

EX-121 PL

32109

DECISION



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

FILE: B-219677

DATE: August 29, 1985

MATTER OF: Modern Microfilm Methods, Inc.

DIGEST:

In deciding cases involving bid correction which would displace the low bidder, the critical element is that the intended bid price be ascertainable from the bid itself.

Modern Microfilm Methods, Inc. (MMM), protests the award of a contract by the Government Printing Office (GPO) to any other bidder under solicitation No. 243-S. MMM asserts that GPO improperly declined to permit it to correct an obvious mistake in its bid.

We dismiss the protest pursuant to section 21.3(f) of our Bid Protest Regulations, 4 C.F.R. § 21.3(f) (1985), because it is clear on the face of the protest that it is without merit.

MMM originally submitted a bid which included a price of \$3,008.71 per 100 microfiche for item 1(c). Immediately after bid opening, it realized that this was an error and that it had intended to bid \$4.10 per 100 microfiche. MMM requested GPO to allow it to correct the mistake in bid. In support of the mistake, MMM submitted its original worksheet and an affidavit explaining its error. GPO disallowed correction on the basis that it would displace the low bidder and that existence of the mistake and the bid actually intended were not substantially ascertainable from the invitation and MMM's bid.

MMM then filed this protest with our Office. MMM contends that once it establishes the intended bid of \$4.10 from its worksheet, that by experimentation with the information in the bid, the agency could arrive at that amount. However, in deciding cases involving bid corrections which would displace the low bidder, the critical element is that the intended bid price be ascertainable from the bid itself. See Marine Ways Corp., B-211788, Aug. 29,

1983; 83-2 C.P.D. ¶ 271. In this case, the bid only shows an amount of \$3,008.71 and it cannot be ascertained from that information that the bid should have been \$4.10.



Robert M. Strong
Deputy Associate
General Counsel