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## Multiple Award Schedules (MAS) Consolidation

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Industry

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#### **About the Multiple Award Schedules Transformation:**

The Multiple Award Schedules (MAS) Transformation initiative is one of four cornerstone projects underpinning GSA's Federal Marketplace Strategy to modernize and simplify the buying and selling experience for customers, suppliers and acquisition professionals.

GSA will modernize federal acquisition by consolidating the existing 24 Schedules into one single Schedule for products, services, and solutions. This will provide consistency in the program for all stakeholders, make it easier for customers to find total solutions under one contract vehicle, ensure terms and conditions meet the needs of our customers, and eliminate duplicate contracts.

#### **About these Frequently Asked Questions:**

This document contains answers to many common questions posed by our industry partners. Additional information can also be found on the [GSA Interact MAS Group](#) and [www.GSA.gov/federalmarketplace](http://www.GSA.gov/federalmarketplace), where [recordings](#) of the most recent Federal Marketplace Industry Day event are available. If you have an outstanding question that is not answered in one of these resources, please reach out to the Multiple Award Schedule Program Management Office (MAS PMO) at [maspmo@gsa.gov](mailto:maspmo@gsa.gov).



**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**1. How will the consolidation of Schedules affect existing contractors and organizations that are currently in the process of pursuing a Schedule?**

It's business as usual for both existing vendors and organizations currently in the process of pursuing a Schedule. Businesses with existing contracts are able to process modifications, accept orders and are still required to maintain compliance with the current terms and conditions of their contracts. Existing solicitations are still open to new offerors, and will be until the new Schedule is released (October 1, 2019).

**2. Which 24 Schedules are included in the consolidation?**

The 24 Schedules being consolidated are the GSA managed Schedules. The full list is below. VA Schedules will not be consolidated at this time.

1. **738 X** Human Capital Management and Administrative Support Services
2. **76** Publication Media
3. **67** Cameras, Photographic Printers and Related Supplies and Services
4. **75** Office Products/Supplies and Services and New Products/Technology
5. **81 I B** Packing and Packaging Supplies and Services
6. **71 II K** Comprehensive Furniture Management Services (CFMS)
7. **78** Sports, Promotional, Outdoor, Recreation Trophies and Signs (SPORTS)
8. **58 I** Professional Audio/Video, Telemetry/Tracking, Recording, Reproducing, and Signal Data Solutions
9. **36** Office, Imaging and Document Solution
10. **71** Furniture
11. **72** Furnishings and Floor Coverings
12. **03FAC** Facilities Maintenance and Management
13. **51 V** Hardware Superstore
14. **66** Scientific Equipment and Services
15. **56** Building and Building Materials / Industrial Services and Supplies



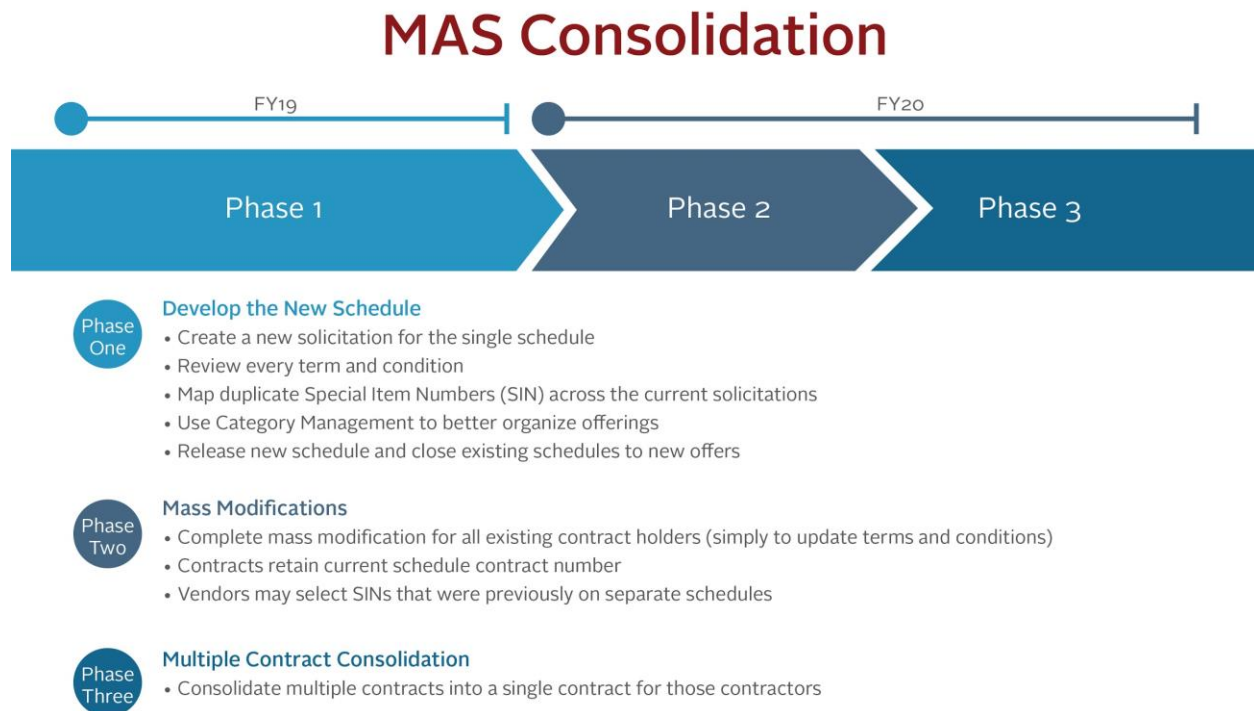
16. **84** Total Solutions for Law Enforcement, Security, Facilities Management, Fire, Rescue, Clothing, Marine Craft and Emergency/Disaster Response
17. **73** Food Service, Hospitality, Cleaning, Equipment and Supplies, Chemicals and Services
18. **736** Temporary Administrative and Professional Staffing Services
19. **48** Transportation, Delivery and Relocation Solutions
20. **70** General Purpose Commercial Information Technology Equipment, Software and Services
21. **00CORP** The Professional Services Schedule
22. **23 V** Automotive Superstore
23. **751** Leasing of Automobiles and Light Trucks
24. **599** Travel Services Solutions

