### **DisPatcheS**

Monthly Journal of the Division of Procurement Services October 2025



# **BREAKING NEWS!**

# THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES HAS MOVED!

Our new mailing and physical address is:

State Fiscal Accountability Authority
Division of Procurement Services
1333 Main Street, Suite 700
Columbia, SC 29201

Thank you for updating your records to reflect this change. All future correspondence and deliveries should be sent to our new location.



#### The Monthly Statewide Term Contract Town Hall will be... IN PERSON!

In lieu of our virtual Town Hall in November, we will provide our STC updates in person at SCAGPO's annual Forum. Our next virtual event will be December 16, 2025, at 10:00 AM. Save the Date!

**YOU** can help set the agenda for the meeting by emailing any specific questions you may have a few days before the meeting. We didn't receive any questions via email last month, but we wanted to remind you that it is always an option. Email your questions ahead of time to one of the following people:

G&S Questions – mspeakmon@mmo.sc.gov IT Questions – rbarr@mmo.sc.gov

We've been having issues with different links so the only link to the Town Hall will be on the Dispatches webpage on our website at this location. https://procurement.sc.gov/dispatches

We look forward to seeing you at SCAGPO then virtually on December 16, 2025, at 10 AM!



#### **Recovery Audits**

We have received more than one request about when the next recovery audits will be. After some research and internal conversations, it was decided that our office will initiate the next audit in the Spring of 2026. Our office will issue a memorandum directing the audit and providing instructions on how to accomplish that. Please pass this information along to the proper people with your organization. If they have any questions, they can reach out to Michael Speakmon at <a href="mailto:mspeakmon@mmo.sc.gov">mspeakmon@mmo.sc.gov</a>.

#### **Drug & Alcohol Test and Background Screening**

The new contract is complete (4400038224) and will begin on November 1, 2025. It remains with Premier Biotech so there is no switching to worry about and the transition should be seamless.

We looked at all five contracts awarded by MMCAP and evaluated pricing, number of line items offered and the number of existing testing sites within, or near, South Carolina and Premier was by far the better option in all categories.

Some changes you can expect to see:

- Some pricing has gone up a little, some has remained the same, but very few have a significant increase.
- There are more line items (tests, products, etc.) available than under any previous contract.
- We have defined some "typical" turn around times based on industry standards or contracted times with their subcontractors for some common things. However, we included language that permits those time limits to be exceeded under some circumstances. You'll see those in the scope.
- Payment by EFT is possible now which will make paying Premier much easier.

The contract sheet will be updated and will appear on our website on November 1, 2025.

#### Marketing to the Max!

We made a change to the STC for Marketing; we increased the project maximum dollar amount to \$500,000.00 from the current limit of \$250,000.00. As a reminder, this STC is meant for single, short term, projects only and are not a replacement for your larger annual marketing contracts.

#### **ADA Bus Contracts Extended**

We have extended the ADA bus contracts through April 30, 2026, with two of the Contractors (the third has not responded as of this writing) and that information is updated on our contract sheet.

We are working very closely with the transit section at SCDOT on getting the new contract in place, but there are some federal requirements that must be met that are adding a significant amount of time to the solicitation process. In this case, the quality of the contract is much more important than the speed of award. Stay tuned for updates once we know more.

#### JOC Updates

Some of you have inquired about the status of the JOC (Job Order Contracting) contracts. Portia Davis (pdavis@mmo.sc.gov) has completed Stage 1 of the process which was awarding the JOC Administrator contract to Gordian. Stage 2 of the process is to prequalify the vendors as described in the Proviso. Portia is in the evaluation phase of Stage 2 and given how many potential contracts that could be awarded that is taking a significant amount of time. Stage 3 will be the actual awards to the Contractors in the different disciplines, which will also take a longer time to evaluate than usual.

Our estimate is that all contracts will be award by the end of March 2026, but we're not willing to commit to that at this time. Stay tuned.

P.S. It's not possible to overstate how much work goes into this project and Portia is going over and above. Big kudos to Portia.

#### **Emergency Light Bars Contracts**

A couple of our light bar Contractors have reached out to us about how quickly the technology is changing and it is becoming more difficult to maintain the products that were originally bid. We have a clause called "Products Changes" which permits to replace equipment that was competitively bid with its successor product. For example, a Model A Widget goes out of production and is replaced with the Model B Widget which performs the exact same function. That is a change that we can accept. But the clause does not permit us to add new items that were not competitively bid. For example, the Contractor introduces the Model A+ which is an advanced version of the Model A but was not competitively bid in the original solicitation.

