

# DECISION



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

**FILE:** B-220859.3      **DATE:** April 18, 1986  
**MATTER OF:** The Big Picture Company, Inc.

## DIGEST:

Unlike sealed bid procurements where bids are publicly opened, there is no public opening of offers received under a negotiated procurement.

The Big Picture Company, Inc., protests that proposals were not publicly opened under request for proposals No. F41800-86-RA520, issued by the Department of the Air Force, San Antonio Contracting Center (Air Force), for procurement of audiovisual services.

We dismiss the protest without obtaining an agency report from the Air Force because it is clear on its face that the protest is without legal merit. 4 C.F.R. § 21.3(f) (1985).

This procurement was negotiated. Unlike sealed bid procurements in which bidders' prices are exposed as a result of the public opening of bids, there is no public opening of offers received under a negotiated procurement. American International Rent-A-Car et al., B-214016 et al., Feb. 28, 1984, 84-1 C.P.D. ¶ 252. The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) specifically prohibits disclosure to the general public of proposal information before award. See FAR, 48 C.F.R. § 15.413 (1984).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Strong", is written over the typed name.

Robert M. Strong  
Deputy Associate General Counsel

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