



CONTRACT LAW DIVISION

Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Finance and Litigation



Biweekly Report—Period Ending March 13, 1999

COSPAS/SARSAT INMARSAT Agreement

Together with AGC/Admin, we looked into a proposed international agreement under which NOAA would fund its proportionate share of COSPAS/SARSAT Secretariat operations being provided by INMARSAT. Although this is not the type of action normally falling within the purview of a procurement, it is being treated as such because NOAA has never obtained adequate independent statutory authority for its COSPAS/SARSAT obligations. (Mark Langstein)

Iron Horse, Inc. – Agency Level Protest

PTO has received an agency level protest above the Contracting Officer from Iron Horse, Inc., an offeror in a simplified acquisition of IT products. Protestor has raised several protest issues, including PTO's failure to make a best value award. (Lisa J. Obayashi)

NWS International and Domestic Hydrometeorological Projects Procurement

We have provided comments on the draft Project Agreement, which will initiate a procurement to obtain the services of private industry to aid the weather service in meeting its commitments under international agreements to provide forecasting capabilities to other nations. (Fred Kopatich)

Domain Name Project

ICANN is holding its public meeting in Singapore this week and initial reports are positive. While some contention still exists, the participants generally recognize ICANN is the entity responsible for introducing competition into the domain name registration business. After the meeting, ICANN will publish revised Accreditation guidelines and a compromise DNSO proposal (Catherine Shea)

Aspen Helicopters (GSBCA)

In response to a request for an extension for time from Counsel for Aspen, the Board extended the time for the filing of briefs to Tuesday, March 9th. We filed our case on the record yesterday. The reply briefs are currently due next Friday, March 19th, but may be extended due to the scheduling changes that have occurred. (Terry Hart Lee and Amy Freeman)

DRC Corp. v. DOC (GSBCA No. 149191-COM)

DRC Corp. has filed an appeal of the contracting officer's final decision denying an equitable adjustment for a delay in the construction of restrooms at the Bureau of Census-Jeffersonville facility. The case has been assigned to Judge Daniels. (Amy Freeman)

EASC/Disaster Relief for New England Fishermen

Interesting issues have arisen relating to procurement of commercial fishing vessels for research purposes as part of disaster relief earmarked under FY 1999 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. Counsel has been in lengthy contact with NOAA counsel and EASC procurement officials regarding the issues. (Terry H. Lee)

NWS IT Support §8(a) Competitive Procurement

We participated in the debriefing of the unsuccessful offerors in this \$20 million plus procurement where the "incumbent" was one of the unsuccessful offerors. Although some of the debriefings were contentious, we do not believe that a protest will be filed. (Mark Langstein)

CLD "Time to Complete"—3.9 Days

Actions by Contract Law Division during Period

Bureau	Received	Completed
NIST	10	10
NOAA	12	13
NTIS	1	1
PTO	2	2
Total	25	Total 26

Contract Law Division—Client Workload
Period Ending 03/13/99

