



**The Comptroller General
of the United States**

Washington, D.C. 20548

Decision

Matter of: Roadrunner Moving & Storage, Inc.

File: B-234616

Date: March 2, 1989

DIGEST

Where a bid offers a minimum bid acceptance period of 60 days in response to a sealed bid solicitation requiring 90 days, the bid is nonresponsive and may not be corrected after bid opening.

DECISION

Roadrunner Moving & Storage, Inc., protests the rejection of its bid under invitation for bids (IFB) No. 7FXI-B6-88-S001-S, issued by the General Services Administration (GSA) for moving, packing, crating and accessorial services connected with its office relocations. The solicitation required a minimum bid acceptance period of 90 days; however, Roadrunner's bid specified a 60-day acceptance period. The firm contends that it should be allowed to correct its bid because its 60-day specification was an inadvertent, clerical error.

We summarily dismiss the protest pursuant to our Bid Protest Regulations (4 C.F.R. § 21.3(m) (1988)) because it is clear on the face of the protest that it is without merit.

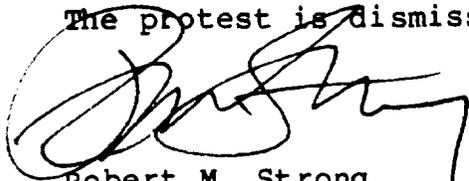
A provision in a sealed bid solicitation requiring that a bid remain available for the government's acceptance for a 90-day period in order to be considered for award is a material requirement, and hence it must be complied with at bid opening for the bid to be responsive. San Sierra Business Systems, B-233858, Dec. 27, 1988, 88-2 CPD ¶ 629. Since Roadrunner's bid was thus nonresponsive, GSA was required to reject it and to refuse Roadrunner's offer to correct it after bid opening. See Master Security, Inc., B-225719; B-225720, Feb. 26, 1987, 87-1 CPD ¶ 226.

Roadrunner claims that if it is allowed to correct its bid, then GSA would benefit by receiving quality service at the best price. It is well-established, however, that the

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importance of maintaining the integrity of the competitive bidding process outweighs any pecuniary advantage that GSA might gain by accepting a nonresponsive bid. See Sac & Fox Industries, Ltd., B-231873, Sept. 15, 1988, 88-2 CPD ¶ 250.

The protest is dismissed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Strong', written over the text 'The protest is dismissed.'

Robert M. Strong
Associate General Counsel