THELINK

Connecting Suppliers with DLA

Issue 1
June 2016

Upcoming Events:

August 29—September 1:
"DLA Land & Maritime Suppliers Conference & Exposition"
Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

www.dla.mil

www.facebook.com/dla.mil

www.twitter.com/dlamil

www.youtube.com/user/dodlogisticsagency

Welcome to THELINK!

Welcome to the first issue of **THELINK** newsletter, a quarterly publication that will highlight information important to you – our DLA suppliers! Each quarter, all active DLA Internet Bid Board System (DIBBS) users will receive a PDF via email. **THELINK** will also be posted on the Enterprise Business Systems Supplier Information Resource Center (EBS SIRC) along with a notice on the DIBBS website https://www.dibbs.bsm.dla.mil with a direct link to the publication. If you are unfamiliar with the EBS SIRC you can visit it at http://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Business/EBSSupplierResources.aspx.

The featured article in this issue, located on page 3, includes the results from the recent DIBBS Survey. You will see an overview of our findings and a few of the actions we are taking to improve your overall DIBBS experience. Also within this issue are articles about new DIBBS functionality, useful updates, reminders and various topics from our engineering, supply, policy and small business groups.

Each issue will include upcoming events and other useful tips. We hope you will find this and every issue informative. This publication is for you so if you have a suggestion for an article, please send it to dibbsbsm@dla.mil. As a reminder, you can always find out more about DLA by visiting our Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or DLA Website listed to the left. We encourage you to share this information throughout your companies to further improve communications between DLA and our valued suppliers.

Thank you for partnering with us to support our warfighters!

ZIP + 4 Update in SAM & DUNS

Correcting your ZIP code +4 will ensure transparency of Department of Defense contracting data within government procurement repositories such as Federal Procurements Data System Next Generation (FPDS-NG). All DoD contracts issued within the United States must be properly aligned and associated to a ZIP +4. You can find your full ZIP code by using the USPS ZIP code look-up at: https://tools.usps.com/go/ZipLookupAction_input. Please help us by correcting your ZIP +4 in SAM.GOV (System for Award Management) and Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) by following the instructions in the job aid posted at: http://www.dla.mil/Portals/104/Documents/InformationOperations/EBS%20Supplier%20Information/How_to_update_%20ZipCode4_v2.pdf

NEW! Upload Proposal Functionality

Suppliers are now able to upload offers and submit additional documents for open RFPs, IFBs and other RFQs that do not have a quote button.

Unless prohibited by the solicitation, DIBBS electronic upload is the preferred method of proposal submission. You may use this new feature to upload a completed offer and all associated documents. The offer must be signed and completed in its entirety in accordance with the solicitation requirements.

Once logged in, you will be able to submit an offer in response to a solicitation found on the RFP search tab by selecting the *Offer* icon. The button will only be selectable for vendors who are logged into DIBBS.

Why use this new feature? After you submit your proposal, you will get a printable receipt stating the offer was successfully submitted.

NOTE: if the ability to upload proposals is unavailable for any reason, this does not constitute an acceptable reason for a late bid. Always refer to your solicitation for other acceptable submission methods.

Packaging News

DLA Land and Maritime is focusing on ensuring components such as microcircuits, semiconductors, relays, hybrids and resistors are adequately protected from physical and electrostatic discharge effects. Product issues are often caused by inadequate physical protection due to cushioning, wrapping material, or unit package selections or omissions. Therefore, DLA Land and Maritime is initiating some changes to the vendor requirement. These enhancements will give more clarity in defining what is considered acceptable cushioning and package materials.

The intent is to ensure a reduction in products receipted to DLA Land and Maritime which may have catastrophic or latent defects caused by exposure to static electricity, magnetism or physical damage. Therefore, vendors are being advised that more detailed requirements are being specified within the packaging codes and supplemental packaging statements. Specific cushioning and container material identified are to be adhered to as specified in each contract. Further information may be located on the web at http://www.dla.mil/LandandMaritime/Offers/Services/TechnicalSupport/Logistics/Packaging/PackFAQs.aspx.

SRVA—What is This?

The Supplier Requirements Visibility Application (SRVA) program provides suppliers with DLA forecasting information. The second week of each month, 24 months of forecast information is sent to DIBBS. To use this tool, suppliers can go to DIBBS, click on the SRVA link, and input a list of NIINs to retrieve the forecast information (you must be logged in to access this feature). The Projected Planned Orders (forecast/estimates) are based on statistical forecasts generated from history and may include data from collaborative efforts between DLA and the customer. It is important to note that these estimates are not binding.

This SRVA process should allow DLA and suppliers to reduce lead times, increase customer support and improve warfighter readiness by the demand and supply chains via an end-to-end process from the customer to DLA and to the supplier.

SRVA support is available by contacting the following mailboxes:

- Aviation: dscr.srvaaviation@dla.mil
- Land: dscc.srvaland@dla.mil
- Maritime: dscc.srvamaritime@dla.mil
- Energy: dlaenergydemandplanning@dla.mil
- Clothing & Textile, Construction & Equipment, Industrial Hardware, Medical or Subsistence: dlatroopsupportsrva@dla.mil

Did You Know? If you are EDI capable the front of the DD1155 in block 19 or other award document will state "Award sent EDI, do not duplicate shipment", you will not receive award notification emails. You can only have one or the other.

