


SMALL BUSINESS OVERVIEW FOR VENDORS

STEPS TO SUCCESS DOING BUSINESS WITH THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY



April 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

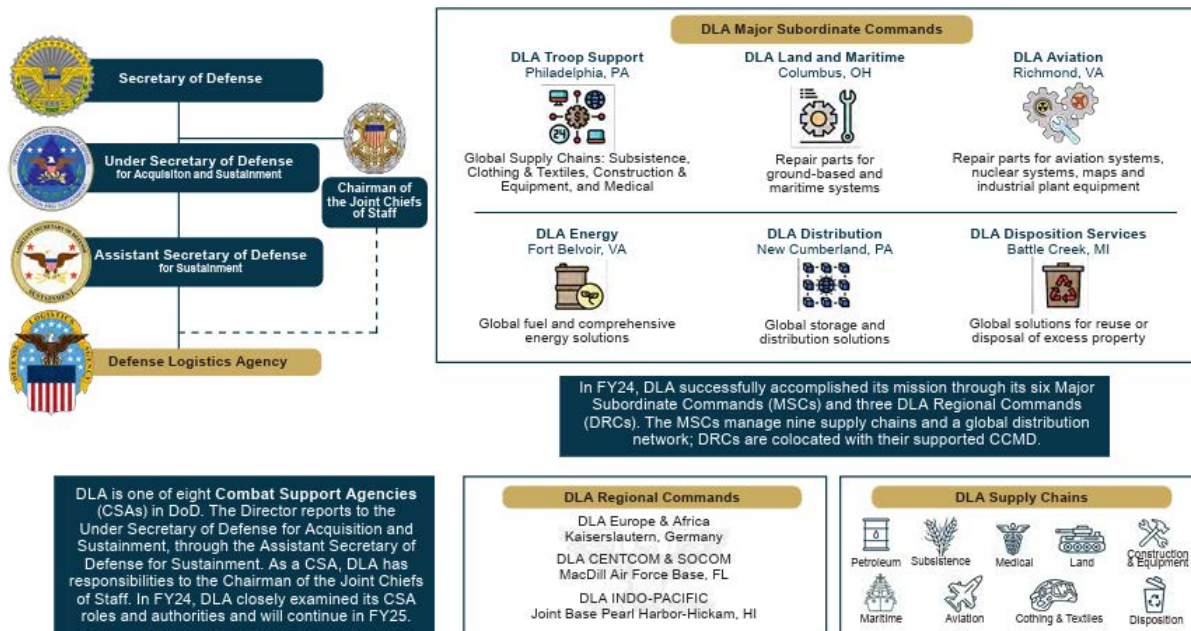
- Step 1: The Defense Logistics Agency - Understand Who We Are and What We Do
 - Step 2: Getting Started
 - Step 3: Find Current DLA and Federal Opportunities
 - Step 4: Seek Assistance – APEX Accelerators and More
 - Step 5: Consider Subcontracting
 - Step 6: Post Award
- 

Step 1 - The Defense Logistics Agency Understand Who We Are and What We Do

Learning About the DLA Enterprise

The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) has provided the nation's military services with logistics combat support for over 60 years. We provide full spectrum support for the warfighter. Whether the warfighter is engaged in combat, peacekeeping or humanitarian assistance activities, DLA provides the support needed to achieve success in assigned missions. We reach back to industry for partners then lean forward to the front line whether it is the warfighter, or storeroom of a ship, or the skin of an aircraft. Demand is linked with supply.

Organization



As the nation's logistics combat support agency, DLA manages the global supply chain – from raw materials to end user to disposition – for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, 11 combatant commands, other federal agencies, and partner and allied nations. DLA sources and provides nearly all the consumable items America's military forces need to operate, from food, fuel and energy to uniforms, medical supplies and construction material.

DLA also supplies 86 percent of the military's spare parts and nearly 100 percent of fuel, manages the reutilization of military equipment, provides catalogs and other logistics information products, and offers document automation and production services to a host of military and federal agencies.

Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, DLA is a global enterprise – wherever the Nation has a significant military presence, DLA is there to support.

DLA's major responsibilities are to (1) buy or contract, (2) warehouse when needed, and (3) distribute about 5 million distinct consumable, expendable and repairable items.

DLA acquires items from manufacturers and suppliers that it then provides to DoD and other federal and regional customers, often with supplementary services such as warehousing, packaging and transportation. DLA also contracts for items that are provided directly by the manufacturer to DLA customers.

Our customers determine their requirements for materiel and supplies. DLA Supply Chains consolidate requirements and procure the supplies in sufficient quantities, or link demand to sources of supply to meet our customers' projected needs.

DLA's Executive Agent Duties and Responsibilities



- Consolidates requirements, planning, and forecasting
- Reduces counterfeit and non-conforming items
- Decreases costs and increases economies of scale
- Industry advocate – acts as the single face to industry
- Increases standardization and interoperability

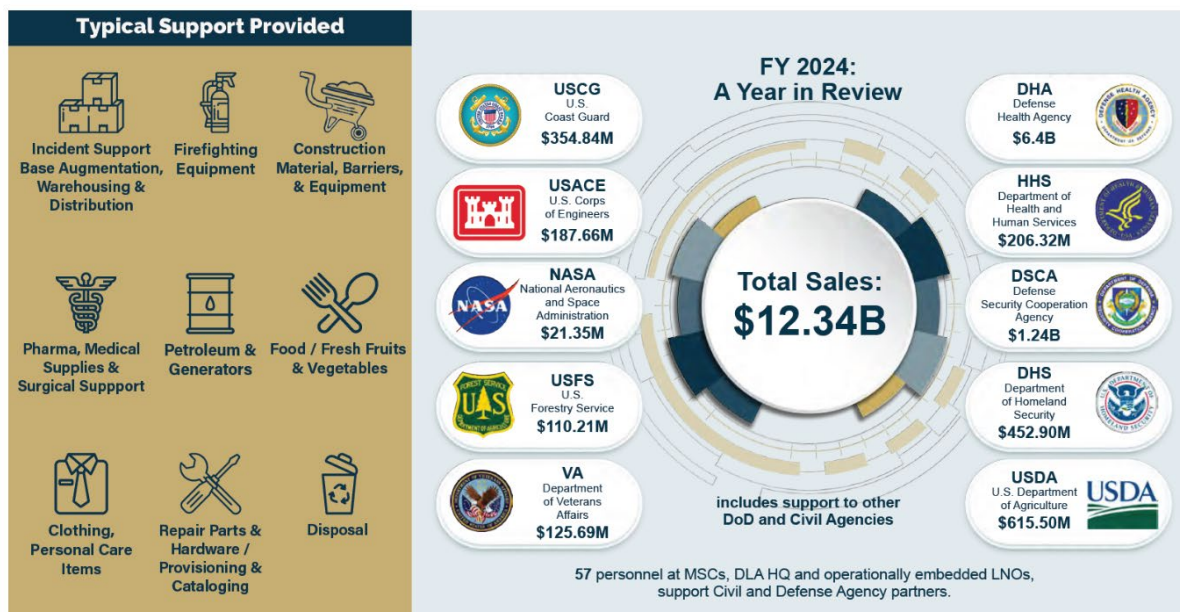
DLA Quick Facts:





- Provides more than \$52.6 billion in goods and services annually.
- Supports more than 2,400 weapon systems.
- Manages nine supply chains and about 5 million items.
- Administers the storage and disposal of strategic and critical materials to support national defense.
- Operates in most states and 28 countries.
- Operates a global network of distribution centers.
- DLA manages the reutilization and disposition of military equipment and operates a global network of distribution centers.
- Supports disaster response and humanitarian relief efforts at home and abroad.
- Supports other federal agencies, state and local governments with items such as uniforms, food and fuel. Customers include the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of the Interior, Health and Human Services, Forestry Service, and the Department of Agriculture School Lunch Program.