**3. Are the Veterans Affairs (VA) managed Schedules included in MAS consolidation?**

VA Schedules will not be consolidated at this time.

**4. What is the strategy for consolidation?**

The consolidation will occur in 3 phases through fiscal year (FY) 2020. This graphic details each phase:



**5. Will GSA's systems, such as eOffer/eMod, eLibrary, GSA Advantage, and eBuy, be updated to align with the Schedules consolidation?**

Yes, GSA's systems will be refreshed to reflect all updated processes and to align with the new categories under the Schedule.

**6. How is Government-Wide Category Management going to be leveraged for the consolidation of Schedules?**

The new Schedule will be organized by categories mapped to the current [Government-Wide Category Structure](#).

**7. How will industry partners be able to identify the appropriate categories where they have expertise?**

Categories will be assigned a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code describing the principal nature of the products or services being offered. This allows our industry partners to properly position themselves under the appropriate



categories and areas of expertise. This will also allow GSA and our corresponding eTools to more easily organize industry partners offering similar products and services, so buyers can maximize competition at the order level. GSA will continue to rely on the expertise of our industry partners and our acquisition workforce and use the government-wide category management structure as we shape these new categories.

**8. What is GSA doing to develop better category (Special Item Number (SIN)) descriptions?**

GSA is reviewing all the SINs currently available under Schedules. This includes mapping and consolidating duplicate SINs, rewriting category descriptions for clarity, and reorganizing where appropriate. Once GSA's review is complete, we will make the new, proposed, SINs available for public comment.

**9. How will the category approach solve existing Schedule duplication issues?**

Consolidation is going to make it easier to find products and services on Schedule. Our goal is to ensure that the same products and services fall under only one category at a time. After consolidation, companies that offer multiple categories will no longer need to be on multiple Schedules, so there will no longer be a need to "team" with yourself. Your company will be assigned to the appropriate categories on our consolidated Schedule. For your categories, your company will always be displayed to buyers - and with one Schedule, buyers will no longer have to scour multiple Schedules looking for your company.

**10. How will GSA determine the company size (small, large, etc.) for industry partners under the consolidated Schedule?**

GSA will continue using the preponderance of work NAICS to determine business size at the Schedule contract level. NAICS level business size standards are defined by the [Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#).

**11. How is the Schedules consolidation affected by FY19 NDAA changes, specifically Section 876 (Increasing Competition at the Task Order Level)?**

In order to increase task order level competition, the FY19 NDAA allows GSA to award Schedules for services based on technical capability, with pricing to be determined by task order level competition.

For now, this change has no effect on Schedules consolidation. Once rulemaking for the new services contracting authority is completed, GSA will work to incorporate changes into the new consolidated Schedule.



**12. How much are you relying on the experience of the Professional Services consolidation?**

We are relying on lessons learned from all previous consolidation attempts and successful efforts, including GSA's Professional Services consolidation.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**13. What are the major components of consolidating the Schedules?**

Streamlining our terms and conditions is a major component of Schedules consolidation. Our goal is to do more than just remove duplication - we aim to refine and standardize terms and conditions so they are current, accurate, complete and consistent for all contractors. Common terms and conditions, like those for delivery, price reductions and trade agreements, will remain in the consolidated Schedule. Once GSA's review is complete, we will make the new, proposed terms and conditions, available for public comment.

Consolidation also offers us the chance to update and re-organize our solicitations, making them easier to read and understand. We can address category specific terms and conditions at the category level (SIN). This will also allow the contractor to offer additional categories of products and services that are currently on different Schedules, without the need to hold 2 or 3 different Schedules, and allow industry to provide a more comprehensive and solution oriented offering.

