

DECISION

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

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FILE: B-215717**DATE:** December 17, 1984**MATTER OF:** Advanced Business Systems**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.

Advanced Business Systems (ABS) protests the award of a computer system contract to Ford Aerospace & Communication Corp. (Ford) under Department of the Air Force request for proposals (RFP) No. F09650-83-R-0176. ABS contends the Tandem NonStop II computer offered by Ford does not meet certain RFP requirements. 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, March 7, 1983, 83-1 C.P.D. ¶ 226.

Award here was to be made to the technically acceptable offeror proposing the lowest price. The record shows ABS was only the third low offeror behind Ford and IBIS Corp. ABS stated in its initial protest submission that IBIS had offered the same Tandem NonStop II system as Ford and argued that its allegations concerning Ford thus were equally applicable to IBIS. The contracting officer reports, however, that IBIS actually offered an entirely different system--the Tandem TXP. ABS does not allege that this computer system does not satisfy the specifications and asserts no other reason why IBIS would not be eligible for the award. Under these circumstances, IBIS, not ABS, would be in line for award if Ford's system had been found unacceptable, and ABS therefore is not an interested party. See Photica Inc., B-211445, July 11, 1983, 83-2 C.P.D. ¶ 74.

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B-215717

The protest is dismissed.

Harry R. Van Cleve
Harry R. Van Cleve
General Counsel