

The Office of Acquisition and Logistics

Management Newsletter – January/February 2017

DSEIS Delivers

The Division of Scientific Equipment and Instrumentation Services (DSEIS) is ready, willing, and able to meet the scientific equipment and laboratory instrumentation needs of the NIH Intramural Research community. DSEIS services include: acquisition of scientific equipment and lab instrumentation (buy, rent, or rent-to-own); no-cost delivery and pickup; equipment installation, testing, and calibration; equipment maintenance, repair, and refurbishment; and custom fabrication and modification.

Here’s how the NIH Intramural Research community benefits from DSEIS services:

- Save money on purchases, rentals, and maintenance.
- Save time and energy. DSEIS takes care of acquisitions and provides the three required justifications.
- Convenience and accessibility of DSEIS’s on-campus location.
- Reduced administrative burden (and headaches).
- Support from experienced DSEIS staff who have knowledge and expertise specific to research lab equipment and instrumentation AND a solid understanding of NIH equipment acquisition policies and procedures.

Available equipment and instruments include:

Centrifuges	PCRs/Thermal cyclers
Freezers*	Spectrophotometers
Incubators	Water baths
Microscopes	Balance
and more.	

*DSEIS now offers the highly requested Stirling Ultra Low Temperature Freezer.

SAVE up to 47% on new equipment purchases. DSEIS has negotiated discount prices with vendors for popular lab equipment, usually below GSA pricing. See the table below for an example of potential savings.

Equipment	List Price	GSA Price	DSEIS Price + 8% surcharge	Savings (difference between GSA & DSEIS Price)
Equipment A	\$19,916	\$8,936.75	\$9,652.77	-\$716.02
Accessories	\$2,664.00	\$2,376.00	\$0	\$2,376.00
1 Year Extended warranty	\$810.00	\$810.00	\$0	\$810.00
Inside Delivery	\$400	\$400	\$0	\$400
Total	\$26,498.00	\$16,314.14	\$9,719.78	*Total Savings \$2,870

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RENT. Stretch your budget with rental equipment. Maintenance is included on commonly used equipment. DSEIS handles procurement, obtains funding, and tracks property.

MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR. Full-service and preventive-maintenance contracts are easy on your budget— you’ll always know costs up front. DSEIS charges a competitive labor rate of \$120 per hour.

Equipment Sales and Rental Pricing, rental@ors.od.nih.gov, 301-496-9748

Equipment Maintenance, Repair, Custom Fabrication, DSEIS_repairs@nih.gov, 301-451-1753

Beware of Brand Name Justification

On July 2, 2016, the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM), posted a solicitation as a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB), for herbicides on a brand name only basis. Phoenix Environmental Design, Inc., an SDVOSB, filed a protest stating that the brand name restriction unjustly limited competition.

BLM’s justification for the brand name restriction was because they “are currently approved for use” by the agency’s pesticide use proposal (PUP). Only pesticides listed on the PUP may be used on a particular piece of land. Furthermore, BLM stated that the use of an equal pesticide that is not listed on the PUP will require an amendment to the PUP, which may take up to six months.

However, the agency’s justification was inconsistent with the record. Per the 2012 PUP, only two of the three herbicides were listed with an expiration of November 2015. Although a PUP prepared in June 2016 contained all three of the herbicides listed on the solicitation, it has not been approved yet.

As a result, the protest was sustained. GAO recommended that “BLM conduct further market research to determine whether, consistent with the FAR... If no such justification exists, the agency should cancel the procurement and resolicit its requirements on a brand name or equal basis. We also recommend that BLM reimburse Phoenix’s costs of filing and pursuing the protest.”

The unique factor of this protest was the estimated value of the purchase order: \$5,524. Typically, protests are conducted for larger value orders. However, despite the small value of the purchase order, the protest was filed, reviewed, sustained.

For additional information on the GAO decision please reference [GAO File B-413373](#).

The Electronic Contract Proposal Submission Site Going Live for NIH

NIH can now receive and process contract proposals through the [Electronic Contract Proposal Submission site](#) (eCPS). The eCPS was recommended for receipt of research and development

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(R&D) contract proposals as part of the NIH Office of Management's Strategic Goal to integrate NIH business processes and advance strategic opportunities.

NIAID has effectively used the eCPS for over four years. Additionally, NLM and NCI have used the eCPS. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is using the eCPS as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) proposal receipt. To date, the eCPS has received over 1,600 proposals, saving over 2.5 million pages of paper.

Each NIH Consolidated Operations Acquisitions Center (COAC) has assigned Focal Points, who will serve as eCPS specialists for their COACs. The Focal Points will be trained in mid-February 2017.

More information will be coming in mid-February concerning the go-live date and the website where you can view a list of Focal Points as well as training materials.

Training Information

Acquisition Training at NIH

Acquisition Training Classes that are offered by the NIH Training Center can be accessed at the following link: [Acquisition Management Training](#).

Federal Acquisition Certification Coursework

CON courses and other Federal Acquisition Certification required courses can be found at the [NIH Training Center](#), [Federal Acquisition Institute](#), and [Defense Acquisition University](#).

Section 508 Accessibility Training

Section 508 Accessibility Training courses can be accessed at: [CIT Section 508 Accessibility training website](#).

Green Purchasing Training

Green Purchasing Training and other Green Training courses can be found at [OALM Green Purchasing Website](#).

As a reminder, per HHS policy, all contracting officers, contract specialists, purchase cardholders, card approving officials, CORs and acquisition staff in job series 1102, 1105, and 1106 are required to take the Green Purchasing training every two calendar years. The training includes online training modules for your convenience.

Questions regarding Green Purchasing Training should be sent to GreenPurchasing@mail.nih.gov

NIH Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) Lists Available Online

Lists of all NIH Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) can be found at the NIH [Blanket Purchase Agreement webpage](#).

This location contains Two BPA Lists:

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1. Complete vendor alphabetical list;
2. Vendor list sorted by commodity; and

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the BPA helpline at 301-496-5212 or [email](#).

THANKS!

We would like to thank all those who contributed to this issue of the OALM Newsletter.

The OALM Newsletter will be published six (6) times in calendar year 2017. We encourage staff to submit articles that would be of interest to our readers. We will do our best to include such articles in future editions of the OALM Newsletter.

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If you have any questions or comments regarding the information, policy and/or procedures published in this issue, you may contact Jesse Lee at the e-mail address above. For future issues please contact the Simplified Acquisitions Helpline on 301-496-0400 or via e-mail at OALMNewsletter@mail.nih.gov and you will be referred to the appropriate editor.