

## 15.101-2 Lowest price technically acceptable source selection process.

(a) The lowest price technically acceptable source selection process is appropriate when *best value* is expected to result from selection of the technically acceptable proposal with the lowest evaluated price.

(b) When using the lowest price technically acceptable process, the following apply:

(1) The evaluation factors and significant subfactors that establish the requirements of acceptability *shall* be set forth in the *solicitation*. *Solicitations shall* specify that award will be made on the basis of the lowest evaluated price of proposals meeting or exceeding the acceptability standards for non-cost factors. If the *contracting officer* documents the file pursuant to [15.304\(c\)\(3\)\(iii\)](#), *past performance* need not be an evaluation factor in lowest price technically acceptable source selections. If the *contracting officer* elects to consider *past performance* as an evaluation factor, it *shall* be evaluated in accordance with [15.305](#). However, the comparative assessment in [15.305\(a\)\(2\)\(i\)](#) does not apply. If the *contracting officer* determines that a small business' *past performance* is not acceptable, the matter *shall* be referred to the Small Business Administration for a Certificate of Competency determination, in accordance with the procedures contained in [subpart 19.6](#) and [15 U.S.C. 637\(b\)\(7\)](#).

(2) Tradeoffs are not permitted.

(3) Proposals are evaluated for acceptability but not ranked using the non-cost/price factors.

(4) Exchanges *may* occur (see [15.306](#)).

(c) Except for DoD, in accordance with section 880 of the John S. McCain *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019* (Pub. L. 115-232, [41 U.S.C. 3701](#) Note), the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process *shall* only be used when—

(1) The agency can comprehensively and clearly describe the minimum requirements in terms of performance objectives, measures, and standards that will be used to determine the acceptability of *offers*;

(2) The agency would realize no, or minimal, value from a proposal that exceeds the minimum technical or performance requirements;

(3) The agency believes the technical proposals will require no, or minimal, subjective judgment by the source selection authority as to the desirability of one *offeror's* proposal versus a competing proposal;

(4) The agency has a high degree of confidence that reviewing the technical proposals of all *offerors* would not result in the identification of characteristics that could provide value or benefit to the agency;

(5) The agency determined that the lowest price reflects the total cost, including operation and support, of the product(s) or service(s) being acquired; and

(6) The *contracting officer* documents the contract file describing the circumstances that justify the

use of the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process.

(d) Except for DoD, in accordance with section 880 of the John S. McCain *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019* (Pub. L. 115-232, [41 U.S.C. 3701](#) Note), *contracting officers shall* avoid, to the maximum extent practicable, using the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process in the case of a *procurement* that is predominantly for the *acquisition* of—

(1) *Information technology* services, cybersecurity services, systems engineering and technical assistance services, advanced electronic testing, audit or audit readiness services, health care services and records, telecommunications devices and services, or other knowledge-based professional services;

(2) Personal protective equipment; or

(3) Knowledge-based training or logistics services in *contingency operations* or other operations outside the *United States*, including in Afghanistan or Iraq.

**Parent topic:** [15.101 Best value continuum](#).