

DESCRIPTION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Briefly describe:

This nomination is based upon creative innovation demonstrated by the Integrated Acquisition Environment (IAE) e-Government Program, which is managed by GSA's Office of Acquisition Systems. IAE provides a portfolio of acquisition services to all federal agencies and is the largest of the cross-agency initiatives supporting the E-Government Act of 2002. In 2008, IAE's unique service solution furthered governmentwide streamlining, transparency, fiscal accountability, and efficiency by introducing the next generation of acquisition services to the acquisition community.

Prior to 2003, the governmentwide federal acquisition system faced ongoing challenges of duplicative and redundant stovepipe business and information systems, lacking data/messaging standards, scale, and sufficient investment leverage. The IAE Program Management Office led teams comprised of more than 300 volunteers from 65 agencies identifying "best of breed" and leveraged the internet and the technology infrastructure then existing in government agencies. IAE created a simpler, common, integrated business process for buyers and sellers that promotes competition, transparency and integrity. Innovation continues, further improving both services and governmentwide investments, with the launching of the first of the next generation of services in 2008 -- FBO.GOV.

When choosing the information technology solutions three strategies were considered: adopt, adapt, or acquire. The common federal acquisition environment would "adopt" existing systems that could solve the given requirements to become the authoritative system for the requirement if it was state-of-the-art or near state-of-the-art and scale to support the entire federal landscape, including the Department of Defense. Those existing government systems that could not, in their native form, be extended to the entire federal procurement community were "adapted." In this option, IAE leveraged existing systems and enhanced them through an acceptable level of investment so that they could perform their given functionality governmentwide. Then commercial products were "acquired" that best fit the requirements using performance-based contracting to maximize creativity of industry solutions. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 IAE added a new strategy -- "aggregation." This option focuses on both services and data in the business lifecycle. IAE is now moving from application centricity to service centricity focused on transparency and simplicity of design. This will maximize the confidence and credibility in the accuracy of the data collected or enhanced during the business lifecycle. This option further seeks to deliver seamless technology that works in the federal acquisition architecture emphasizing integration versus application.

The cross-agency collaboration developed by the IAE team opened up a huge communication channel between agencies, GSA and OMB. Consensus was built by communicating widely, deeply, and often with stakeholders using collaboration tools. The IAE governance model reflects a collaborative management structure, shared

leadership, agency and industry involvement, and a common set of standards. The outcome is the focus on aggregation -- the next generation of IAE. Consolidation of web services currently duplicated across the enterprise in each application such as authentication, help desk, hosting, and web services will be reduced or eliminated (as successfully deployed in the recent FBO.GOV/FedTeDS consolidation).

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TECHNOLOGY USED

Briefly detail the technologies (hardware, software and services) used to address the challenge and the rationale for selecting them.

IAE is a multi-level, state-of-the-art enterprise whose components include open source, Commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) software and Government Owned Software (GOTS). IAE provides customers with an “enter once, use many times” approach to data management by optimizing innovations in web technology, including web and application servers with open source such as Java Enterprise, Apache and Linux, combined with database software including MS SQL and Oracle. This provides IAE’s users resources made available as independent services that can be accessed without knowledge of the underlying platform. The collaboration tools that facilitate feedback from all stakeholders, along with the shared services environment, enable IAE to deploy a single point of registration and validation of supplier data that can be accessed by all agencies, providing access for a central point for consolidated collection of statistical and management information related to government acquisitions.

Applications in IAE are based on services. A service is an implementation of well-defined business functionality. IAE allows new services to be created from an existing IT infrastructure of systems. This enables IAE to leverage existing investments by allowing the reuse of applications and provides interoperability between heterogeneous applications and techniques. IAE provides its customers a level of flexibility by providing services that are software components with well defined interfaces that are implementation independent.