DLA supports 50 States, 40 Federal and 360 Local Agencies, and 129 International Partners



[DLA web pages](#) or the [DLA Facebook page](#) – DLA's official public information sources.

[DLA Procurement Regulations](#) - DLA's official source for all procurement related regulations.

[DLA Office of Small Business Programs](#)

The Office provides training, advice, guidance and strategies to maximize opportunities for small businesses to participate in DLA's acquisition program, both as prime contractors and subcontractors.

Local Offices of Small Business Programs (OSBPs) at each DLA procuring activity advise and assist contracting, program manager, and requirements personnel on all matters affecting small businesses. Local OSBPs are assistants to their Commanders in developing and implementing strategies that broaden business opportunities for Small Business (SB), Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) and 8(a), Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone), Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB), Veteran-Owned (VOSB), and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB). The procuring activity small business professional is the primary focal point for interface with the public and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

What can the OSBP Office do for you?

- Help small businesses [get started working with DLA](#), understand [what DLA buys](#), and what [DLA applications](#) are necessary to do business with the agency
- Provide [free training](#):

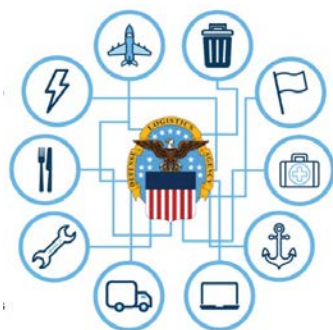
- [Doing Business with DLA webinars](#) to explain DLA's mission and the agency's various buying activities
- more specific training through [Training, Knowledge & Opportunities \(TKO\) Seminars and Webinars](#)
- Explain government procurement terminology, [procedures and regulations](#)
- Facilitate communication with small businesses and contracting personnel, and act as an Ombudsman for small businesses
- Assist in identifying [Federal Supply Classes](#) and [Product Service Codes](#) for supplies and services your business provides
- Guide you to [DLA specific resources](#) to include notices to our industry partners related to [DLA educational flyers](#) and [other non-DLA resources](#)
- Provide guidance on the [DLA Small Business Innovation Programs](#), and other [DLA Innovation Programs](#) such as the [DLA Technology Accelerator Other Transaction Authority \(OTA\) Program](#)
- Contact the [DLA Small Business Programs Office](#) for assistance

Other DLA Supplier Resource - [Supplier Information Resource Center](#)

Our suppliers are integral to the success of our Enterprise Business System. You are key players in meeting our customers' requirements. By being informed and aware of changes, we can work together to ensure that the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, have the right item at the right time and the right place.

Product and Service Search

Use the [Product and Service Search tool](#) to search and sort products and services a Supplier can supply to the Government. These products and services are categorized by the Major Subordinate Commands (i.e. Aviation, Land and Maritime, etc.) that manage the supply chain, and a Supplier can use the information to determine a pathway to which primary DLA supply chains (i.e. MSCs) need the material or service.



Explore DLA's Supplier Pathway Program's Getting Started page to view specific steps to take on how to start doing business within each supply chain. Just pick a supply chain option and you will see what the supply chain steps are to include what type of certifications you will need and opportunity routes you can take to become a supplier.

Visit: www.dla.mil/Small-Business/Getting-Started/#dla-general-contracting-pathway

Tracking DLA Purchasing Activities and What They Buy

DLA is comprised of six Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs) that manage nine supply chains responsible for purchasing commodities and services common to all military services and some federal civilian agencies.



Major Subordinate Commands & What We Buy



[DLA Aviation](#) is DLA's combat logistics and aviation demand and supply chain manager. The activity supports more than 1.2 million national stock number items, industrial retail supply and depot-level repairable acquisitions. Its primary mission is to procure repair parts for both fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft; procure bottled gases and cylinders; and oversee DLA's green products initiative, harnessing and recycling elements that would be hazardous to the environment.

DLA Aviation manages the DoD map repository of aeronautical, digital, hydrographic, and topographic map products and operates the federal government's only industrial plant

equipment facility providing a full range of maintenance services to include repair, rebuilding and acquisition of all types of industrial machinery, including lathes and milling machines.

Aviation – Engine components, bearings, air frames, helicopter components, cargo aviation items, cable assemblies, instrumentation and gages, aviation life support items, aircraft landing gear components, aircraft ground servicing equipment, chain and wire rope, guided missile maintenance and repair equipment, lugs, terminals, terminal strips, electrical motors, non-rotating electrical converters, electrical control equipment, generators, chemical products, industrial gases and cylinders, rings, shims, and spacers which support most major weapons systems.

Environmental Products – Aircraft cleaning components, alternative refrigerants, antifreeze, aqueous cleaners/degreasers, cold climate applications, firefighting equipment, hydrocarbon-based and other cleaners/degreaser, integrated pest management products, marine cleaning compounds, petroleum, oils and lubricants, remanufactured/recycled ink jet cartridges, remanufactured/recycled laser printer toner cartridges, reusable batteries and battery accessories, semi-aqueous cleaners/degreasers, spill control products, support equipment/recycling products, vehicular wet battery program.

Industrial Plant Equipment – Lathes, milling machines, grinders, vertical turret lathes, horizontal boring mills, presses, machining centers, bending machines and other equipment primarily used in maintenance, production, and research and development facilities within DoD activities worldwide, both afloat and ashore.



[DLA Energy](#) is the DoD Executive Agent for all bulk petroleum resources used by the military. DLA Energy also buys and sells deregulated electricity and natural gas to DoD and other Federal Agency customers.

Bulk Fuels – Jet fuel, distillate fuel, residual fuel, automotive gasoline (for overseas locations only), specified bulk lubricating oil, aircraft engine oil, fuel additives such as fuel system icing inhibitor, and crude oil in support of the Department of Energy Strategic Petroleum Reserve Program.

Direct Delivery Fuels – Ground vehicle fuel, ship propulsion fuel, commercial airport fuel, and installation heating oil.

Aerospace Energy – Missile fuels, propellants, and various chemicals and gases largely in support of the United States Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) space launch and satellite program. Also buys specialized petroleum products used primarily by Department of Defense customers.

Installation Energy – Natural gas, electricity, and coal for DoD and federal civilian agencies in the continental United States, Germany, and Alaska.

Energy Enterprise – Utility system privatization and energy savings performance contracts.

DLA Land and Maritime
Columbus, OH



Repair parts for
ground-based and
maritime systems

[DLA Land and Maritime](#) manages global land and maritime supply chains, which comprises of consumable repair parts items and depot-level repairable procurement operations for nearly 2,000 land-based and maritime weapon systems.

Land Supply Chain Key Commodities – Tires, small arms, wheeled & tracked vehicle spares, armored components, wheel & tire assembly, track, engines, transmissions, armaments, containers, navigation/GPS, radars, sensors, ground & satellite communication, power generation.

