

**U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Inspector General
Office of Audit**

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number: 03-10-001-07-711, *Audit of DOL's Fiscal Year 2008 Procurement Data Reported in the Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation* to the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management.

WHY READ THE REPORT

This report discusses the Office of Inspector General (OIG) performance audit of the completeness and accuracy of the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 (October 1, 2007, to September 30, 2008) procurement data in the Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation (FPDS-NG). The FPDS-NG is the government-wide system of information on the Federal government's purchases of goods and services. The data it contains is used to create recurring and special reports to the President, Congress, Government Accountability Office, Federal executive agencies, and the general public. Therefore, it is imperative that DOL assures the completeness and accuracy of all information entered into FPDS-NG. The General Services Administration (GSA) administers FPDS-NG and, in DOL, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management (OASAM) is responsible for implementing the Department's procurement program, including the FPDS-NG.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

OIG conducted the audit to determine if DOL provided the Congress, GSA, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) with complete and accurate procurement data.

The audit covered FY 2008 procurement data and DOL's certification to OMB on the accuracy of this data in the FPDS-NG. For FY 2008, DOL reported in the FPDS-NG 9,367 contracting actions totaling approximately \$1.8 billion.

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2010/03-10-001-07-711.pdf>.

February 2010

AUDIT OF DOL'S FISCAL YEAR 2008 PROCUREMENT DATA REPORTED IN THE FEDERAL PROCUREMENT DATA SYSTEM-NEXT GENERATION

WHAT OIG FOUND

The Department generally reported all FY 2008 procurement actions the FPDS-NG; however, the detailed data elements that comprised these procurement actions were not always accurately reported. Our statistical sample of 1,386 procurement data elements found that approximately 8 percent were either incorrect or unsupported. One cause of the reporting errors was that contracting specialists may differ in their understanding of certain data-field requirements because the data-field descriptions are sometime ambiguous. As a result, the procurement data the Congress, GSA, and OMB received from DOL through the FPDS-NG was not always reliable.

We also found that the report DOL used to certify to OMB the accuracy of its FY 2008 procurement data in the FPDS-NG could not be adequately supported. The contractor DOL hired to perform the procurement data validation reported that the overall accuracy rate of DOL's FY 2008 procurement data in the FPDS was 99.32 percent. However, the contractor did not have documentation to support the methodology, conclusions, findings, or recommendations contained in the report. The contracting vehicle OASAM used did not require the contractor to maintain support for the work it performed. Without supporting documentation, OASAM had no assurance as to the quality of the contractor's work. Because the contractor's work could not be relied upon for DOL's certification to OMB, we believe the \$190,718 paid for this work could have been put to better use.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

In summary, we recommended that procurement staff be trained on understanding and entering data into the FPDS-NG, and DOL establish a mechanism by which procurement staff could address questions or problems related to entering procurement data. We also recommended that if DOL plans to use a contractor for future FPDS-NG reviews, it ensures the contract requirements are specific, and requires the assigned Contracting Officer's Technical Representative to monitor the contractor to ensure the work complies with the contract requirements. The OASAM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Operations concurred with the recommendations.