

ISO Migration Milestones for Ordering from the RFID-III Contracts

The Radio Frequency Identification (RFID-III) Contract was awarded on December 18, 2008 to four vendors who will provide International Standards Organization (ISO) 18000-7 compliant products and solutions for the user community. The RFID-III vendors include: Northrop Grumman Information Technology (NGIT); Savi; Systems & Processes Engineering Corporation (SPEC), and Unisys Corporation.

The RFID-III contract will support a worldwide technology effort that will replace the current American National Standards Institute (ANSI) International Committee for Information Technology Standards 256 compliant tags and readers with the Open Standards based ISO 18000-7 compliant products and solutions. The RFID-III contract will offer only ISO compliant products for purchase. ANSI products will no longer be offered for purchase under the RFID-III contract.

To minimize operational impact to the War Fighter, PM J-AIT will implement a "Read" infrastructure capable of operating simultaneously in dual mode (ANSI and ISO) during the 2nd and 3rd Quarter FY09. This will be followed by the rollout of an ISO 18000-7 "Write" infrastructure in 3rd and 4th Quarter FY09. The phases to migrate the Active RFID Network to dual mode (ANSI and ISO) are as follows:

Phase I: Migrate Read Infrastructure Worldwide (4,500 sites) to dual mode.

Note: The Savi 600 series tags can be upgraded to be ISO 18000-7 compliant and continue to operate in the dual mode infrastructure. The Savi 400 series tags cannot be upgraded and will become obsolete.

Phase II: Migrate Write Infrastructure Worldwide (includes PDK, EEDSK) to the ISO 18000-7 standard.

In order to meet DoD requirements, RFID-III vendors are currently undergoing vigorous testing scenarios that meet PM J-AIT published detailed tag and reader designs to ensure their products are interoperable and meet Hazards of Electromagnetic Radiation to Ordnance (HERO) standards. Once HERO certification and interoperability testing are completed during the 3rd Qtr of FY09, the RFID-III contract will be open for ordering.

PM J-AIT will also ensure all "Write" Automated Information System (AIS) owners have the necessary dual mode software modules for writing data to both the current ANSI and the future ISO tags.

RFID-III ORDERING PROCEDURES

When the RFID-III contract is open for ordering, a new paradigm will exist in the executing and awarding of Delivery and Task Orders. For all orders exceeding \$3,000 but not exceeding \$100,000 (Simplified Acquisition Procedures), the Ordering Contracting Officer must give every RFID-III contractor a fair opportunity for consideration for a delivery or Task Order unless an exception to fair opportunity applies. For orders subject to an exception (those with a dollar amount of under \$100,000), the rationale for applying an exemption must be provided. No special format is required. If an order is over \$100,000 a Limited Sources Justification and Approval document will be required for the exception.

All orders exceeding \$100,000 shall be placed on a competitive basis. In other words, all vendors will have an opportunity to provide bids on either the Task Order or Delivery Order. When submitting a Task Order, the customer must provide with the order a Statement of Work (SOW) or Performance Work Statement (PWS), Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE), Source Selection Evaluation Criteria, and recommended basis of the award. All documentation must be provided to the contracting office to ensure timely action. The user evaluates the vendor proposals for an award to a contractor by the Contracting Officer.

The RFID-III Help Desk support telephone numbers and Web site addresses for accessing Ordering Guides for each contractor are listed below:

Northrop Grumman, 1-800-664-4614, <https://www.rfid.northropgrumman.com/rfidiii/rfid3.asp>

Savi, 1-888-994-7284, <http://www.savi.com/rfid3/wwhelp.htm>

Systems & Processes Engineering Corporation (SPEC), 1-800-789-7732, <http://rfid.spec.com>

Unisys Corporation, 1-800-567-7636, <http://rfid3.unisys.com>