

small businesses to the various processes associated with participating in EC/EDI. The SBA is exploring the possibility of soliciting proposals from interested offerors at a later date. However, at this time, no decision has been made on proceeding with a procurement action.

#### Background

The mission of the SBA's Office of Government Contracting is to advocate, facilitate and create an environment conducive to the maximum practicable participation by small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses in Federal procurement. This includes awards made by the U.S. Government and subcontracts awarded by its large prime contractors. The direction of Federal procurement policy was substantially altered by a 1993 memorandum from the President directing the heads of departments and agencies to re-engineer the procurement process by developing and implementing a system for Federal EC/EDI. The Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act (FASA) of 1994 dubbed the resulting systems architecture as FACNET, and established the initial statutory framework necessary to transition Federal purchasing activities to EC/EDI. Consistent with the provisions of the President's memorandum, electronic purchasing initially focused on the millions of requirements filled using simplified acquisition procedures, the ceiling for which was raised by FASA to a maximum of \$100K for FACNET-certified purchasing activities. Simplified acquisitions, which are reserved primarily for small businesses, have been conducted increasingly via FACNET.

A major component of the current FACNET systems architecture is its Centralized Contractor Registration (CCR) data base. The purposes of the FACNET CCR include: (1) Eliminating redundancy by standardizing the contractor registration procedure across the Government; and (2) providing a common data base for compiling and sharing trading partner information. The concept for which the SBA is seeking comments is rooted in the critical need for increased contractor participation in EC/EDI. The concept is centered around the identification, pricing and delivery of value added services (VAS) to small businesses by a single provider.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this request for comments is to solicit information, observations and suggestions on the feasibility and nature of establishing

and supporting a VAS provider with a vehicle that would:

1. Offer lower introductory VAS prices to small businesses for a period not to exceed one year so that small businesses would be encouraged to participate in EC/EDI, and, based on that exposure, make informed decisions about continued participation.
2. Provide those SBA offices who are actively involved in EC/EDI outreach and counseling, with an established source of affordable VAS to which small businesses could be directed.
3. Dramatically increase the population of firms centrally registered for FACNET.

**General Specifications:** Any Value Added Network (VAN) services provided by the established source would be provided through a VAN certified by the Defense Information Services Agency Contracting Office (DITCO), and such VAN services would be provided in accordance with the VAN licensing agreement signed by the VAN and DITCO. Additionally, the established VAS provider would ensure that each small business recruited pursuant to any agreement is successfully registered on the CCR and certified for FACNET transactions.

**SBA's Role in Outreach:** SBA would distribute information on the services and pricing of the established VAS to the Agency's Regional and District Offices, Business Information Centers (BICs), Government Contracting Area Directors, Procurement Center Representatives, Women's Demonstration Project Sites, Small Business Development Centers, Management and Technical Assistance Providers, One-Stop Capital Shops, Small Business Utilization Staffs, and other entities involved in promoting or assisting in small business development.

The following individual is designated as the point of contact for responses which must be submitted in writing before the close of business on June 21, 1996. Submission of comments by mail, FAX or INTERNET E-mail is acceptable: Oliver H. Snyder III, 409 3rd Street SW, Office Code-6254, Washington, D.C. 20416. Phone Number: 202-205-7650. FAX Number: 202-205-7324. Internet Address: ohs@pa.sba.gov.

Judith A. Roussel

*Associate Administrator, for Government Contracting.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2385]

### Advisory Committee on International Law; Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Advisory Committee on International Law will take place on Tuesday, June 11, 1996, from 2:00 to approximately 5:00 p.m., as necessary in Room 1406 of the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will be chaired by the Legal Adviser of the Department of State, Conrad K. Harper, and will be open to the public up to the capacity of the meeting room. The meeting will focus on a review of current International Court of Justice litigation, International Court of Justice and International Law Commission elections during 1996, and other current developments.

Entry to the building is controlled and will be facilitated by advance arrangements. Members of the public desiring access to the session should, by Friday, June 7, 1996 notify the Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for United Nations Affairs (telephone (202) 647-2767) of their name, Social Security number, date of birth, professional affiliation, address and telephone number in order to arrange admittance. The above includes government and non-government attendees. All attendees must use the "C" Street entrance. One of the following valid IDs will be required for admittance: Any U.S. driver's license with photo, a passport, or a U.S. Government agency ID.

Dated: May 6, 1996.

John R. Crook,

*Assistant Legal Adviser for United Nations Affairs; Executive Director, Advisory Committee on International Law.*

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[Public Notice No. 2387]

### Shipping Coordinating Committee; Subcommittee for the Prevention of Marine Pollution; Notice of Meeting

The Subcommittee for the Prevention of Marine Pollution (SPMP), a subcommittee of the Shipping Coordinating Committee, will conduct an open meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 1996, at 9:30 am in Room 2415 of the U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW., Washington, DC.

The purpose of this meeting will be to review the agenda items to be considered at the thirty-eighth session of the Marine Environment Protection