Maritime Supply Chain Key Commodities – Hoses, fittings, valves, pumps, wire/cable, electronics (microcircuits, antennas, connectors), hull, mechanical and electrical (HM&E) communication/surveillance, and combat systems.

DLA Troop Support Philadelphia, PA



Global Supply Chains: Subsistence,
Clothing & Textiles, Construction &
Equipment, and Medical

[DLA Troop Support](#) provides U.S. service members with food, clothing, textiles, medicines, medical equipment, construction supplies and equipment, and repair parts for major weapons systems. They also support other federal agencies, and humanitarian and disaster relief efforts around the world.

Clothing & Textiles – Uniforms, outerwear, undergarments, tents, cloth hats, handwear, footwear, individual clothing and equipment, flags, and heraldic and ecclesiastical items.

Subsistence – The Food Service Division provides total dining hall support worldwide to military and other authorized Federal customers. Through the Subsistence Prime Vendor (SPV) program and direct vendor delivery, customers can receive their food 48 hours after placing an order. Items include fresh, chill and freeze, semi-perishable and market-ready items; and operational rations, war readiness, humanitarian and emergency relief items for peacetime and contingency requirements. The Produce Division provides fresh fruits and vegetables to the military services, military exchanges, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities, Job Corps Centers, Veteran's Affairs hospitals, and federal prisons. Produce is also provided to schools and Native American reservations in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National School Lunch Program and related food and nutrition services programs. This supply chain also provides food service equipment for dining facilities and field feeding equipment.

Medical – Pharmaceuticals, biomedical and hospital equipment, and medical/surgical supplies.

Construction Equipment – Building materials, containers, fire emergency service equipment, ground support, heavy equipment, imaging, lighting, maintenance repair operations, metals, miscellaneous parts and accessories, miscellaneous products, plumbing, rope and rigging, Automatic Data Processing (ADP) and information products, special operational equipment - marine lifesaving and diving, telecommunications, ventilation and A/C, wood products, and barriers.

DLA Distribution New Cumberland, PA



Global storage and
distribution solutions

[DLA Distribution](#) supply centers manage materiel and offer services including storage, distribution, custom kitting, specialized packaging as well as transportation support and technology development—all aimed at increasing warfighter readiness.

DLA Disposition Services Battle Creek, MI



Global solutions for reuse or
disposal of excess property

[DLA Disposition Services](#) provides DoD with worldwide reuse, recycling and disposal services. Disposition Services disposes of excess property received from the military services. Inventory changes daily and includes thousands of items from air conditioners to vehicles, clothing to computers, and much more. Property is first offered for reutilization within the Department of Defense, transfer to other federal agencies, or donation to state and local governments and other qualified organizations. Excess property not reutilized, transferred or donated may be sold to the public as surplus if it is appropriate and safe for sale to the general public. DLA Disposition Services also manages the disposal of hazardous property for DoD activities.

Other Purchasing Activities

While the Major Subordinate Commands are DLA's main contracting offices, there are other DLA purchasing activities. These include strategic and critical materials, document solutions, and an enterprise support component.

[DLA Contracting Services Office \(DCSO\)](#) manages DLA enterprise-wide requirements including major Information Technology (IT) systems and programs, IT products and services, business and facilities services, and other enterprise services for DLA worldwide.

DCSO is also DoD's full-service [document solutions provider](#). They provide a full portfolio of document services ranging from traditional offset printing to on-line document services and manages more than 150 service facilities primarily located on U.S. military bases worldwide in seven countries. The organization outsources nearly 64 percent of the DoD's document requirements through more than 400 commercial service contracts, some of which are through the Government Printing Office. Additionally, DCSO is responsible for providing safe, secure and environmentally sound stewardship for [strategic materials](#) in the United States National Defense Stockpile (NDS). The organization conducts the acquisition, storage, upgrade, and sale of a wide range of commodities and materials. Commodities can range from base metals such as zinc, lead, cobalt, and chromium to the more precious metals such as platinum, palladium, and industrial diamonds.

Review - Nine Supply Chains and Supply Classes:

DLA's major responsibilities are to (1) buy or contract, (2) warehouse when needed, and (3) distribute about 5 million distinct consumable, expendable and repairable items. DLA contracts for high-volume, commercially available items, such as food and medical supplies, based on military service requirements and delivers these items directly to the requesting customer. Repairable items, similar to repair parts, are eventually consumed, but may be repaired some number of times before they must be discarded. DLA has nine supply chains that contract for material across the supply classes of food, textiles, energy products, medical material and equipment, construction material, industrial hardware, personal demand items, major end items and repair parts;



- Class I: Subsistence (DLA Troop Support)
 - Food Service
 - Produce
 - Operational Rations
- Class II: Clothing & Textile (DLA Troop Support)
 - Heraldic

- Individual Equipment/Organizational Clothing
 - Warfighter Uniforms/Dress Clothing
- Class III: Energy (DLA Energy)
 - DoD Executive Agent for all Bulk Petroleum
 - Natural Gas, Coal, Electricity
 - Aerospace Energy
- Class IV/VII: Construction & Equipment (DLA Troop Support)
 - Facilities Maintenance Equipment
 - Construction Equipment
 - Wood Products
 - Safety & Rescue Equipment
- Class VIII: Medical (DLA Troop Support)
 - Pharmaceutical
 - Medical Equipment
 - Medical/Surgical Supplies
- Class IX: Aviation (DLA Aviation)
 - Engine Components
 - Air Frames
 - Flight Safety Equipment
 - Environmental Products
- Class IX: Maritime (DLA Land and Maritime)
 - Parts for Ships, Submarines
- Class IX: Land (DLA Land and Maritime)
 - Parts for Vehicles, U.S. Marine Corps, and Army Equipment
- Class IX: Industrial Hardware (DLA Aviation and Land & Maritime)
 - Industrial Items such as Screws, Bolts, Studs, Nuts, Washers, Nails, etc.
 - Fastening Devices
 - Miscellaneous Hardware

Understand Who We Buy For - DLA Customers – the Military Services

Military Services' Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP)

- [Office of the Secretary of the Army, Office of Small Business Programs](#)
- [Office of the Secretary of the Navy, Office of Small Business Programs](#)
- [Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Office of Small Business Programs](#)
- [Other Defense Agency's \(ODAs\) Small Business Offices](#)

Non-Appropriated Fund Customers

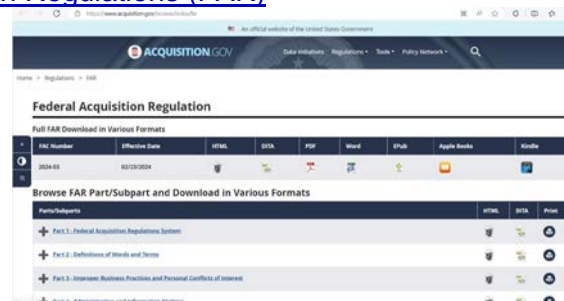
Although small business program requirements do not apply to non-appropriated fund expenditures, you should not overlook these potential customers. Non-appropriated fund customers operate similar to non-profit organizations and include commissaries, exchanges, recreation and fitness centers, dining at officer/enlisted/civilian clubs, and barber/beauty services, just to name a few. Visit the following websites for more information.

