

## **Real Estate Guidance - (07/2014)**

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## **2.2 Real Estate Acquisition Process**

### **2.2.1 Request**

The acquisition of real property interests is usually informally initiated by a request for market information and estimated costs. The Real Estate Contracting Officer (RECO) must receive a written request along with a funding certification in order to start the acquisition process. A certification of funding must be received prior to the obligation of any funds for any purpose (i.e., surveys, appraisals, space lease, etc.) or the award of a contract. This certification is normally provided by a Procurement Request (PR), which must commit valid funding to fully cover the first fiscal year costs.

### **2.2.2 Requirements and Planning** Revised 1/2011

The RECO should assist the customer in the development of requirements to ensure that the space to be acquired will meet their needs and that it will conform to FAA regulations such as the Administrative Space Guidance, found in 2.4.1: Appendix A and the Administrative Space Regulations as found in the [Space Order 4665.4 for administrative space](#) found in 2.4.1.1. The customer should be advised of available alternatives that may fulfill their needs at a lower cost or in a more efficient manner. The RECO must consider the potential budgetary impacts of long-term (over 5 years including options) space leases when developing alternatives and generally should avoid any lease terms that could result in the lease being classified as a capital lease or lease purchase, unless the customer has prepared and obtained budgetary authority for such a lease. See OMB Circular A-11, Appendix B, and "Budgetary Treatment of Lease Purchases and Leases of Capital Assets" for further information.

When the FAA is currently leasing space, in or near the delineated area, consideration should be given to the advantages of collocation, both from economic and program point of view. If there is a demonstrated advantage to collocation, negotiations may be conducted with the lessor provided the proposed rental will be comparable with the market survey determination of the fair annual rental. The RECO should also consider other available federal space, if it meets the requirements of the customer.

The FAA's mission generally requires that offices be located within 5 miles of an airport and outside the central business area. On requests for renewal of existing leases, the RECO should determine that if the property continues to meet the FAA's needs, any changes required in the lease terms should be negotiated and included in the renewal.

### **2.2.3 Procurement Method**

Competition is the preferred method of procurement and should be utilized whenever practical and reasonable. Competition is appropriate when the requirement is not site specific.

The single source method of procurement is appropriate when technical requirements, business practices, or programmatic needs have determined that a specific site is required to meet the FAA's mission. The lease file should document the reason(s) competition was not used in the

acquisition.

#### **2.2.4 Succeeding Leases/Lease Renewals** Revised 7/2012

General Requirements: Prior to determining whether to enter into a succeeding lease (this is a new lease because the lease expires at the end of the term and succeeds the prior lease), or renew an existing lease (this is the exercise of an option to stay in the existing location for the amount of time stated in the option(s) to renew), the RECO must consult with the tenant organization and obtain a statement of continuing need. If the tenant organization indicates a need to remain in the same location, the RECO can initiate filling in the single source justification form and send to the tenant organization for concurrence prior to initiating the procurement. Competition is the preferred method of acquisition for administrative space; however, if a single source is in the best interest of the Government, the single source form must have signature concurrence from the line of business. In addition, if the term of a lease is less than 20 years, including options, and if the RECO determines that the best method to fulfill a short term continuing need is by extending the current lease, the Supplemental Lease Agreement must contain all new and revised clauses. However, if the lease has met its 20 year authority, the RECO must negotiate a new lease using the current lease template.

When to sign a succeeding lease: In accordance with the provisions of 49 USC 40110(c)(1), the RECO may enter into a lease with a term of up to 20 years, regardless of whether appropriations sufficient to pay the rent for the entirety of the lease term have been obligated. This means that the RECO can sign a lease now, even when rent commences in the next fiscal year.

Example: The RECO diligently negotiates for a succeeding lease for an off airport nevoid and obtains the lease signed by the lessor in the month of July 2010. The rent does not commence until October 1, 2010 (the start of FY-2011). In order to consummate the lease, the RECO must sign the lease AND award it in the PRISM system in July 2010. The RECO can obtain either a zero dollar PR or a subject to availability of funds PR for the award of the lease.

Timing of renewal efforts: In order to allow sufficient time for completion, and prevent FAA from becoming a holdover tenant, the RECO must commence the renewal process, or the process

of entering into a succeeding lease, at least 18 months prior to the lease expiration date. For all GSA controlled space, the RECO must commence the renewal process at least 24 months prior to the lease expiration date. Further, this time period should be extended if the RECO is aware of issues that could jeopardize timely completion of the lease transaction.