IAE provides a set of tools and capabilities that can be leveraged by the acquisition community, including buyers, sellers, and the public to conduct business across the federal government. IAE facilitates all phases of the federal acquisition lifecycle, providing substantial improvement in government-to-citizen, government-to-business, and government-to-government transactions and processes. FedBizOpps (www.fbo.gov or FBO.GOV) is the single government point-of-entry for posting solicitations over \$25,000, allowing commercial business suppliers to search, monitor, and retrieve opportunities in federal government markets. FBO.GOV now includes the Federal Technical Data Solutions (FedTeDS), which allows federal agencies to securely disseminate sensitive acquisition-related technical data for solicitations to approved business partners. Wage Determinations On-line (www.wdol.gov) makes Service Contract Act and Davis-Bacon Act wage determinations easily accessible by the contracting community. The Central Contractor Registration (www.ccr.gov) is the

required point of registration for vendors wishing to do business with the government. The Federal Agency Registration (www.bpn.gov/far), a subset of CCR, is the federal agencies “yellow pages.” The Online Representations and Certifications Application (www.bpn.gov/orca) allows vendors to enter representations and certifications once for use on all federal contracts. The Excluded Parties List System (www.epls.gov) identifies parties excluded from receiving federal contracts and certain subcontracts, as well as individuals excluded from certain types of federal financial and non-financial assistance, including benefits. The Federal Procurement Data System (www.fpds.gov) provides data on all federal contract actions over \$3,000. And finally, the Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (www.esrs.gov) facilitates reporting of accomplishments toward subcontracting goals.

The next generation of IAE services will further transform the environment, evolving to deliver seamless technology that works in the federal acquisition architecture emphasizing integration versus application. IAE will take advantage of the additional capabilities offered by Service Oriented Architecture and leverage more open source component ware.

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IMPACT

Briefly describe the significance of the accomplishment to the agency, its employees, its constituents or the public. What specific benefits, cost-savings, improvements in service resulted from the project? How does it position the agency to be more agile, more cost effective in the future?

IAE is used by all major federal agencies, and the benefits they derive demonstrate the effectiveness of the program. IAE’s estimated benefits to agencies in terms of cost effectiveness and cost avoidance were summarized in OMB’s “Fiscal Year 2007 Report to Congress on the Benefits of the President’s E-Government Initiatives.” Contributing agencies received estimated benefits of \$174,825,849 based upon the processes, personnel, roles, steps, and actions involved. Additionally, agencies realized an estimated cost avoidance of \$5,346,266 and estimated operational cost savings of \$29,165,731. These record successes were based on the revolutionary idea of “simplify and unify” and evolved from the “Adopt, Adapt, Acquire” strategy.

The next generation of IAE focuses on transparency and the sharing of data resulting in data accuracy and instilling data confidence and credibility. For example, customers will make a “web service call” to the environment aimed at registration, which was once supported by applications like CCR, eSRS, FBO, and ORCA individual applications. While across applications the data is shared, the requirement of redundant registrations is a cost of doing business, and the administrative burden of ensuring each application is in sync is measured both in dollars and timing. By moving to service centric environments, the business lifecycle can be managed and fine tuned. The net cost of operating the environment through simplifying and unifying services such as authentication, help desk, hosting, and web services currently duplicated across the

enterprise in each application, are reduced or eliminated. Business is immediately simplified and unencumbered by complicated technology. The business process is once again pure and flexible, but strengthened through data availability, accuracy, and timing. Change becomes fluid and creative as opposed to complex and costly in both real investment and time to implement. This approach maximizes the philosophy of people, ideas, and artificial intelligence in that order. Technology now compliments the business goals of transparency, visibility and integrity while protecting core values such as market competition dependent so much on confidence and credibility, for a fraction of the current investment.

Initial results are impressive; the delivery of FBO.GOV in April 2008 began the process of delivering service centric, open architecture and aggregation of applications. The consolidation of FBO.GOV and FedTeDS is projected to save the government over \$600,000 in the first year of operation and \$1.5 million annually thereafter. Additionally, FPDS Version 1.3 was released on June 27, 2008 with exciting new functionality consolidating an Interagency Contract Directory application capability focused on increasing transparency and visibility of all indefinite delivery vehicles available to agencies. Version 1.3 is a significant change that will greatly improve data quality. Other improvements in this version include re-representation functionality, revision of NAICS codes, CCR updates, function to transfer contracts, address place of manufacture reporting requirements, incorporate Stafford Act requirements, and National Interest Actions. Increased Purchase Card functionality will allow agencies to have visibility for all purchases, contracts and purchase cards. With the introduction of aggregation in FY 2008 agencies and citizens now are receiving expanded web service capabilities.
