

RELEASE NOTES 3.2

Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS)

Numerous changes have occurred in the Industry Interactive Procurement System that affect all users. Below is a list of the enhancements in the redesign of IIPS through the latest release, version 3.2, released November 1, 2003. The items are listed in alphabetical order. Some changes occurred prior to IIPS 3.2 release date in order to meet policy requirements.

ACQUISITION VS. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial Assistance (FA) opportunities were initially created on the Solicitation form during the initial rollout of IIPS. In IIPS version 3.0, a separate form was created for Financial Assistance. Any Financial Assistance opportunities created on the Acquisition form remained on that form. Any new Financial Assistance opportunities were created on the new Financial Assistance form. For Version 3.2, no changes have occurred to the Acquisition (Solicitation) online form. However, any data for Financial Assistance opportunities that remain on the original Acquisition form have been pulled into the new form. Contracting Officers and Contract Specialists who have access to these opportunities will need to complete required fields on the updated form. See Financial Assistance for more information on changes to the form.

In addition, the IIPS Business Opportunities database has been divided into two databases: Acquisitions and Financial Assistance. When users elect to browse or login to IIPS, they will have the option to select one of these options.

APPLICANT TESTING AREA

Like the Acquisitions opportunity database, contractors have the ability to view a sample opportunity and submit test documents before they go through the actual procedure. A new button appears in the Financial Assistance opportunity database and has been created to accommodate new users.

AWARD ARCHIVES

Opportunities that have been awarded or canceled during the 2004 fiscal year have been moved to the IIPS 2004 Archive database. These archived documents can be viewed by selecting the Award Archives link from the Acquisition or Financial Assistance main view. Any user can access the archive database. The opportunity and all associated documents are automatically moved to the archive database within 10 days of changing the status. Once archived, documents can be viewed only in read mode.

BREAKING NEWS

The Breaking News view is available from the e-Center home page and is no longer accessible from the IIPS main view.

CCR

All vendors who wish to do business with any government agency must register via the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) web site. The CCR is operated by the Department of Defense. More information regarding the registration requirements can be found at <http://www.ccr.gov>.

Because more than one person from the same organization/location may be authorized on behalf of their organization to submit proposals to IIPS, users are encouraged to continue to register with IIPS in addition to registering at CCR.

CCR data is now available via the U.S. Department of Energy Contractor Registration (ENCORE) system. See ENCORE for more information.

CREATE ACCOM DOC

The Accompanying Document for a Financial Assistance opportunity has been modified to associate the terms used with this type of opportunity. The Purpose field now contains the options "Modification" and "Other." On the Solicitation Document, the Purpose field continues to contain the "Synopsis Modification" and "Solicitation Amendment" options.

CREATE OPP FROM IPRO

The Create Opp from IPRO button has been removed from both the Acquisition and Financial Assistance opportunity action bar.

CREATE OPP FROM SA

The Create Opp from SA button has been removed from the Financial Assistance opportunity action bar.

DUNS CODE

The DUNS number is now a required element on the revised SF424 and DOE 4650.2 forms. See Financial Assistance - Link to additional forms and documents.

ENCORE

The acronym ENCORE stands for Energy Contractor Registration for the U.S. Department of Energy. A link to ENCORE has been placed on the proposal cover page (after clicking the Continue button) and can be viewed by all users. Users can click on the link and then search for information about the submitting organization using the DUNS Code listed on the proposal/application. The current status of the registration is also provided.

The URL to ENCORE is <http://www.encore.doe.gov>.

FEDGRANTS

Users who view FA opportunities in IIPS via FedGrants will experience a minor change in how the opportunity document is accessed. Currently a user can click their way through FedGrants to view a Grants Notice on the General Information page. The user then scrolls to the "Link to Full Announcement" section and clicks on the "Click here to view Opportunity" hyperlink where they are immediately taken to the opportunity document in IIPS.

For opportunities posted to FedGrants prior to November 1, 2003, the “Click here to view Opportunity” hyperlink will redirect users to a notice in IIPS. This notice will inform users that the opportunity document has moved as well as provide a link to the opportunity’s new location in IIPS. Opportunities posted to FedGrants on or after November 1, 2003 will continue to have a direct link from FedGrants to the opportunity document in IIPS.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Financial Assistance Opportunity online form has been modified to meet the Department of Energy's Financial Assistance Regulation set by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) policy requirements. The following changes have occurred.

-Announcement format

Funding opportunity announcements issued on or after November 23, 2003 must be in the standard government-wide announcement format. The Financial Assistance Opportunity template/document has been modified to comply with the format by re-ordering the appearance of data and adding new fields. The new fields include Announcement Type, Archive Date, and access to forms and documents.

-Application Due Date or Application Due Date Explanation

Help text has been added near these fields to inform contracting officers and contract specialists that either one of these fields is required. The Application Due Date Explanation field can contain up to 250 characters. This is a limitation set by FedGrants.

-Archive Date

Archive Date is a new field on the Financial Assistance Opportunity online form and automatically populates with a date that is 90-days after the document creation date. The field is an editable field; therefore, the date can be changed if necessary.

-Link to additional forms and documents

A link has been provided on the Financial Assistance opportunity document in the File Upload section. When a user clicks on the link, a new window appears with access to the following documents.

- SF424 Application for Financial Assistance
- SF424A Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs
- SF424B Assurances - Non-Construction Programs
- SF424C Budget Information - Construction Programs
- SF424D Assurances - Construction Programs
- Office of Science Grant Application Form
- DOE Announcement Template
- SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
- SF-LLLA Continuation Sheet for SF-LLL

-Status

The Status field on the Financial Assistance Opportunity online form has been modified to accommodate FA opportunities. The Status field options are 1. Announcement Issued, 2. Pre-Application Received, 3. Applications Received, 4. Initial Evaluations Completed, 5. Recipients Selected, 6. Instrument Awarded, and 7. Canceled.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES CREATED ON THE ORIGINAL SOLICITATION OPPORTUNITY DOCUMENT

Prior to IIPS version 3.0, both Acquisition and Financial Assistance opportunities were created using the same online form. With versions 3.0 and 3.1 users were able to create new FA opportunities using the new form while the old FA opportunities remained on the original form.

With version 3.2, the data for those FA opportunities have been pulled into the new form thereby allowing some required fields (e.g. CFDA Code, Instrument Type, Category of Funding Activity, and Eligible Applicants) to be blank. When a user edits their document, they will be required to complete those fields before they can save their document.

IIPS

The Industry Interactive Procurement System has been redesigned to maximize efficiency and meet the needs of all users. The IIPS database has been divided into two databases: Acquisitions and Financial Assistance.

LOGIN

Users will see a slight difference on the login page. When a user clicks on the Login button from e-Center, the user will have three (3) login options: Industry Interactive Procurement System, Industry Interactive Financial Assistance System, and Simplified Acquisitions.

MAIN VIEW

Special Notices and Breaking News is no longer accessible on the main view.

OPPORTUNITY LISTING

Because IIPS has been divided into two databases, Acquisition and Financial Assistance, only the specific opportunities will appear in the appropriate database.

PROPOSAL/APPLICATION COVER PAGE

A link to ENCORE now appears on the Proposal/Application Cover Page. See ENCORE for more information.

REQUIRING ACTIVITY

The Requiring Activity field has been updated on both Acquisition and Financial Assistance forms. The office name now appears next to the office code.

SPECIAL NOTICES

The Special Notices view can be accessed from the e-Center home page and is no longer available on the IIPS main view.