NOTE: If a lease is to be terminated and not renewed, the RECO must ensure that the lease and any associated utility or other associated contracts are appropriately terminated and that accounting is notified to ensure that lease and associated utility payments are terminated at the appropriate time.

#### **2.2.4.1 Holdover Tenancy** Revised 7/2008

If a continuing need has been determined and it appears the lease will expire without a Supplemental Lease Agreement for a short term extension, or succeeding lease has not been awarded, then the RECO must follow the steps in the AMS policy as per 4.2.3.2.1.2 Emergency Reservation of Expiring Funds for Continued FAA Occupancy. In those instances where FAA continues to occupy leased facilities after the expiration of the lease term, the FAA is considered a **“holdover tenant.”** If the expired lease does not have a “holdover” clause, the laws of the state in which the facility is located will determine FAA’s rights of occupancy.

As mentioned under the policy, the RECO must notify his manager, regional counsel, and the LOB Budget office of issue.

If the RECO is unable to get the lessor to sign a temporary agreement, then the RECO must take steps to ensure that sufficient funds are either reserved, or set aside for settlement of the holdover period. A holdover period should not exceed 6 months. Prior to the end of the current fiscal year, the RECO will notify the affected LOB of the potential need to reserve the minimal funds necessary to pay for the FAA's occupancy during the continued occupancy period (so long as it occurred in the same fiscal year), and provide an estimate. If the LOB wishes to reserve funds from the soon to be expiring budget year (for rent that is incurred during the same fiscal year), they shall provide a requisition to the RECO, and the RECO will reserve the estimated rent as an emergency contract. The RECO will send a formal memo to the Accounting office of the emergency reservation of funds, and to await further instructions from the Accounting on when to make any payments. **Note:** The RECO must document in the file a justification for the emergency reservation of funds. Below is information for dealing with holdover tenant with accounting in the financial system.

1. FAA cannot use its holdover status to avoid its obligation to pay for leased facilities. This may necessitate a a memo for the emergency reservation of funds or temporary supplemental lease agreement so that PRISM can accept the obligation without a signed contract. The interim contract number will be the old lease number with an “OH” suffix to the old lease number, or will be a new lease number.

2. Delphi Miscellaneous Obligating Documents (Delphi MOD) will be used only for FY200X funds that are due to the lessor of a holdover lease where funds have not yet been obligated or

paid in FY200X for the time already lapsed. Instructions for recording in Delphi in accordance with year-end closing instructions are on the Delphi website (FAA only). The Delphi M.O.D. is regularly used to accrue utilities, credit card purchases, etc. in Delphi for transactions that will not clear before year-end. A Delphi M.O.D. will not be used for leases where FAA is a holdover tenant except in the instance mentioned above.

3. Note if the LOB validates, it can pay the back rent from current year funds, it is not necessary to perform the emergency reservation of funds.

During this period the RECO must continue to negotiate an lease extension even if considering a condemnation posture. Once the RECO has negotiated a final lease agreement, the RECO must perform a modification to the emergency lease to document the conversion to a fully executed lease contract. Any difference in lease rental payment should be settled and paid at that time.

### **2.2.5 Advertising/Market Survey and Appraisal** Revised 4/2012

*Advertising:* If advertising is to be accomplished, the Real Estate Contracting Officer (RECO) shall utilize the publicizing method most likely to result in receipt of offers appropriate to satisfy the specific requirement. The content of the advertisement is at the discretion of the RECO. In most cases, advertisements will be in local newspapers. Also, advertisements may include commercial trade journals, electronic bulletin boards, and the Commerce Business Daily. Multiple advertising may be utilized, if necessary. If the RECO chooses to advertise, the RECO shall place the largest circulation in the geographic delineated area and include placement on the days when the “Real Estate” Section is published.

Advertising is not required when the RECO determines that it is not warranted, or reasonable competition can be achieved. Data from an advertisement or market survey may be used to determine the competitive range.

*Market Survey:* A market survey is a tool used to help the RECO determine the following when leasing a space:

- the FAA’s needs and requirements,
- determines the fair market rental value and the rental price, and
- allows for the determination of the competitive range.

A market survey must be conducted in both competitive and single source space acquisitions for all new, succeeding, renewal or small space lease.

### **Market Information for a Business Case**

Under the Space Council Administrative Space Standard Operating Procedures, all lines of business are required to submit a copy of an approved business case to the RECO for all new administrative space requirements. The AFI will submit a copy of an approved business case to

the RECO for all technical space. The RECO will assist the LOB with the business case by providing limited market information.

