Pathways to Project Success

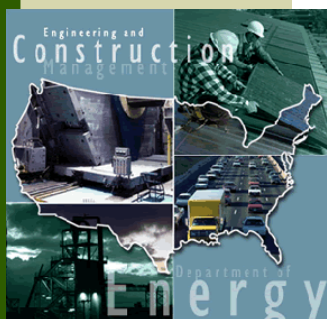**SEPTEMBER 2008**

What's New

PMCDP Approved for FAC-P/PM Program!!

We are pleased to announce DOE's Project Management Career Development Program (PMCDP) was approved by FAI on August 28th. The only other Agencies that have earned project management approval are NASA, Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration.

The Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) established the "*Federal Acquisition Certification for Program and Project Managers*" (FAC-P/PM) as a mandatory development program for Federal Project/Program Managers. The FAC-P/PM establishes essential competencies, general training and experience requirements for acquisition professional project managers. All Federal Agencies are required to demonstrate FAC-P/PM compliance by the end of FY08 or request a waiver. The Federal Acquisition Institute (FAI) performs the FAC-P/PM agency compliance reviews.

FAI approval is a major milestone for the PMCDP and a recognition of the quality and rigor of the program and its professional project managers.

Project Funding: Full versus Incremental

By: BRIAN D. HUIZENGA, MA-50 / OECM

Tired of having your construction projects held hostage by Continuing Resolutions (CR)? Can we execute a project more expeditiously? Fully funding projects in one budget request is one way to get rid of the CR blues!!

The Department of Defense has been fully funding projects up to $50M for years. Many of you who worked countless hours on the Root Cause Analysis identified "Failure to Obtain Full Funding" as one of the 10 major issues to improve contract and project management. OMB's Circular A-11 indicates that incrementally funding capital projects without certainty if or when future funding will be available can result in poor planning, inadequate justification of assets acquisition, higher acquisition costs and project delays.

Full funding of projects is the best approach and together we can change the path of "where we are today" to "where we want to be!" This will not be easy and will require Programs to make some tough programmatic choices. However, in the end we will see projects costing less and completed earlier--and we will be able to use the savings to accomplish additional mission critical activities.

Hopefully these thoughts have your attention and you're contemplating the full funding approach for your next project.

What is the difference between Acquisition and Contracting?

By Cynthia Yee, Acquisition Career Manager, MA60

"Acquisition" means the acquiring by contract using appropriated funds for supplies or services (including construction) by and for the use of the Federal Government through purchase or lease. This applies whether the supplies or services are already in existence or must be created, developed, demonstrated, and evaluated. Acquisition begins at the point when agency needs are established and includes the description of requirements to satisfy agency needs, solicitation and selection of sources, award of contracts, contract financing, contract performance, contract administration, and those technical and management functions directly related to the process of fulfilling agency needs by contract.

"Contract" means a mutually binding legal relationship obligating the seller to furnish the supplies or services (including con-

struction) and the buyer to pay for them. It includes all types of commitments that obligate the Government to an expenditure of appropriated funds and that, except as otherwise authorized, are in writing. In addition to bilateral instruments, contracts include (but are not limited to) awards and notices of awards; job orders or task letters issued under basic ordering agreements; letter contracts; orders, such as purchase orders, under which the contract becomes effective by written acceptance or performance; and bilateral contract modifications. Contracts do not include grants and cooperative agreements covered by 31 U.S.C. 6301, et seq.

Those are the FAR definitions. More simply put, acquisition is the entire process from beginning to end - i.e., identification of need to final disposition of the product/services - while contracting is but one piece of the acquisition process. The contract is the vehicle by which we acquire the needed products or services. Acquisition and contracting are not synonymous.

An understanding of these terms is critical in defining the acquisition workforce and in understanding that DOE is an acquisition agency.

Contractual instruments consume up to 90% of the DOE's annual budget. It takes the coordinated efforts of the entire acquisition team - project directors, contract specialists/contracting officers, contracting officer's representatives, and personal property managers, among others - to make an acquisition succeed.

To support the integrated acquisition approach, the Acquisition Career Management Program will be sponsoring a 4-day class in Advanced Contract Administration at various sites across the complex. The class is intended for teams made up of FPDs, Contracting Officers Representatives (CORs) and Contracting Officers to facilitate an integrated project teams. Please work with your Contracting Officer and CORs to identify a team and dates of course delivery.

Upcoming PMCDP Courses

September

15-19 Program Management and Portfolio Analysis (L3), Idaho

16-18 Executive Communications (L4), Savannah River

16-18 Advanced Risk Management (L4), Oak Ridge

October

7-8 Planning for PBMC (L1), Richland

7-9 Project Leadership/Supervision (L2), Oak Ridge

14-15 Planning for PBMC (L1), Richland

14-16 Acquisition Strategy and Planning, (L1), Richland

November

17-19 Contract Admin for Technical Reps (L1), Albuquerque

20-21 Planning for PBMC (L1), Albuquerque

For the most up-to-date course schedule, please visit: http://www.colleagueconsulting.com/training.htm and click on "Current Training Schedule"

Question of the Month

Question: In ESS I filled out my profile, but the cover sheet does not list my education or my certifications. How do I load them into my profile?

Answer: Your personal information on the cover sheet of your profile is downloaded out of the DOE PeopleSoft personnel records. Your grade, email and phone numbers, education, licenses and certifications for example are all entered automatically from records currently on file.

You can not enter them into the PMCDP module. Rather, it needs to be updated in PeopleSoft, as follows: Log into ESS, choose "Update" from menu. For PMP or PE/RA certification/licenses, choose "Licenses and Certifications" and enter your data; for education, choose "Education" and enter data.