**14. What process did GSA follow to streamline the Schedule terms and conditions?**

The MAS program did a full review of the terms and conditions currently appearing in MAS solicitations. After looking at provisions and clauses as currently written and, based on FAR, GSAR and internal policy, the team recommended that each term and condition either be:

- Kept for all MAS;
- Kept to support category specific needs; or
- Removed.

Each recommendation included a justification for the change.

Our goal is to streamline the solicitation and better align it with the modern day commercial marketplace without losing any value for the customer or protections for the government. Once terms and conditions are streamlined, we will release a final, newly formatted, solicitation that will make the terms and conditions clear for all stakeholders.

In addition, we have begun noting terms and conditions that may need substantial changes made through the regulatory process for future phases of implementation.



**15. What does consolidation mean for Cooperative Purchasing?**

Cooperative Purchasing products, services, and contractors will be identified at the category level, as described in the Cooperative Purchasing regulations. Schedules consolidation will not expand this authority beyond what is currently allowed via Cooperative Purchasing.

**16. What happens with Transactional Data Reporting (TDR)?**

The Transactional Data Reporting (TDR) requirement will continue for contractors already participating in the TDR pilot. At this time, the TDR pilot will not be expanded to categories that are not currently in the pilot.

**17. How does the consolidation affect Order Level Materials (OLMs)?**

GSA has already started to add OLMs to current Schedules and will continue these efforts prior to the consolidation. Under consolidation, OLMs will be expanded to every contractor on Schedule.

**CURRENT SCHEDULE HOLDERS**

**18. How will the consolidation of Schedules impact my current contract? Will my contract number change?**

GSA is thoroughly reviewing MAS terms and conditions to eliminate clause duplication to only keep the provisions and clauses that are required by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), the General Services Administration Regulation (GSAR) and are necessary for a Schedule contract. At this time, there will be no revisions to the text of the GSAR or FAR clauses. This is simply a streamlining of applicable terms and conditions. Any future clause content changes will go through the formal rulemaking process.

In order for their contract to automatically transition, current Schedule contractors must accept the updated terms and conditions outlined in the mass modification when issued (estimated timeline early FY2020). When the Schedule is consolidated, current Schedule holders will maintain their current contract number. If you have multiple contracts we will work with you to determine the best solution for your company.

**19. What happens to my option periods once consolidation is completed?**

This will depend on how many contracts you have. If you only have one contract (or one new follow on contract and a soon to be expired contract), your option periods will not be affected. If you have multiple contracts, GSA will provide different options depending on the status of the contracts.



**20. How will this consolidation affect Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs)?**

BPAs established and awarded prior to the completion of consolidation will continue in effect until the BPA or the Schedule contract expires, whichever occurs first. Task or delivery orders may be placed against existing BPAs until either the BPA or the Schedule expires, whichever occurs first.

**21. Are there going to be new modification guidelines?**

No, the same modification requirements found in 552.238-81 MODIFICATION (FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE) (APR 2014) (ALTERNATE I - JUN 2016) for non-TDR and 552.238-81 MODIFICATION (FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULE) (APR 2014) (ALTERNATE II - JUN 2016) for TDR will apply under the consolidated Schedule.

**22. How will small business set aside Special Item Numbers (SINs) be impacted?**

The MAS consolidation aims to streamline and, where possible, standardize terms and conditions, while still allowing the flexibility to address category (SIN) specific terms and conditions. At this time, we intend to keep small business set asides under the applicable categories.

**23. Under the consolidated Schedule, how will pricing negotiations differ from what we have currently?**

How firms negotiate pricing will not change with the consolidated Schedule. The clauses pertaining to pricing, such as the 552.238-75 Price Reductions and 552.216-70 Economic Price Adjustment, will still be in the consolidated Schedule. Any clause changes will go through a formal rulemaking process.

**NEW OFFERORS**

**24. How will the consolidation of Schedules affect companies that are currently in the process of pursuing a Schedule?**

Companies currently in the process of pursuing a Schedule may need to accept the updated terms and conditions for the new solicitation.

**25. Will GSA continue to award MAS contracts after the consolidation?**

Yes. The Schedule solicitation will remain open to new offerors during and after the consolidation.





**26. Will consolidating the Schedules speed up the eOffer process, and if so, how much do you anticipate the process time will be reduced?**

The act of consolidation alone will not impact how long it takes a contractor to get on Schedule. However, the components of the new Schedule will include streamlined terms and conditions and a re-formatted solicitation, which will make requirements clearer. In addition, as we consolidate the Schedules, the MAS program is reviewing many components of the offer review process and our business processes overall. We are working with our acquisition workforce to streamline and standardize business processes, where appropriate, and eliminate administrative work for contracting officers so they can be more responsive to industry and focus on their work as contracting officials.

The changes will ultimately result in both process and system changes to eOffer and our hope is that we do see a reduction in time for offerors to get on Schedule.