A limited market survey is used for assisting the customer in the development of a business case. A limited market survey is basic fact finding, and includes gathering data that answers the following questions:

- Is space available in the delineated area?
- What is the cost per square foot?
- What are the general terms in the surveyed area?

In addition, the customer must provide initial information on their space requirements to the RECO to conduct a limited market survey.

The RECO has the authority to proceed with a full market survey only after receiving a copy of the approved business case for all new space acquisition, either technical or administrative. The RECO must place a copy of the approved business case in the lease documentation file.

There is one exception to this requirement for an approved business case. In the case of an emergency, which creates an immediate threat to the life or safety of FAA employees, such as a fire or an earthquake, the requesting servicing organization can contact the RECO to proceed immediately with a full market survey.

The business case must not identify a pre-selected location when the intent is to procure the requirements using competitive method. If a business case identifies a specific site location when competition is available within the geographically delineated area, the RECO must notify the customer that the AMS policy requires a RECO to use competition when available.

### **Full Market Survey**

Once a copy of an approved business case is received by the RECO, a “full” market survey is conducted by the RECO with their customer. Prior to initiating a full market survey for a new space requirement, the RECO and the customer must determine space requirements such as square footage, security, parking, electrical, data/telephone and any special build-out requirements. Time frames must be established for the acquisition of the space and a delineated geographic area must be identified. The RECO will conduct a full market survey based upon the requirements received from the customer including receiving a zero dollar purchase request.

The RECO will request funding from the customer to ensure that the RECO and customer are able to participate fully in the market survey process. However, if funding is not available, the RECO must send a copy of the space market survey form to the potential lessor(s) to fill in the required information and either by fax or e-mail a completed copy to the RECO within 5 business days from the date the RECO sent the request to the potential lessor(s).

### **New Lease Market Survey**

With respect to the acquisition of new space leases, a full market survey must be conducted. This ensures that the RECO leases space that meets the FAA's requirements and is in the FAA's best interest. As mentioned above, the RECO needs to receive a copy of an approved business case with a zero dollar purchase request in order to proceed with a full market survey.

The following are guidelines for performing a full market survey for new space:

- The RECO must check if other government space is available for occupancy prior to initiating a market survey. Your local General Services Administration (GSA) point of contact is one potential source for such information.
- The RECO must ask the customer/facility manager if he/she has developed information concerning space available in the geographic delineated area. If so, the RECO must request specific points of contact and follow up with the named individuals/companies. If possible, the RECO must physically canvas the geographic delineated area for space offerings, and listings of competing space by looking for vacancy signs, or reviewing the available real estate listings as published in the local paper serving the geographic delineated area. An on-site market survey visit is important in both a competitive and single source acquisition. However, if the RECO is unable to attend the on-site market survey, the RECO must fax or e-mail the market survey form to the potential lessor(s) to fill in and contact the customer to visit the site with the form, if possible.
- Communicate with other RECOs and review existing files to determine if there have been other recent surveys (e.g. within the last 6 months) completed with respect to the delineated area that may provide points of contact (brokers, property managers and property owners), leads for buildings with available space, or associated information on rent, operating costs, tenant improvements, etc.
- Contact and communicate with other federal agency real estate representatives (GSA, Corps of Engineers, etc.) to see if they have completed recent surveys or lease negotiations in the geographic delineated area.
- The RECO is recommended to use Loop net or GSASales.gov or other market tools to gather data. These tools are extremely helpful when the RECO is gathering limited market information.

### **Succeeding, Renewal and Small Lease Market Survey**

It should be noted that a copy of an approved business case is **not** required for succeeding lease (a new lease succeeds the lease expired) or lease renewals (exercising an option to stay in the same location) for standard or small space requirements; however, the RECO should receive a continuing need statement before proceeding with the process of a succeeding lease or a renewal lease including a zero dollar purchase request. This statement should include sufficient and verifiable justification that the requirement for the space is ongoing.

With the above information, (i.e., approved business case or continuing need statement), the RECO can proceed with a full or limited market survey. For most succeeding leases, when a lease has expired and a continuing need statement indicates requirements to remain at the

existing location, the RECO **must** conduct a full market survey (see above information on full market survey). For a renewal lease or a small lease (3,000 square foot or less) a full market survey is not required. However, at a minimum, the RECO is required to gather limited market information. As mentioned above a limited market information gathering must be conducted by 3 or more telephone calls to owners of potential sites located within the delineated area to evaluate present market conditions. This would be sufficient information for the RECO's assessment. The RECO must document the lease file with the limited market information.