- [Army & Air Force Exchange Service](#)
- [Coast Guard Exchange Systems](#)
- [Marine Corps Community Services](#)
- [Navy Exchange](#)

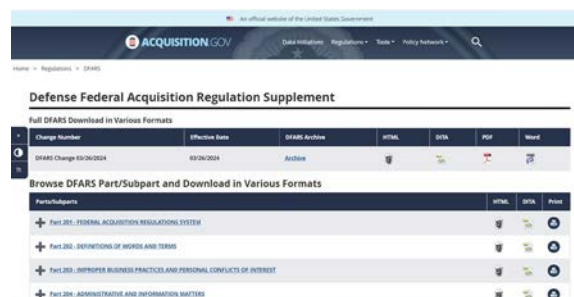
Step 2 –Getting Started

Understand How DLA, DoD, and the Federal Government Buys Goods and Services

- The Government buys from suppliers who meet certain qualifications
- Standardized buying procedures and rules are outlined in the [Federal Acquisition Regulations \(FAR\)](#)



and the [Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement \(DFARS\)](#).



- Each U.S. federal agency has slightly different individual procurement regulations, but all must follow a set of core laws and regulations (the FAR). You can gain access to other Federal Agency FAR supplements at their websites via the [Acquisition.gov website](https://www.acquisition.gov).
- Several contracting methods are employed
 - Micro-purchases ([See Class Deviation 2018-O0018](#) for exceptions)
 - At or below \$10,000
 - Not advertised
 - Simplified acquisition procedures ([See Class Deviation 2018-O0018](#))
 - Exceeding \$10,000 and not exceeding \$250,000
 - Advertised in Sam.gov if over \$25,000 ([See FAR 5.101](#))
 - Purchases exceeding \$250,000
 - Advertised in Sam.gov ([See FAR 5.101](#))
 - Consolidated purchasing programs (GSA schedules, GWACs, etc.)

Get Registered

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) replaced the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)

The federal government transitioned from the use of the DUNS number to the UEI to identify federal contractors and award recipients on **April 4, 2022**.

The DUNS number will no longer be used in federal-level procurement or financial assistance pre- and post-award processes. The UEI will become the new authoritative identifier at the federal level (including in federal systems such as the System for Award Management (SAM), the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS), and USASpending). **The UEI is assigned by the General Services Administration (GSA) within SAM**; and GSA has already assigned UEIs to entities with existing registrations and/or debarments/suspensions in SAM. This transition allowed the government to streamline the entity identification and validation process, making it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the federal government.

Learn more through SAM's training video by clicking on the following image:

VIDEO TRAINING:
Get a Unique Entity ID

TOPIC	
Overview	(00:00) What will be covered in this video?
WHAT IS THE UNIQUE ENTITY ID?	(00:21) We will walk through getting a Unique Entity ID in SAM.gov for non-federal entities.
THE UNIQUE ENTITY ID & ENTITY REGISTRATION	(01:01) We will show how to get your Unique Entity ID without needing to complete an entity registration.
GET A UNIQUE ENTITY ID	(02:08)
CORRECT YOUR ENTITY INFORMATION	(06:50)
DOCUMENTATION FOR YOUR ENTITY	(08:14)

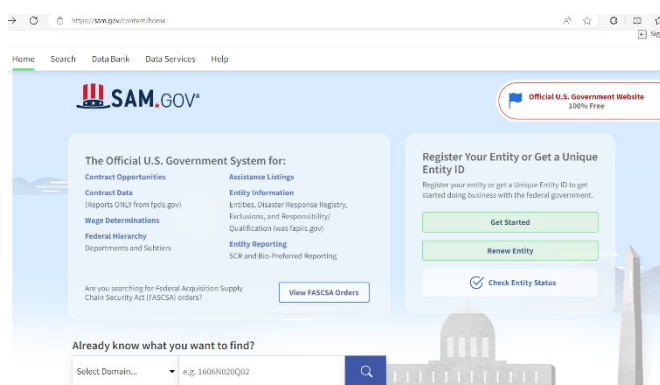
SAM.gov

System for Award Management (SAM)

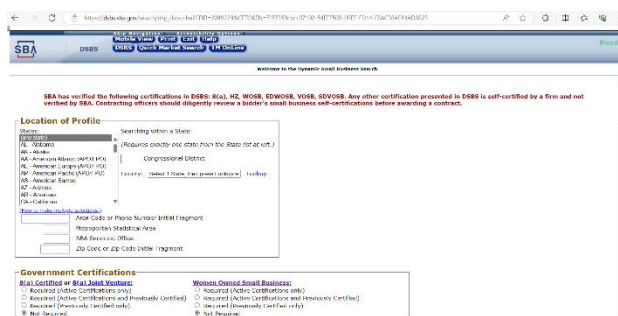
All vendors wanting to do business with the federal government must [register in the SAM](#). The Central Contractor Registration (CCR), the Federal Agency Registration (Fedreg), the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), and the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) migrated to SAM.

Detailed instructions for the SAM application process are provided on the website. SAM holds information relevant to procurement and financial transactions. SAM affords you the opportunity for fast electronic payment of your invoices.

- You must be registered in SAM to be awarded a federal contract.
- Mandatory to receive DoD prime contract
- Allows electronic payment
- *Must renew your registration annually or it expires*
- Assigns a Commercial & Government Entity (CAGE) Code once your registration is complete
- Automatically assigns a Marketing Partner ID (MPIN) to access other government applications such as the Past Performance Information Retrieval System (PPIRS)



Small Business Administration (SBA) Dynamic Small Business Search



The [Dynamic Small Business Search \(DSBS\)](#) is an SBA sponsored database of small firms that includes those certified by SBA under the 8(a) Business Development, HUBZone, and WOSB programs. The DSBS is available through the SAM website. When registering in SAM, select "small business" and a sub-set of your SAM data will be sent to SBA for size validation and inclusion in DSBS.

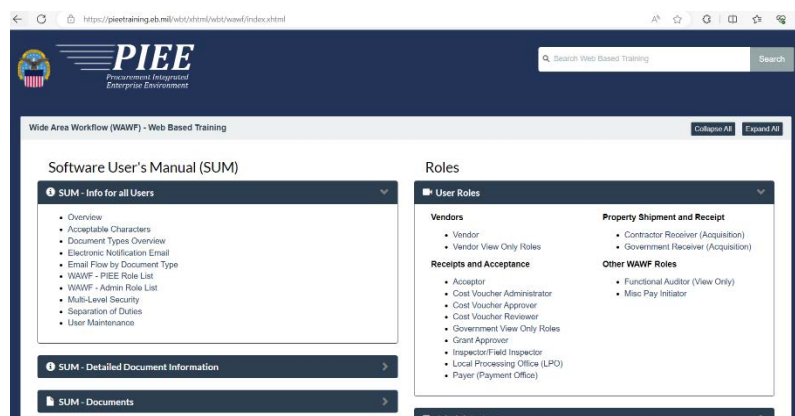
- Keep your profile updated and provide comprehensive information that describes your business.
- The government uses DSBS to perform market research and verify basic small business information.

- DLA supply chains use DSBS to locate sources, verify vendor size, and make set-aside decisions.
- Industry uses DSBS to locate potential subcontractors/ teaming partners.

Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) e-Business Suite – Invoicing, Receipt, Acceptance, and Property Transfer (iRAPT)

WAWF's [iRAPT](#) is a secure web-based system for electronically processing invoices, receipts, and acceptance documents being deployed DoD-wide.

[Web-based training](#) for vendors is available. It provides an overview of the WAWF system.



