U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

Automated Electronic Contract
Writing System

A Bit of History

- Prior to 2005, had tried unsuccessfully to purchase and implement a contract writing system so the office was manual

- In 2005, using a SOO, examined three proposed systems: Distributed Solutions, CACI's Comprizon, and Compusearch's PRISM

- Selected DSI's modular approach; after a year of partial implementation, did a T for D

- In 2008, using a PWS, examined two proposed systems and awarded to Compusearch

Implementing PRISM

- Key lesson learned previously was to require the vendor to provide an on-site systems administrator with experience as an 1102

- Lack of SEC project management support required we compete an award specifically for systems implementation; took burden off us

- Compusearch provided top level project support and we took the time to work through the "as is" and "to be"

Using PRISM

- Started using PRISM in 2009 for all new awards and reconstructed long term awards
  - Requisition module
  - Routing and approval workflow
  - Purchasing module with interface to FPDS
- Awarded in PRISM but then had to enter data separately into financial system (Momentum)
  - Needed to run continual reconciliations
  - Systems weren't aligned so reports were poor

Moved to FSSP

- Financial system had long history of cumulative issues and had to be replaced

- Decision was made to use FSSP

- Proposals received and evaluated; selected DOT's FAA Enterprise Service Center using Oracle Financials interfaced to PRISM

- Emphasis was fixing financial issues so financial conversion went well; not so for us

The Conversion of Awards

- Awards entered into "old" PRISM had errors
  - Double ship to which also doubled the obligation
  - Interface set up as one-way so PRISM fed data but didn't receive anything
  - CCR not set up; interface to FPDS not working
  - Conversion errors flowed to FPDS so all fixes to the errors resulted in shutting off FPDS
  - Some awards had to be done outside the system just to get them completed; entered later

Remaining Challenges

- Limited capabilities for complex CLIN structure
- ESC behind in PRISM service pack updates
- Setup of our site followed ESC processes but keeps us from tracking contracting branches
- Very limited access; can't reset passwords; can't enter new org codes; very limited control over site administration and limited to only 3 people able to deal directly with ESC
- No interface to CCR; FPDS interface still not working well
- ESC training limited to system; they have no contracting knowledge; we have to conduct training for our users
- Financial office is project office but their work is contracted to ESC so our office isn't represented

The Good News

- Financial Office no longer considered a GAO management challenge
- All new awards are processing well