

## Most Frequently Asked Questions About Federal Procurement

(The following information was taken from: <http://www.sba.gov/GC/indexfaqs.html>)

### 1. *How does SBA define a business as "small"?*

In making a detailed definition, SBA may use a number of criteria, including the number of employees, annual receipts, affiliates, or other applicable factors. These specific criteria are set forth in the SBA Small Business Size Regulations, Title 13, Part 121 of the Code of Federal Regulations. For information on specific industry classifications (manufacturing, construction, services, transportation, refined petroleum products, and research development and testing), or more information on general small business definitions, please contact the SBA's Office of Size Standards at: <http://www.sba.gov/size/>

### 2. *What is FACNET?*

The Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994 established a simplified acquisition threshold of \$100,000. It also required that a government-wide computer system, the Federal Acquisition Computer Network (FACNET), found at: [www.ectag.org](http://www.ectag.org), be implemented no later than January 1, 2000. Once FACNET is in place, the entire procurement process, from solicitation through award and payment, will be done electronically. To access the FACNET System, you must use the services of a government certified Value Added Network/Service (VAN/VAS) provider or become a certified VAN/VAS. To find more information on FACNET and VAN/VAS providers, contact the Department of Defense Electronic Commerce Information Center by calling 1-800-334-3414 or at [www.ectag.org](http://www.ectag.org).

### 3. *How do I find out who in the government purchases my product or service?*

Consult the U.S. Government Purchasing and Sales Directory when put on-line on the SBA's website in the near future.

### 4. *How can I get a DUNS number?*

DUNS stands for "Data Universal Numbering System" and is used by the government to identify contractors and their locations. The number is also required to register with the Central Contractor Register (CCR) that is used by the government's electronic commerce/electronic data interchange (EC/EDI) system called FACNET. If you do not have a DUNS number, you can obtain one from Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) at no cost. Contact the company at 1-866-705-5711.

### 5. *What is the Commerce Business Daily (CBD)?*

The Commerce Business Daily (CBD) lists notices of proposed government procurement actions, contract awards, sales of government property, and other procurement information. All federal procurement offices are required to announce, in the CBD, proposed procurement actions over \$25,000 and contract awards over \$25,000 that are likely to result in the award of any subcontracts. Prime contractors are also encouraged to publish subcontracting opportunities in the CBD. Visit <http://www.ld.com/cbd/today/> for free access to today's CBD.



**6. *What is the 8(a) Program?***

The 8(a) Business Development program is designed to provide business development assistance and technical assistance to help socially and economically disadvantaged American businesses gain access to the mainstream American economy. The program is named for the section of the Small Business Act that authorizes its policies and procedures.

**7. *What happens if a contract is abandoned?***

If a contractor abandons a contract or fails to perform satisfactorily, the contracting officer may terminate the contract for default and charge the contractor the excess re-procurement costs. i.e., the difference between the original contract price and the ultimate cost to the government.