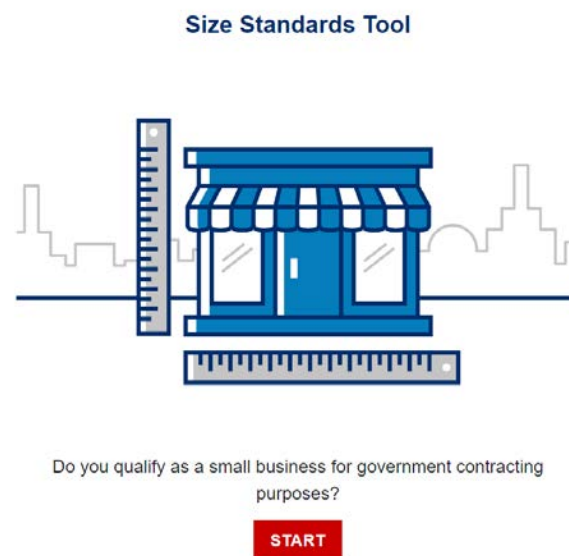
Determine Your Small Business and Socioeconomic Status

Small Business (SB) Program

A small business concern must satisfy the eligibility requirements below:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Meet the [SBA's numerical size standards](#) for small
- Be a for-profit business of any legal structure
- Be independently owned and operated
- Not be nationally dominant in its field
- Be physically located and operate in the U.S. or its outlying areas and makes a significant contribution to the U.S. economy through payment of taxes and/or use of American products, material and/or labor.



You can self-certify as a small business in the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) database.

Socioeconomic Programs

8(a) Program

Sections 7(j)(10) and 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 636(j)(10) and 637(a)) authorizes the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to establish a business development program, which is known as the [8\(a\) Business Development program](#). The 8(a) program is a robust nine-year program created to help firms owned and controlled by [socially and economically disadvantaged individuals](#).

Businesses that participate in the program receive training and technical assistance designed to strengthen their ability to compete effectively in the American economy. Also eligible to participate in the 8(a) program are small businesses owned by Alaska Native corporations, Community Development Corporations, Indian tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations.

To qualify for the 8(a) program, businesses must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be a [small business](#);
- Not have previously participated in the 8(a) program;
- Be at least 51% owned and controlled by U.S. citizens who are socially and economically disadvantaged;
- Have a personal net worth of \$850 thousand or less, adjusted gross income of \$400 thousand or less, and assets totaling \$6.5 million or less;
- Demonstrate good character; and
- Demonstrate the potential for success such as having been in business for two years

8(a) certification lasts for a maximum of nine years. The first four years are considered a development stage and the last five years are considered a transitional stage. Continuation in the program is dependent on staying in compliance with program requirements.

The federal government fully defines who qualifies for the 8(a) program — including what counts as being socially and economically disadvantaged — in [Title 13 Part 124 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#).

Self-certification for Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB). If you are an SDB, you should self-certify as part of your registration in the [System for Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](#). Although you generally will not receive any special preference as an SDB competing for prime contracts (outside of the 8(a) Program), agencies have an interest in supporting SDBs because the federal government's goal is to award a certain percentage of all contract dollars to SDBs.

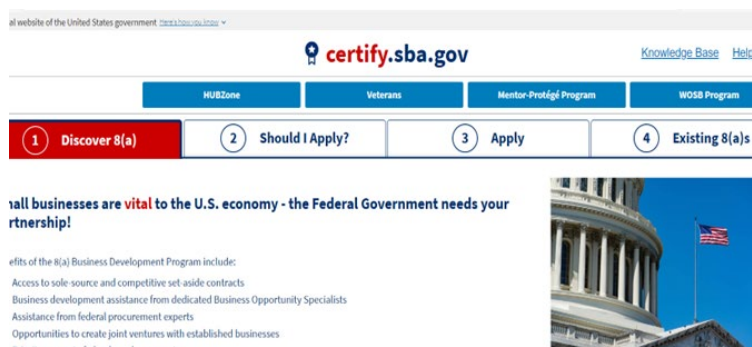
SBA Certified 8(a) Program Participant. When SBA approves you as an [8\(a\) Program participant](#), they will enter this information in the DSBS, which will interface with your SAM profile. This is not a self-certification, and you cannot enter the information yourself; however, you should check to ensure that your SAM.gov profile accurately reflects the SBA-certification for the [8\(a\) Program](#) after you have been approved to participate.

How to apply for the 8(a) Program

First, you will need to have or establish a profile at [SAM.gov](#).

Next, use <https://certify.sba.gov/> to apply for the 8(a) Program. The information you will need to provide will vary based on your business structure and whether you are already participating in other SBA programs.

Watch this [video](https://youtu.be/Z2eq7R3nj7M) SBA posted about the 8(a) Program application process: <https://youtu.be/Z2eq7R3nj7M>



Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program

The [WOSB Program](#) was created to help level the playing field for women small business owners. Under the program, DLA and other federal agencies reserve certain contracts exclusively for competition among woman-owned small businesses or economically disadvantaged women-owned small businesses (EDWOSB).

Unique to the WOSB Program, only certain contracts are eligible. The Small Business Administration (SBA) designates industries where woman-owned small businesses are underrepresented and eligibility for the program is determined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code assigned to the contract. The SBA maintains a list of eligible industries and the corresponding NAICS codes at www.sba.gov/WOSB.

To be eligible for the **WOSB** Federal Contract program, you must be:

- A small business according to [SBA size standards](#); and
- Be at least 51% owned and controlled by women who are U.S. citizens; and
- Have women manage day-to-day business operations and make long-term decisions.

To qualify as an **EDWOSB** within the program, you must meet all the requirements above for WOSBs and be owned and controlled by one or more women each with:

- A personal net worth less than \$850,000;
- \$400,000 or less in adjusted gross income averaged over the previous three years; and
- \$6.5 million or less in personal assets.

It is important to understand that EDWOSBs are a subset of WOSBs and all EDWOSBs are also WOSBs. This means that EDWOSBs are eligible to compete for contracts reserved for either EDWOSBs or WOSBs.

Becoming certified for the WOSB Program means your business is eligible to compete for contracts that are set-aside for WOSBs and EDWOSBs, as well as sole source awards under the program (for more, refer to [Subpart 19.15](#) in the Federal Acquisition Regulation).

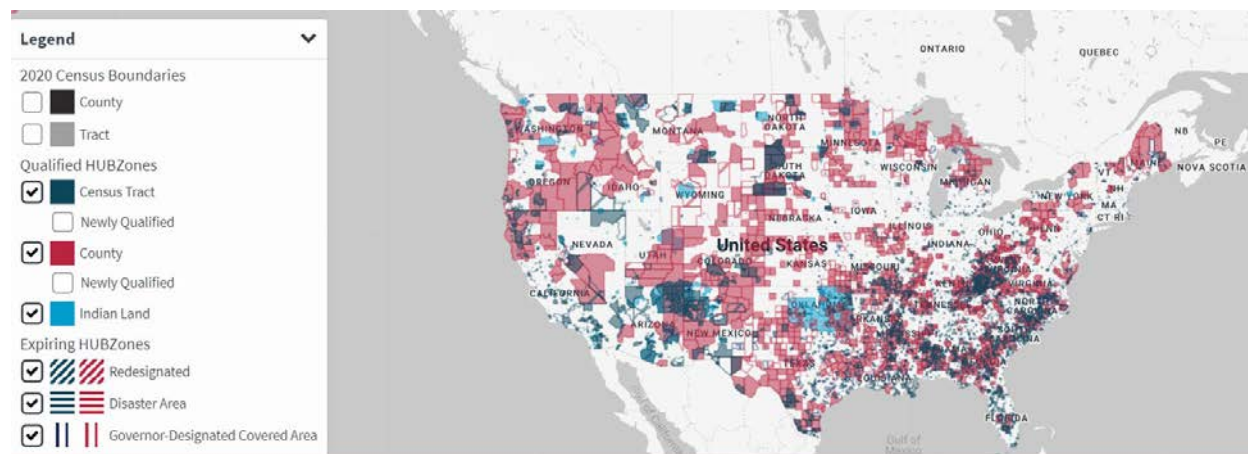
Before firms can compete for WOSB/EDWOSB set-aside contracts, they must apply for certification using SBA's **free** online certification process at <https://wosb.certify.sba.gov/> or go through an approved third-party certifier, which may charge a fee for their services.



Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZone) Program

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) designates Historically Underutilized Business Zones, or HUBZones, based on a combination of unemployment and income, among other things. The purpose of the HUBZone Program is to assist qualified small business concerns located in HUBZones to increase employment opportunities, investment and economic development. With a goal of awarding at least three percent of federal contract dollars to HUBZone-certified companies each year, the program fuels small business growth in HUBZones.

Enter your address or find qualified areas here - <https://maps.certify.sba.gov/hubzone/map>



To qualify for the HUBZone Program, your business must:

- Be a small business according to [SBA size standards](#);
- Be at least 51% owned and controlled by U.S. citizens, a Community Development Corporation, an agricultural cooperative, an Alaska Native corporation, a Native Hawaiian organization, or an Indian tribe;
- Have its principal office (where the majority of employees work) located in a HUBZone; and

- Have at least 35% of its employees residing in a HUBZone.

The government limits competition for certain contracts to businesses in historically underutilized business zones. DLA and other agencies also provide preferential consideration to HUBZone firms in unrestricted procurements. HUBZone-certified businesses –

- Are eligible to compete for HUBZone Program set-asides; and
- Receive a 10% price evaluation preference in full and open contract competitions.

Before you can participate in the HUBZone program, you must be certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Review SBA's '**Top Tips for HUBZone Certification**' for more on how to get HUBZone certified –

www.sba.gov/brand/assets/sba/resource-partners/hubzone-app-top-tips-508.pdf

You will need to recertify for the HUBZone program once a year and there is no limit to the length of time you can participate as long as you continue to qualify. SBA will conduct a program examination at least every three years to ensure your continued eligibility.

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) Program

Under the [Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business \(SDVOSB\) Program](#), DLA and other federal agencies reserve certain contracts exclusively for SDVOSBs. The federal government's goal is to award at least three percent of all federal contracting dollars to SDVOSBs. DoD prime contractors with small business subcontracting plans also have goals for subcontracts with SDVOSBs.

To qualify for the SDVOSB Program, your business must:

- Be a small business;
- Be at least 51% owned and controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans (i.e., eligible veterans must have a service-connected disability); and
- Have one or more service-disabled veterans manage day-to-day operations and make long-term decisions.
- For those veterans who are permanently and totally disabled and unable to manage the daily business operations of their business, their business may still qualify if their spouse or appointed, permanent caregiver is assisting in that management.

Service-connected disability means a disability that was incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service (38 U.S.C. 101(16)).

Service-disabled veteran is a veteran that possesses either a valid disability rating letter issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs, establishing a service-connected rating between 0 and 100 percent, or a valid disability determination from the Department of Defense or is registered in the Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator Subsystem maintained by Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Benefits Administration as a service-disabled veteran. Reservists or members of the National Guard disabled from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty or while in training status also qualify (13 CFR §125.11).

Previously, SDVOSBs self-certified their status through 2023 to compete for set-aside contracts at most federal agencies. As of January 1, 2024, self-certified SDVOSBs must apply for SBA certification by January 1, 2024 to be able to compete for set-aside contracts with the federal government.

SBA's Veteran Small Business Certification (VetCert) program implements changes from the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA 2021) which transferred the certification function from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to SBA as of January 1, 2023. The transfer provides veterans with a central support point for their small business certification needs.

To establish an SBA account and apply for certification, visit the [Veteran Small Business Certification portal](#).



Determine Your Company's Status

Identify Your Product or Services - find the NAICS Codes for Your Company

The [North American Industry Classification System \(NAICS\)](#) classifies business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. economy. The SBA uses NAICS as a basis for its size standards.

It is essential that you research the NAICS codes for administrative, contracting, and tax purposes. These codes classify the economic sector, industry, and country of your business. For Federal contracting purposes, you will need to identify in SAM all the NAICS codes (industries) applicable to your business.

For further explanation regarding NAICS, visit the [U.S. Census Bureau website](#). The site provides a helpful NAICS search function.

Understand Your Size Standards

[Small business size standards](#) define the maximum size for a firm, including its subsidiaries and affiliates. A size standard is usually stated in number of employees for most manufacturing and mining industry NAICS or average annual receipts for service industry based NAICS.

To help you assess your small business status, SBA has established a [Table of Small Business Size Standards](#) matched to the NAICS codes and the [Size Standards Tool](#). On the SBA page, you will find the latest Table of Size Standards as well as further guidance on size standard issues. You may also want to look at SBA's Small Business Size Regulations.

The [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations \(e-CFR\)](#) contains information regarding the Small Business Size Regulations under Title 13, CFR, part 121 (13 CFR part 121).

Utilize the Abundance of Resources

Federal Government Acquisition Information

- [Acquisition.gov](#) provides one website for regulations, systems, resources, opportunities, and training.
- [Small Business Information and Resource section of USA.gov](#) provides legal and regulatory information.
- [Federal Acquisition Regulation](#)
- [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations](#) provides the electronic version of the CFR. Review 13 CFR for Small Business Size Regulations and more.

Understand Contract Types

There is a wide selection of contract types available to DLA in order to provide needed flexibility in acquiring the large variety and volume of supplies and services required by the military services.

Contract types vary according to:

- The degree and timing of the responsibility assumed by the contractor for the costs of performance; and
- The amount and nature of the profit incentive offered to the contractor for achieving or exceeding specified standards or goals.

Contract types are grouped into two broad categories:

- Fixed-Price contracts
- Cost-Reimbursement contracts

The specific contract types range from firm-fixed-price, in which the contractor has full responsibility for the performance costs and resulting profit (or loss), to cost-plus-fixed-fee, in which the contractor has minimal responsibility for the performance costs, and the negotiated fee (profit) is fixed. In between are the various incentive contracts where the contractor's responsibility for the performance costs and the profit or fee incentives offered are tailored to the uncertainties involved in contract performance. For more information, visit FAR Part 16. Also look at [SBA's Government Contracting Classroom 101](#).

Department of Defense (DoD) Resources

Department of Defense

The following information is helpful for doing business with DLA, DoD, and the military services.

[Office of the Secretary of Defense \(OSD\), Office of Small Business Programs \(OSBP\)](#)

The Office advises the Secretary of Defense on all matters related to small business and is committed to maximizing the contributions of small business in DoD acquisitions. The office provides leadership and governance to the military departments and defense agencies to meet the needs of the nation's Warfighters, and create opportunities for small businesses while ensuring each tax dollar is spent responsibly.

