applies to. For Hardware PRIME items, see Hardware IPD attachment pages 275, 284, 288, 291, and 302. All IPD attachments were included with 08/12/2015 Interact posting at https://interact.gsa.gov/document/mro-requisition-seeks-feedback-expanded-market-basket and are included with this posting as well.
20	Page 22 of 65, Section 7.7 Returns. Will the customer be responsible for the returned freight on items that are not damaged but just ordered by them incorrectly?	Vendors shall follow the terms of their Schedule 51V with respect to returned freight.
21	Page 25 of 65, Section 8.8.1. Is the Gov't looking to procure the AbilityOne items as FOB Origin? Please clarify what this paragraph is telling GSA contractors?	Section 8.8.1 will be removed from the RFQ document for the final RFQ. Please reference the terms of your MAS 51V contract with respect to AbilityOne items. Vendors will still need to be authorized AbilityOne distributors.
22	Page 50 of 65, Section 18.2.3, we know what FEDSTRIP/MILSTRIP is but we have not encountered customers submitting this form of payment to us. Can you verify how the GSA contractor will get paid this way? We would like to learn more about this so we can offer this method.	The requisition orders will be sent to GSA Global Supply. GSA Global supply will in turn issue a purchase order to the vendor awarded the NSN. Payment will be made by GSA to the vendor and GSA will bill the customer. Vendors will only receive orders from GSA under this solution. The vendors will not receive MILSTRIP/FEDSTRIP orders directly

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23	<p>Page 51 of 65, Section 18.2.6. Most items do have bar codes but many small items like socket, allen wrenches, drill bits may not have bar codes on them. Will we penalized for items that don't come bar coded like other products on a blister package.</p>	<p>The Contractor shall ensure all products are labeled with scannable bar codes per standard commercial practice. However, some exceptions may apply. Typically, items that are too small to barcode are exempted from the requirement - for example, a single allen wrench. However, the next size up package would include it, such as a package of 10 allen wrenches would typically require a barcode. Fed-Std-123, "Marking for Shipment (Civil Agencies)" is currently being re-written. This will apply to the BPA. Paragraph 4.1 of the draft version one (publication pending) says "Packages too small to accommodate a bar code need not be bar coded." Please pay careful attention to the draft verbiage -- "packages" -- therefore so long as the Package for the single allen wrench is large enough to accomodate a bar code, then a bar code would still be required. The final RFQ will be updated to reflect this more detailed bar coding explanation.</p>
24	<p>Page 53 of 65, regarding Vertical and horizontal price analysis. Unfortunately in the FSSI purchasing channel RFQ, a few awardees used "unbalanced pricing" on their market basket to give them a significant competitive advantage with a low market basket amount. They sacrificed less than cost pricing on a handful of items to give them an edge on their total market basket pricing. According to FAR clause: Unbalanced pricing. FAR 15.404-1 (g) this is something that must be addressed on these market baskets. We understand the acquisition is being conducted under FAR Part 8.4053, however we are concerned on how will GSA avoid and prevent and hopefully enforce against Unbalanced Pricing in accordance with the FAR Part 15.404-1(g)?</p>	<p>The acquisition strategy is best value, and prices will be reviewed at the aggregate and at the line item level for outliers that are at the high level and low level. Horizontal and vertical pricing techniques will be utilized to minimize any opportunity for possible unbalanced pricing within the market basket.</p>
25	Vendor submitted comments and information for consideration.	GSA appreciates the information and is considering it for the final RFQ.
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