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DECISION



THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

FILE: B-187468

DATE: October 13, 1976

MATTER OF: Broken Lance Enterprises, Inc.

DIGEST:

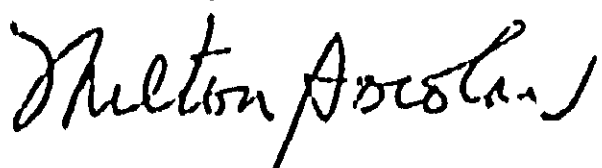
To properly reject bid as being unreasonably low would require determination that bidder is not responsible. GAO does not review protests against affirmative determination of responsibility of contracting officials except in cases of fraud or misapplication of definitive responsibility criteria set out in solicitation, neither of which is present here.

Broken Lance Enterprises, Inc. (Broken Lance), has protested against the possible award to any other bidder under invitation for bids (IFB) No. DAKP27-76-B-0175, issued by Fort George G. Meade, Maryland.

Bids were opened on September 13, 1976. By letter dated September 16, 1976, Broken Lance protests on the basis that all other bids are unreasonably low. In this regard, we have repeatedly held that we are aware of no legal principle on the basis of which an award may be precluded or disturbed merely because the low bidder submitted a below cost bid. Parsons Custom Products, Inc., B-185104, November 14, 1975, 75-2 CPD 311.

We believe that to properly reject a bid as being unreasonably low would require a determination that the bidder is not responsible. In this vein, our Office does not review protests against affirmative determinations of responsibility, unless either fraud is shown on the part of procuring officials or where the solicitation contains definitive responsibility criteria which allegedly have not been applied, neither of which is present here. See Central Metal Products, Incorporated, 54 Comp. Gen. 66 (1974), 74-2 CPD 64; Yardney Electronics Corporation, 54 Comp. Gen. 509 (1974), 74-2 CPD 376.

Accordingly, we must decline to consider the merits of the protest.

*for*   
Paul G. Dembling  
General Counsel