DIBBS Survey Results

At the end of February, a survey was sent to DIBBS users to gather input regarding the usability of the DIBBS website in terms of navigation, layout/design, readability, etc. Over 1,700 responses were received including 659 detailed comments. Each and every comment was read and categorized for a future DIBBS redesign effort.

What do our suppliers think about DIBBS overall? When asked, "Were you satisfied with your overall experience," responders answered "Yes" 83% of the time. Less experienced users reported lower satisfaction rates indicating a need for more "user friendly" updates.

Over 20% of the comments included suggestions for changes to the password or login requirements. Suppliers felt that the requirements are overly complicated and expire too quickly. DoD security regulations mandate the password requirements which limits the flexibility to make changes; however, future functionality will include a pop-up box to inform suppliers what password requirements were not met. This should help with the frustration of creating new passwords. There is also a user self-unlock feature being designed.

Nearly 19% of the comments included recommendations to improve the searching capability. Suggestions included better sorting, the ability to export search results, adding more search categories and adding an overview or summary of the requirements to reduce the need to download documents. A significant effort is now underway to design these search enhancements and return the RFQ Text Search functionality that was removed in mid-March.

Other comments received that are being considered include: allowing more quote comments, improving overall screen navigation and adding training videos and other useful help screens. There were also many recommendations to improve cFolders that were forwarded to the appropriate team to research. Although cFolders is accessed via DIBBS, it is a separate system unrelated to DIBBS. Suppliers are reminded to contact the DLA Enterprise Help Desk at 1-855-352-0001 or by email at DLAEnterpriseHelpDesk@DLA.mil for additional assistance with cFolders.

The DIBBS team greatly appreciates your input and will continue to work on improving the overall DIBBS experience!

Coming Soon! DLAD Clause Deletions

111 clauses found in Defense Logistics Acquisition Directive (DLAD) Parts 9, 11, 23, 27, 45, 46, and 47 are slated for elimination this summer. Clauses containing technical/quality (TQ) requirements will be converted to TQ notes, while clauses containing instructions to offerors and evaluation criteria will become Procurement notes. Many other clauses will be deleted without replacement.

DLA TQ notes and Procurement notes will both have unique numbers and will be incorporated by reference in DLA contract documents. Suppliers will access the full text of the notes in one consolidated requirements document posted on the DLA Internet Bid Board System (DIBBS). Training slides and details will be posted in a future DIBBS notice.

DLA Quick Facts:

- In 2014, generated more than $38 billion in sales and revenue. If ranked in the Fortune 500, DLA would be at #79.
- Employs 25,000 civilians and military.
- Supports more than 2,430 weapon systems.
- Manages nine supply chains and nearly 5.3 million items.
- In 2014, received nearly $40 billion in excess and surplus property that was reutilized, transferred, disposed of or donated.
- Operates in 48 states and 28 countries.
- Processes 100,000 requisitions and awards over 10,000 contract lines each day.
- Manages 24 distribution centers worldwide.
- Supplied 100 million barrels of fuel in 2014.
- Humanitarian relief support totaled more than 8 million meals and 11 million gallons of fuel in the past four years. Supports 110 nations with $2 billion of support items annually through the Foreign Military Sales program.

Land and Maritime Small Business News

"Maximizing Warfighter Readiness Today and Tomorrow... the Strategic Advantage of Better Buying Power"

Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Land and Maritime is proud to announce the return of the "DLA Land & Maritime Supplier Conference & Exposition" to downtown Columbus, Ohio. The 2016 conference will be held at the Columbus Convention Center August 29 – September 1, 2016 and will have limited exhibition space available for vendors.

This year's theme "Maximizing Warfighter Readiness Today and Tomorrow…the Strategic Advantage of Better Buying Power" aligns with Department of Defense's focus on Better Buying Power 3.0. In support of this effort, DLA's Strategic Plan focuses on collaboration, innovation and smart investments among the workforce's top priorities.

Through working with industry, DLA can integrate innovation into its business practices. DLA's business model has evolved from a very transactional model to one that values long-term relationships. Better Buying Power asks us all to think about the next evolution, one that creates greater synergy with our service partners and incentivizes industry to improve their products. This educational conference will provide an opportunity for us to build new and strengthen existing partnerships, at the strategic and tactical levels.

We have a 2 ½ day event planned. Mornings will be filled with dynamic speakers from Industry as well as a small business and large business panel discussion with industry leaders. We will also have General Officer speakers from the Army and Navy providing the voice of our customers. Afternoons will feature breakout topics.

Whether you are a small business looking to start a relationship with DLA, or have been part of our team and working with us for years, please make plans to join us this summer at the Columbus Convention Center as we work together to maximize warfighter readiness through Better Buying Power.

Registration is open! We hope to see you there!

www.ndia.org/meetings/6780