### **Market Survey Form**

For all new or succeeding space leases the RECO **must** use the 2.6.10 Space Market Survey Form when conducting a full market survey. For all lease renewals or small lease acquisition, the RECO **must** have the lessor complete the market survey form to ensure that the Safety and Environmental information is captured in the file. The RECO may also provide a document to the lease file indicating the market data gathered. A completed Space Market Survey form(s) must be placed in the lease contract file for each location.

The RECO must request a block plan from the potential lessor(s) (owner or owner representative) outlining the space being offered. This plan will assist the RECO and customer in determining if the potential lessor(s) can meet the requirements of the FAA.

- The space form will be completed by the RECO (part I-III) and the potential lessor(s) (part IV-V). When the RECO is conducting a market survey, part of the form can be given to the potential lessor(s) to fill in onsite, or it may be sent to a potential lessor(s) to fill in sections VI-VII. This information will assist the RECO and the customer to decide the acceptability of the space for further consideration.
- If the RECO is unable to attend the market survey, the potential lessor(s) must fill in the form. Then the potential lessor(s) must send back the completed form to the RECO either by fax or e-mail to the RECO within 5 business days from the date the RECO sent the form to the potential lessor(s).

### **Developing a List of Potential Lessors to whom FAA's Requirements will be provided**

Once a full market survey is completed and the market information has been collected, the RECO must determine a reasonable range for rents, anticipated operating expenses and tenant improvement allowances for potential space that meets the customer's needs. This information forms the basis for discussions with potential lessors. The market survey is a vital tool for the RECO to use to determine the price reasonableness of offers that are otherwise likely to qualify for an award based upon the FAA's requirements. The market survey is essential for making a determination of the fair market value (FMV) of the rent and the FMV of asset under lease. Such a determination is necessary in both competitive and single source acquisitions.

The RECO must send the customer a written notification of the selected potential lessor(s) within the competitive range. This will give the customer notice of the potential lessor receiving a Solicitation For Offer (SFO).

## 2.2.6 Request for Offers/Solicitation for Offers Revised 7/2014

After the market survey is completed, the RECO will decide if they need to send out the Solicitation for Offerors (SFO) or the proposed lease contract and other attachments to those offerors whose space meets the FAA requirements and whose prices have been determined initially to be fair and reasonable. If the RECO is using the SFO, they **must** use 2.6.10 the Solicitation for Offer form. The SFO will set forth a detailed statement of FAA's space requirements, including any tenant improvement requirements; will set forth pertinent evaluation criteria and the basis for award; will include a schedule for space delivery; will set forth all statutory and regulatory requirements, such as accessibility, life safety, how disputes will be addressed, and labor wage requirements; and will include such additional provisions as are necessary to ensure that the space is acquired in the best interest of FAA. The SFO should be clear and unambiguous. An SFO is not required for a small lease (under 3,000 square feet). However, a modified version of an SFO for small lease is acceptable for the RECO to use.

## 2.2.7 Negotiation

RECO will begin negotiating the FAA's requirements with the offerors, either from the competitive range or single source.

Below are the items typically negotiated with the owners or owner's authorized representative:

1. Clauses from either the Standard Lease or Small Lease
  - Mandatory Clauses are **non-negotiable** items such as:
    - Rent and lease term
  - Recommended clauses should be negotiated where applicable circumstances such as:
    - Base rates for utility and service operating costs
  - Optional clauses should be negotiated if RECO chooses to use them for their contract such as:
    - Changes required during a new lease buildout phase.
2. Clauses from Attachment A to the lease
  - Mandatory Clauses are **non-negotiable** items such as:
    - Fire and Safety Requirements
  - Recommended clauses should be negotiated where applicable circumstances such as:
    - General health and safety standards
  - Optional clauses should be negotiated if RECO chooses to use them such as:
    - Janitorial Services
3. Program office special requirements, as applicable

After the market survey or inspection, the specialist and the customer representative should confer and determine if the building meets or can be made to meet the requirements by the specified occupancy date. If a building cannot meet or be made to meet the FAA requirements, the offeror should be informed, verbally or in writing, that the building will not be considered and provided a brief explanation. No further negotiations or consideration is required once an offer has been excluded.

If during negotiations an agreement is reached regarding all of the FAA's requirements however, the rental/price is higher than the market survey indicates, the lessor can be asked to lower the rental (or any other particular item price) to a stated rate. This may be done formally or informally. The requested lower rental may be based upon the market or another offer.

