

**DECISION**

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

1/10/85  
30294

**FILE:** B-216735 **DATE:** January 25, 1985  
**MATTER OF:** Second Source Computers, Inc.

**DIGEST:**

A protester challenging a contract award is not an interested party under GAO Bid Protest Procedures, and its protest thus is dismissed, where it would not be in line for award if its protest were upheld.

Second Source Computers, Inc. (SSC) protests the award of a contract to Technical Maintenance Services (TMS) under invitation for bids (IFB) No. NA-84-IFB-00098, issued by the Department of Commerce for computer equipment. SSC principally contends that TMS's bid took exception to certain IFB requirements and thus should have been rejected as nonresponsive. We dismiss the protest.

Under our Bid Protest Procedures, a party must be "interested" before we will consider its protest. 4 C.F.R. § 21.1(a)(1984). A party will not be deemed interested where it would not be in line for award if its protest were sustained. See Pluribus Products Inc., B-210444, Mar. 7, 1983, 83-1 C.P.D. ¶ 226. The record shows that SSC was only the third low bidder after TMS and Sperry Corporation, and SSC neither alleges that Sperry's bid was nonresponsive nor asserts any other reason why Sperry would not be eligible for the award. Under these circumstances, Sperry, not SSC, would be in line for award if TMS's bid were rejected as nonresponsive, and SSC therefore is not an interested party. See Photica Inc., B-211445, July 11, 1983, 83-2 C.P.D. ¶ 74.

The protest is dismissed.

  
Comptroller General  
of the United States

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