



The Comptroller General
of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20548

Decision

Matter of: Engineering Corporation of America
File: B-230615
Date: March 15, 1988

DIGEST

Whether firm is eligible for assistance under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act is a matter for determination by the Small Business Administration, and is not subject to review by the General Accounting Office.

DECISION

Engineering Corporation of America (ECA) protests the rejection of its bid as nonresponsive under solicitation No. N68836-88-B-0020, issued by the Naval Supply Center, Department of the Navy, Jacksonville, Florida, for keypunch services. We dismiss the protest.

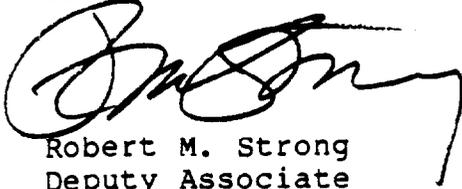
Material furnished by ECA indicates the solicitation was set aside by the Navy for small disadvantaged business concerns under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. § 637(a) (1982). Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act authorizes the Small Business Administration (SBA) to enter into contracts with government agencies and to arrange for the performance of such contracts by letting subcontracts to socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses. The Navy rejected ECA's bid as nonresponsive because, although ECA was a small disadvantaged business, its parent company was a small business, which made ECA ineligible for award.

ECA protests that it should be certified as a small minority business based on its current financial status. However, whether a firm is eligible for assistance under section 8(a)

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of the Small Business Act is basically a matter for determination by the SBA and is not subject to review by our Office. Saliba Construction Co., Inc., et al., B-230215 et al., Mar. 3, 1988, 88-1 CPD ____.

The protest is dismissed.



Robert M. Strong
Deputy Associate
General Counsel