- [Guide to Marketing to the Department of Defense](#)
- [DoD Subcontracting Program: The Basics of Subcontracting](#)
- [Safeguarding Covered Defense Information – The Basics](#)

SBA Resources

Small Business Administration

The [U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) was created by Congress in 1953 to help America's entrepreneurs form successful small enterprises. Today, SBA's program offices in every state offer financing, training and advocacy for small firms. These programs are delivered by SBA offices in every state, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. In addition, the SBA works with thousands of lending, educational and training institutions nationwide. View the [list of SBA Offices](#).

For helpful training information go to the [SBA Small Business Learning Center](#). Also look at the [SBA's Government Contracting Classroom](#).

GSA Resources

General Services Administration (GSA)

[GSA](#) is the federal government's business manager, buyer, real estate developer, telecommunications manager, and IT solutions provider. GSA contracts for billions of dollars of products and services for federal agencies. Examples of items managed by GSA are the following: environmental products; furniture and furnishings; IT/telecom products, services and products; office, imaging and document solutions, products and services; travel and transportation; and vehicles.

GSA manages Multiple Award Schedules (MAS) contracts, also known as Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contracts. Under MAS/FSS, contracts are awarded to multiple companies

supplying comparable products and services at pre-negotiated prices, terms and conditions. Once GSA awards the contracts, federal contracting officers and other authorized users order directly from the schedule contractor. Many federal purchases are, in fact, orders on MAS/FSS contracts. [Contact the GSA](#) for information on how to obtain a MAS/FSS contract.

Step 3 - Find Current DLA and Federal Opportunities

Utilizing SAM.gov

Most DoD and federal government procurements over \$25,000 are publicized in [SAM.gov](#). Federal government agencies publish their solicitations on Sam.gov and provide detailed information on how and when vendors should respond. This website officially replaced FBO.gov also known as FedBizOpps.

SAM.gov offers a variety of searches; solicitation number, place of performance, set-aside, key words, selected agencies, etc. Additionally, the site lists Sources Sought and Requests for Information (RFIs). The government uses Sources Sought notices and RFIs to find small firms. **It is important to respond to these notices!**

What the Military Services Buy

- Research products and services bought by the [Department of Army](#).
- Research products and services bought by the [Department of Navy](#).
- Research products and services bought by the [Department of Air Force](#).

Marketing within DoD for smaller dollar value requirements (products which may be used by any command) can be done on a local basis. Identify your market geographically and then contact small business professionals at the individual DoD activities within your region.

Using the DLA Internet Bid Board System (DIBBS)

[DIBBS](#) is a web-based bid board that allows vendors to search for, view, and submit secure quotes. DLA solicitations under the simplified acquisition threshold are posted on the DIBBS bid board.

- DLA DIBBS registration is required to receive a login account and password to conduct transactions over restricted portions of DLA DIBBS and to register email addresses for solicitations and award notifications. Detailed system requirements and instructions for registration can be found on the DLA DIBBS home page.
- DLA DIBBS registration contains an optional Vendor Directed Solicitation Notification feature. This allows vendors to request e-mail notification of new solicitations that match selections for Federal Stock Class (FSC), National Stock Number (NSN), and Approved

Manufacturer CAGE in their profile. Vendors are encouraged to use this feature for specific NSNs or FSCs that may be of interest to them.

- Award/Modification Notification: DIBBS sends an email notification with a web link for all awards/modifications posted on DIBBS unless the CAGE received a delivery order via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).

Request for Quotation (RFQ) Set-Aside Searches

RFQ solicitation searches can be performed several ways via [DIBBS](#). Small businesses are encouraged to use the “SHOW ONLY” search to locate Small Business Set-asides as well as 8(a), HUBZone, SDVOSB, WOSB, and Combined Set-asides. Pick a SEARCH CATEGORY and SEARCH VALUE prior to using the SHOW ONLY option.

Request for Proposal (RFP) Set-Aside Searches

RFP searches are more limited in DIBBS than RFQ searches, with a “Show Only” search for bid sets. It does not allow for “Show Only” searches for set-asides. The RFP search website is at [DIBBS](#).

DLA Requirements Forecast –Supplier Requirements Visibility Application (SRVA)

SRVA contains information on up to 24 months of DLA’s anticipated requirements. SRVA provides users the ability to search by FSC or National Item Identification Number (NIIN). The SRVA is part of the DIBBS website. Access to SRVA requires a DIBBS user account. After logging in, users can gain access using one of the hyperlinks located on DIBBS.

Research before Selling to Defense Logistics Agency:

- [Information on Military Packaging](#)
- [Information on Product Verification Program Office \(PVP\) - Testing Options](#)
- [Supplier Video Resources](#)
- [Training Resources](#)
- [Educational Flyers](#)
- [Information on Specifications](#)
- [Cybersecurity Resources](#)
- [Product and Service Search Tool](#)
- [Web Application Resources](#)
- [Federal Acquisition Regulations and Clauses](#)
- Existing contracts can be found on the [Federal Procurement Data System \(FPDS\)](#) and [USASpending](#).

DLA Innovation Programs

Small businesses can provide innovation to meet the agency's needs through the [Research & Development \(R&D\) Programs](#), the [Small Business Innovation Programs \(SBIP\)](#), and the [Technology Accelerator Other Transaction Authority \(OTA\) Program](#).

DLA R&D. The agency's [R&D program](#) is split into two areas. The first and largest area is manufacturing technology. It supports industrial preparedness by improving manufacturing processes, maintaining viable supply sources, and improving technical and logistics information. The portfolio includes advanced microcircuit emulation, batteries, castings and forgings, additive manufacturing and more.

The second area is logistics research and development. It focuses on improving logistics processes; embracing emerging technology such as unmanned vehicles and robotics; and enhancing analysis, modeling and decision support.

DLA R&D uses the Federal Contract Opportunities website at [SAM.gov](#) to post their opportunities using Broad Agency Announcements (BAA).

Note: White Paper submissions for BAAs posted on [SAM.gov](#) go to the Contracting Office's email listed within the announcement.

If you have an innovative idea not listed within a BAA, send an email to the DLA Headquarters Logistics Research office at Logistics.Research@dla.mil.

DLA SBIP. The DLA [SBIP](#) consist of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR), and Rapid Innovation Fund (RIF) programs.

The objectives of the SBIPs are to stimulate technological innovation and increase commercialization of R&D within the DLA managed supply chains improving service to the warfighter.

The SBIR/STTR programs are structured in the following three phases.

- Phase I projects demonstrate the feasibility of technologies.
- Phase II projects develop prototype processes or products for proof-of-concept demonstrations.
- Phase III is the commercial application of the technology. (Not a set-aside)

DLA SBIP uses the Department of Defense (DoD) SBIR/STTR Program website at <https://www.defensesbirsttr.mil/> to publish the DLA SBIR/STTR Topic's Broad Agency Announcements on this site in addition to other participating agencies. This is also where a firm would submit their proposals.

The DoD RIF website at <https://defenseinnovationmarketplace.dtic.mil/business-opportunities/rapid-innovation-fund/> has the most current information regarding the program,

points-of-contacts, and provides a link to the [Broad Agency Announcements](#). Typically, DLA has three or four Topics each year for the RIF.

DLA Technology Accelerator OTA Program. The DLA Technology Accelerator OTA Program recently focused on growing capacity in 3D printing/additive manufacturing, and advanced manufacturing on demand.