Should negotiations not result in an agreement that represents the best value to the FAA, negotiations may be discontinued. Another selection can be made by the RECO from the offers in the competitive range. The final award is based on solicitation evaluation criteria.

### **2.2.8 Evaluation of Offers**

If the competitive range method is used, once offers are determined to be within the competitive range, selection for final award may be made without further consideration of the selection criteria. Selection from the competitive range group may be made based upon that proposed offer that is best suited to the FAA's needs, in the RECO's opinion. This includes benefits offered that have not previously been addressed in the FAA's requirements provided. Any new benefits identified do not change the evaluation criteria used to develop the competitive range group. The evaluation criteria should be in writing and the lease file should indicate how the criteria would be used. Use of the evaluation criteria should be consistent through out the procurement. The use of "best and final" offers is generally not used in real property acquisitions. Negotiations may be terminated at anytime by the RECO.

When using the competitive range method in determining the offer most advantageous to the FAA the reason for selection should be some characteristic (or group of characteristics) that cannot be obtained from one or more of the other offerors. As an example, the selected offer may be located very near the main gate so as to provide ideal access to the FAA by its airport customers.

The RECO should review the offer(s) and make a selection that will represent the best value. Price must always be considered along with the other written evaluation criteria. RECO's required for both competitive and sole source procurement conduct a price evaluation of the offeror(s). The length of the lease determines whether actual or discounted dollars are used. Programs to evaluate offers dollars are available.

As part of the evaluation, a fair market value determination must be made. This can be done by appraisal or use of market data. This is true for competitive or non-competitive space.

The requiring office should be advised as soon as possible of the recommendation for award.

## **2.2.9 Documentation to the Lease File** Revised 7/2014

Sufficient documentation must be developed to explain and justify the real estate acquisition action taken. RECO's are to use the appropriate checklists (file and/or contract) to ensure the adequacy of contract clauses and to ensure required documentation is in the file to support the acquisition. RECOs must use a 6 part folder for all acquisition files.

### **Contract Review Process (Space)**

RECOs must fill out and sign the appropriate Contract Review Checklist and determine if the contract requires secondary review in accordance with ISO 9001 Real Estate Contract Review Work Instructions. If secondary review is required, the RECO must submit the contract to the designated reviewer prior to sending it out for signature. Any changes made to the contract after the initial review must also be reviewed. A copy of the secondary review, signed by the reviewer, must be placed in the file.

### **File Review Process (Space)**

The File Review is intended to provide a quality control check of the file for completeness. The review is not intended to replace the judgment exercised by the contracting officer. RECOs must fill out and sign the appropriate File Review Checklist and determine if the file requires secondary review in accordance with ISO 9001 Real Estate File Review Work Instruction. If secondary review is required, the RECO must submit the file to the designated reviewer. A copy of the secondary review, signed by the reviewer, must be placed in the file.

### **2.2.10 Award**

Legal review of leases is recommended where there is deviation from AMS clauses. Legal review is required on all purchases. The Department of Justice rules and requirements must be followed for condemnation and title review.

After negotiations and when all FAA criteria have been met, the RECO will prepare three original leases for signature by the offeror. Prior to the RECO signing the returned lease document it should be compared to the copy retained in the file to ensure that no changes have been made by the offeror. The RECO will execute all originals leases.

After execution, the RECO should ensure that all information is entered into the real property database, i.e. REMS.

### **2.2.11 Condemnation** Added 1/2008

When negotiations reach an impasse and FAA has a need for real property, the FAA may initiate eminent domain proceedings. Generally, protracted negotiations are not in the best interests of either party. Legal participation is required on all condemnations. The Department of Justice rules on condemnation and requirements for title must be followed when real property is acquired through purchase or condemnation proceedings.

The FAA almost exclusively uses Declarations of Taking (DT) when it acquires property by eminent domain since the majority of FAA acquisitions involve property that the FAA currently leases and which already support FAA facilities. Since it would clearly be impractical to vacate the property while the condemnation case is pending, the FAA utilizes a DT to acquire immediate title to the property, which permits the agency to continue operating the facility on the property. The Agency should avoid using condemnation for short-term acquisitions.

The RECO must follow the FAA procedural guide on “Acquisition of Real Property by Eminent Domain” see 1.1.19.1. When preparing the condemnation file, the RECO must use the condemnation checklist see 1.1.19.2.

For further information on condemnation please see guidance under section 1.1.19.