



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY & LOGISTICS)

FROM: HQ USAF
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1670

SUBJECT: Small Business 8(a) Sole Source Approval Thresholds

References: (a) Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.303-1(b)
(b) Air Force Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (AFFARS) 5306.304

As you know, Section 811 creates the requirement for a written justification in order to issue an 8(a) sole source contract in excess of \$22 million as required in FAR 6.303-1(b). While these types of contracts used to be approved by the local contracting officials, Section 811 raises the approval to the head of the procuring activity or the Program Executive Officer as required in AFFARS 5306.304. It further requires 8(a) sole source acquisitions in excess of \$22 million to be justified and approved in a similar manner as other sole source acquisitions as required by the Competition in Contracting Act. This monetary threshold and the associated justification is not intended to be a barrier to executing contracts that reflect the best business decisions for the Air Force. Instead, it is a threshold that drives a review process to ensure the Government obtains fair and reasonable prices for supplies and services acquired through a sole-source contract that is awarded using 8(a) authority.

Balancing an agile acquisition process while ensuring fair competition is very important to me, the Air Force, and our nation. I ask that you continue to streamline the approval process for these and other actions within your contracting activities, and I thank you for your continued service to our United States Air Force.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heather Wilson", is written over a faint circular stamp that contains the year "2009".

Heather Wilson

cc: Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Small Business Programs