Whitepapers are to be submitted on problem statements that are advertised on the program's website at <https://www.dla.mil/Information-Operations/Research-And-Development/Accelerate/>

For questions or comments about the program, send an email to accelerate@dla.mil

Innovative Solutions. Do you have an idea, concept, or innovative solution not listed as a current topic or problem statement under one of the programs? Send an email to the DLA Headquarters Logistics Research office at Logistics.Research@dla.mil.

For Information Technology, the [DLA Information Technology - Vendor Relations Email](#) serves as the central point of contact for managing engagement with vendors seeking to demonstrate capabilities and the value they may bring to DLA in the area of information technology that supports research and development, as well as innovation.

Email strategictechnologyvendorrelations@dla.mil or call 571-767-2100.

Note: The majority of DLA's requirements come from our customers, primarily the military services. You will more than likely need to engage the services' logistics commands or base/unit level to generate interest in your product or service. As the demand grows, the military service will engage DLA with a requirement to purchase if, so desired. The service will also request DLA to assign an NSN, if applicable.

Unsolicited Proposals. Unsolicited proposals by small businesses may be submitted to the small business office at the cognizant DLA command (the relevant DLA buying activities' small business office). Ensure that your submittal meets the requirements at [FAR part 15.6](#) to be considered a valid unsolicited proposal.

Step 4 – Seek Assistance – APEX Accelerators and More

APEX Accelerators (formerly known as Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs))

The [APEX Accelerators](#) program, under management of the Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP), plays a critical role in the Department's efforts to identify and engage with a wide range of businesses entering and participating in the defense supply-chain. The program provides the education and training that all businesses need to participate to become capable of participating in DOD and other government contracts.

Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)

The SBA administers the [Small Business Development Centers Program](#) that provides management assistance to current and prospective small business owners. SBDCs offer one-stop assistance to small businesses by providing a wide variety of information and guidance in centralized, easily accessible branch locations.

In addition to the SBDC Program, the SBA has a variety of other available programs and services. They include training and education programs, advisory services, publications, financial programs and contract assistance. The agency also offers specialized programs for women business owners, minorities, veterans, international trade and rural development. The SBA has a nationwide network of District Offices that are charged with assisting small businesses in doing business with the government. Find the [District Office](#) nearest you.

Step 5 - Consider Subcontracting

Research Subcontracting Opportunities and Teaming Arrangements

The DoD offers two markets for small businesses seeking defense contracts, prime contracting opportunities and subcontracting opportunities. DoD encourages small businesses to enter the defense subcontracting market. Goods and services flowing into the market strengthen national security and expand the defense industrial base.

Subcontracting to prime vendors is a great way for small firms to “get a foot in the door” of government contracting. In these arrangements, small firms provide goods or services that support a large initiative while gaining valuable experience and past performance.

The intent of Congress is that a fair proportion of the government’s procurements are awarded to small businesses. To promote this effort, Congress enacted Public Law 95-507 that requires all acquisitions exceeding \$700,000 (\$1,500,000 for construction) that have subcontracting possibilities, will provide subcontracting opportunities for small businesses. Subcontracting offers small firms an important means of participating in DLA or federal government procurements even though they may not be ready to bid as a prime contractor.

To be eligible as a subcontractor under the program, a concern must represent itself as a small business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, small disadvantaged business, or a woman-owned small business concern.

The [DoD Prime Contractor Directory](#) is designed for small businesses seeking opportunities with DoD prime contractors. The directory identifies large prime contractors that are required to establish subcontracting plans with goals. The directory is generated from data contained in Individual Subcontract Reports (ISRs) reported by prime contractors in the Electronic

Subcontracting Reporting System (eSRS) as well from data contained in the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS).

This DoD directory includes company names, prime contract numbers, contract periods of performance, NAICS codes, company points of contacts (POCs), POC phone numbers and POC email addresses. All contracts with "N/A" listed for periods of performance are indefinite-delivery-indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) contracts that have task orders with their own periods of performances; the task orders are not listed; only the IDIQ contract.

Review the [quick guide](#) that identifies the regulatory requirements for subcontracting plans.

SBA's SUB-Net

[SUB-Net](#) is a valuable resource for obtaining information on subcontracting opportunities. Solicitations or notices are posted by prime contractors as well as other government, commercial, and educational entities.

This site offers a targeted approach to marketing the prime vendors. Instead of marketing blindly to hundreds of prime contractors with no certainty that any given company has a need for their products or services, small businesses can use their limited resources to identify concrete, tangible opportunities and bid on them.

Mentor-Protégé Program (MPP)

The [DoD Mentor-Protégé Program](#) assists eligible Small Business firms (protégés) to successfully compete for prime contract and subcontract awards by partnering with major defense contractors (mentors) under individual, project-based agreements to help meet the DoD mission.

Mentor companies:

- Provide developmental assistance and technology transfer to their protégés
- Are directly reimbursed for services provided to protégés

Protégés:

- Establish relationships with major DLA contractors
- Develop necessary business and technical capabilities to perform significant work on DoD contracts
- Expand and diversify their customer base

How to Participate:

A step-by-step approach to participation is located on the DoD Mentor-Protégé Program's website at <https://business.defense.gov/Programs/mentor-protege-program/>.

More Mentor-Protégé Resources

- [DFARS Subpart 219.71](#)
- [DoD Prime Contractor Directory](#)
- [DoD OSBP MPP Resources](#)

Step 6 - Post Award

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA)

The [DCMA](#) is DoD's component that works directly with defense suppliers to help ensure DoD, federal, and allied government supplies and services are delivered on time, at projected cost, and meet all performance requirements. DCMA directly contributes to the military readiness of the United States and its allies and helps preserve the nation's freedom.

DCMA professionals serve as "information brokers" and in-plant representatives for military, federal, and allied government buying agencies – both during initial stages of the acquisition cycle and throughout the life of the resulting contracts.

Before Contract Award

If applicable, DCMA provides advice and services to help construct effective solicitations, identify potential risks, select the most capable contractors, and write contracts that meet the needs of our customers in DoD, federal, and allied government agencies.

After Contract Award

If applicable, DCMA monitors contractors' performance and management systems to ensure that cost, product performance, and delivery schedules are in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contracts.

Post-award Orientation

To ensure smooth contract performance, you may request a post-award orientation. This aids both the government and contractor personnel to:

- (1) Achieve a clear and mutual understanding of all contract requirements, and
- (2) Identify and resolve potential problems.

However, post-award orientation is not a substitute for the contractor's full understanding of the work requirements at the time offers are submitted. Additionally, it cannot be used to alter the final agreement arrived at during negotiations before contract award.

Post-award orientation is encouraged to assist small business concerns. The focus in a post-award orientation is usually on:

- Understanding the technical aspects of the contract
- Identifying and resolving oversights
- Preventing problems and avoiding misunderstandings
- Considering how to solve problems that may occur later
- Reaching agreement on common issues

Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)

The [DFAS](#) is the financial and accounting organization for DoD. Through its centers and network of decentralized customer support facilities, DFAS provides all of DoD with finance and accounting services. Financial management services at DFAS include payment of contracts.

Visit <https://www.dfas.mil/contractorsvendors.html>.

SBA's Contract Responsibilities Resource

The [SBA's Governing Rules and Responsibilities webpage](#) at provides useful information to guide you after award of a government contract.

Visit <https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-guide/governing-rules-responsibilities> for more information.