RFQ Solicitation Text Search is Back!

The RFQ Solicitation Text Search tool returned to the DLA Internet Bid Board System (DIBBS) on August 29, 2016 along with other improvements! Detailed guidance on how to use the new tool has been posted under the "Help" section on the DIBBS home page and can be viewed directly at: https://www.dibbs.bsm.dla.mil/Refs/help/Solicitations/DIBBS-Text-Search-User-Guide.pdf.

A few tips to help get you started are below:

- The tool will allow you to query for specific text, and then filter by items with technical documents, Fast Award candidates, Small Business Set-Asides, HUBZone Set-Asides, Combined Set-Asides, and Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Set-Asides.

- You can also filter by various timeframes for when the RFQ was modified and sort by “Best Matches,” “Newly Posted to Oldest,” or “Oldest Posted to Newest.”

- If you are looking for items having an AMSC code of 1G, search for {FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION APPLY}.

- You can search by a buyer code (e.g. PARFL19), phone number, (in this format: (111) 279-8510), or email address.

- You can search by NAICS (e.g. 336413).

- You can search “JCP CERTIFICATION” to find solicitations requiring JCP Certification.

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cFolders is DLA's access to technical data associated with open solicitations and the staging area for technical data for other projects not associated with open solicitations. There are multiple ways to access cFolders, but the primary way is via the link titled "DLA Collaboration Folders (cFolders)" on the DIBBS home page. Help for cFolders can be found at the "FAQ/Help" link at the top of the DIBBS home page under "Tech Data." Although cFolders is accessed via DIBBS, the systems are NOT connected and the DIBBS Helpdesk cannot assist you.

All cFolders password and system issues should be referred to the cFolders Helpdesk at (855) DLA-0001 or (855) 352-0001. For additional questions, call the DLA Product Data Customer Service Help Line at (804) 279-3477. If you require additional technical data not supplied with the original solicitation or order/contract, you must contact the listed buyer or contract administrator.

In order to standardize procurement transactions across the Federal Government, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Subpart 4.16, Unique Procurement Instrument Identifiers (PIID), has been amended to implement a uniform award identification system referred to as the Procurement Instrument Identification (PIID).

For DLA, the new PIID structure will continue to require use of Activity Address Codes (AACs) as the unique identifier for contracting offices, the current fiscal year, instrument type, and a four-character serial number. Existing contract, purchase order, and delivery order numbers will not change.

**Beginning October 1, 2016:**
Manual purchase order numbers will change from an “M” to a “P” in the 9th position. Automated purchase orders will continue to use a “V” in the 9th position.

**Beginning October 2017:**
* Task/delivery order numbers will be issued with a unique 13-character delivery order number as described above, containing an “F” or an “M” in the 9th position; the current four-character supplementary call number identifier will no longer be utilized.
* An “M” in the ninth position of the PIID will identify purchase orders and task or delivery orders issued by the enterprise FedMall system.
* All modifications, including modifications to calls and task/delivery orders, will utilize a 6-character format, added to the 13-character PIID being modified.
* More information about the October 2017 changes will be provided as we move closer to the implementation date.

Please monitor the DIBBS Notices (https://www.dibbs.bsm.dla.mil/Notices/) and/or the Supplier Information Resource Center (SIRC) (http://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Business/EBSSupplierResources.aspx) for updates. **Reminder:** Foreign vendors should not be certifying as a small business!
You can search “QML” or “QPL” to find solicitations requiring the vendor to be on a Qualified Products List or Qualified Manufacturers List.

Looking for a solicitation supporting the F-4 AIR-CRAFT? Type “F-4 AIR-CRAFT” to search.

In addition to the RFQ Text Search, three other improvements have been released:

1 - You can now use dashes in the solicitation number when using Fast Track Quoting.
2 - You can now revise your quote when there is an "X" in the 10th position for RFQs.
3 - You will no longer get an error when the special character "&" is followed by a "#" in your password.

If you have questions related to this new functionality, please contact the DIBBS Helpdesk at: dibbsbsm@dla.mil. Again, we appreciate all of your feedback on the DIBBS Survey and will continue to work on improving the DIBBS website.
DLA Land and Maritime is “all in” on using PARs!
If you are a registered DIBBS supplier and are not using PARs, what are you waiting for? Submitting a PAR through DIBBS is easy and the preferred method for requesting a post award action against DLA contracts or purchase orders awarded to your company.

Why DIBBS PARs?
- PARs are automatically assigned to the post award administrator responsible for contract administration and displays on their workload screen.
- Suppliers receive immediate feedback after submission (i.e. PAR number, PAR Status, administrator information).
- PARs are tracked, measured, and reported.
- DIBBS PARs are preferred over email requests which may get delayed pending manual review and assignment.
- DIBBS PARs allow for notes and attachments.
- PARs are permanent records stored in the official contract file.

PAR enhancements are in the works!
The feedback received from the DIBBS survey earlier this year was tremendous. Your responses were evaluated and DLA is planning to implement some of the best recommendations.

Your feedback is always welcome!
In conclusion, there is no time like the present to start using DIBBS to submit your PARs! If you are already using DIBBS PARs, we thank you and appreciate your feedback! If you have any suggestions on improving DIBBS PARs or need to report a PAR system issue, please email the DIBBS helpdesk at dibbsbsm@dlamil.

Packaging News!
Package Design Tips for Fragile Items

All items delivered to DLA customers (the Warfighter) are to arrive at the final destination point in usable condition with no damage regardless whether the contract specifies the use of “Standard Practice for Commercial Packaging” (ASTM D3951) or “Standard Practice for Military Packaging” (MIL-STD-2073-1). Factors to consider to design optimum protection are: size, weight, fragility, shipping environment, storage location, and duration. Fragile items’ cushioning, orientation, immobilization, and support are essential for safe delivery of the item(s). If suppliers do not have the expertise to design and test packages, then options do exist. Third party package design and test facilities, including some carriers, offer package design and testing services.

Package design and performance testing for both ASTM D3951 and MIL-STD-2073-1 are governed by ASTM D4169 (Standard Practice for Performance Testing of Shipping Containers and Systems), Distribution Cycle 18, Acceptance Criterion 3 (product is damage-free and package is intact) for Department of Defense shipments.

Key design parameter information is noted below:
1—Approximate Fragility Factors – MIL-STD-2073-1D, Table I (page 28).
6—Pictorial Marking for Handling Goods – ASTM D5445 (e.g. fragile, arrow up, glass, etc.).
7—Protection from physical damage and mechanical malfunction is required for all methods of preservation. Specific environmental protection is cited in MIL-STD-2073-1D, paragraph 5.2.3.a. for “Standard Practice for Military Packaging.”

Further information can be found at: http://www.dla.mil/LandandMaritime/Offers/Services/TechnicalSupport/Logistics/Packaging/PackFAQs.aspx or by calling (614) 692-3345.