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**DECISION**



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

FILE: B-204248

DATE: August 12, 1981

MATTER OF: S.A.F.E. Export Corporation

DIGEST:

1. A party that does not have a direct and/or substantial economic interest at stake in a procurement is not an interested party for the purpose of having a bid protest considered.
2. Where the protester does not submit an offer for reasons that are not related to its complaint, the protester has no direct and/or substantial economic interest in the procurement and, therefore, is not an interested party under GAO protest procedures.

S.A.F.E. Export Corporation (SAFE) protests the "adverse agency action" of the United States Army Contracting Agency, Europe, under solicitation No. DAJA37-81-R-0795. SAFE did not submit an offer because of "some organizational problems."

We will not consider this protest because SAFE is not an interested party.

According to SAFE, the agency accepted offers without amending or changing the solicitation to correct certain alleged improprieties. SAFE believes that the agency should provide logistical support (housing and board) to contractor personnel, and that another offeror had a competitive advantage because its personnel had this support under another contract.

A party must be interested under our Bid Protest Procedures, 4 C.F.R. Part 21 (1981), in order to have its protest considered by the General Accounting Office. To determine whether a party is sufficiently interested requires consideration of the party's status in relation

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to the procurement in question, the nature of the issues involved, and how these circumstances show the existence of a direct and/or substantial economic interest in the procurement on the part of the protester. Cardion Electronics, B-193752, June 8, 1979, 79-1 CPD 406.

It is evident here that the direct and substantial economic interests at stake that are related to SAFE's complaint are those of the competing offerors. If there was any harm caused by the alleged deficiencies, it was to the unsuccessful offerors, not to SAFE, which chose not to submit an offer for reasons unrelated to its complaint. SAFE therefore is not an interested party and its protest will not be considered.

The protest is dismissed.

*F. H. Barclay, Jr.*  
Per Harry R. Van Cleve  
Acting General Counsel