



Comptroller General
of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20548

Decision

Matter Of: Dashe Secretarial Services

File No.: B-259178

Date: November 16, 1994

DECISION

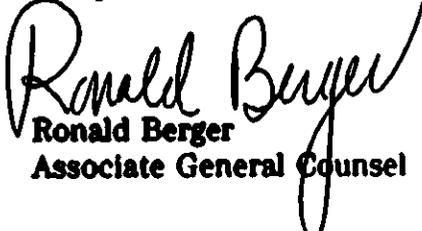
Dashe Secretarial Services protests the award of a contract by the Department of Veterans Affairs under invitation for bids (IFB) No. 534-19-94. Dashe alleges that as the low bidder award to any other firm is improper.

We dismiss the protest because unsigned bids that do not otherwise establish a firm commitment on the part of the bidder to perform are nonresponsive on their face. Thus, the protest fails to state a valid legal challenge to the agency's rejection of the protester's bid.

A bid is responsive as submitted when it offers to perform without exception the exact thing called for in the IFB, and acceptance of the bid will bind the contractor to perform in accordance with all the IFB's material terms and conditions. Stav, Inc., B-237073, Dec. 22, 1989, 89-2 CPD ¶ 586. As a general rule, an unsigned bid must be rejected as nonresponsive because without an appropriate signature, the bidder would not be bound should the government accept the bid. JRW Enters., Inc., B-238236, May 11, 1990, 90-1 CPD ¶ 464. Only when the bid is accompanied by other documentation signed by the bidder clearly evidencing the bidder's intent to be bound by the bid as submitted will this requirement be waived. Federal Acquisition Regulation § 14.405(c)(1); JRW Enters., Inc., B-238236, supra.

The agency has advised our Office that not only did Dashe not sign its bid but also did not acknowledge amendment No. 1. The agency therefore properly determined Dashe's bid was nonresponsive and could not be accepted, even if Dashe's bid would provide savings to the government, because the public interest in maintaining the integrity of the competitive bidding process outweighs any monetary benefit to be obtained from waiving material bidding deficiencies. Sac & Fox Indus., Ltd., B-231873, Sept. 15, 1988, 88-2 CPD ¶ 260.

The protest is dismissed.


Ronald Berger
Associate General Counsel