So, our question to you is this:

- 1. Given the changes in the market as described above, is it more beneficial for you to have access to the "standard" products and deal with those successor changes as they occur keeping the current five-year contract.
- 2. Or change the contract to a three-year total term and resolicit more frequently with new items in the market basket. This, of course, means we will rely more on you, the customer, to keep our office informed of the latest items as this bid schedule is structured for specific brands and equipment. Ultimately, if that gets you what you need, let's do it!

Please reach out to Ginger Hardee at <a href="mailto:gghardee@mmo.sc.gov">gghardee@mmo.sc.gov</a> and have that conversation. We don't want to change anything just because; if we make any changes, we want it to be to the benefit of you as the customer.

#### Potential Sander's Search Group Contract Termination (October Update)

All of Sander's Search Group, Inc, contracts have been terminated as of October 7, 2025.

If you were using this Contractor for any of the contracts listed below you will need to make alternative arrangements with another Contractor for whatever services that were being provided.

Contract Number 4400032928 – STC Temporary Doctor Services Contract Number 4400036318 – STC Temporary Medical Services

Contract Number 4400033236 – STC Executive Search Services – Higher Education Positions

If you issued a PO under any one of these contracts, and paid the Contractor for those services, we need to have that information to determine if collection actions are necessary.

#### Herald Office Supplies Supplier (October Update)

After a brief supply chain disruption with Herald Office and their source of office supply products, they are back and fully capable of providing all of your office supply needs.

#### Market Research and Agency Input Requests for NEW State Term Contracts (STC):

The Office of State Procurement (OSP) is seeking input on the following recommendations for new State Term Contracts (STC). If you have any information you can share, please contact the appropriate procurement manager. Our goal is to put contracts in place that will meet your needs, but we need **your input** to ensure success.

<u>Microsoft Unified Support Services</u> – We are finalizing the SOW and anticipate publishing this solicitation in November 2025 with an anticipated award date of February 2026. If you are a Microsoft Support Services Subject Matter Expert (SME) and are interested in assisting with this solicitation, contact Keva Jones at kjones@mmo.sc.gov.

<u>Google Services</u> – We anticipate publishing this solicitation in the coming days with an anticipated award date in February 2026. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Clifton Sanders at <u>cdsanders@mmo.sc.gov</u>.

<u>IT Professional Services</u> – We appreciate the feedback that has been provided from our stakeholders on this new procurement. We are finalizing the draft document and plan to publish the later this fall. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stacy Adams at <u>sadams@mmo.sc.gov</u>

IT Security Assessments and Incident Response Services (updated from Incident Response and Penetration) Testing – We're working to establish a new state term contract for Incident Response and Penetration Testing. The anticipated publish date will be in November. However, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Yolanda Cohen at ycohen@mmo.sc.gov. If you're a potential user of IT Security Assessments and Incident Response Services contracts, we'd love to hear from you to ensure the new state term contract will effectively meet your needs.

#### Trellix Security Products & Services (Formerly FireEye – Expires 06/21/2026)-

We are establishing a New State Term Contract for Trellix Products and Services. We anticipate publishing this solicitation in January 2026 with an anticipated award date in March 2026. If you are a potential user of Trellix products and services, we would love to hear from you to ensure the new state term contract will effectively meet your needs. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Yolanda Cohen at <a href="mailto:ycohen@mmo.sc.gov">ycohen@mmo.sc.gov</a>.

#### Market Research and Agency Input Requests for existing State Term Contracts:

<u>Mattresses</u> – Michael Speakmon (mspeakmon@mmo.sc.gov) inherited this contract from SOMEone (you know who you are) and is joyfully willing to take on this task...at least until he can reassign it to the new hire. © Seriously though, this has been a successful contract that DeAna did a lot of work on in the past and we are looking to continue it. Michael is looking for all

the input he can get from the users of these contracts, especially since this is the first time we are resoliciting. To that end, we have setup a MS Teams meeting to discuss.

## JOIN US

The meeting will be **November 7, 2025, at 10:00 AM**. Use **this link** to join the meeting, and those who attend will be able to meet our new hire, Marie Jackson who will be taking over his contract.

<u>Microscopes</u> – Portia Davis (pdavis@mmo.sc.gov) is beginning her market research for the next iteration of these contracts. They are structured as a Fixed Priced Bid with a minimum discount off and awarded by manufacturer. One of the things that we did not address is an extended warranty. Is this something that is important to your institution that we add to the contract? Anything else that we should include? Please reach out to Portia with that information.

<u>Temporary Doctors</u> – Portia Davis (pdavis@mmo.sc.gov) is beginning her market research for the next iteration of these contracts. The locum tenens providers and the market are really the driving factors to this contract but your input is also important to us. Please reach out to Portia with anything you feel is necessary. Good, bad, or ugly, we'll take it all.

<u>Audio Visual (Expires 05/02/2026)</u> – We anticipate publishing this solicitation in December. If you are currently utilizing this contract, we invite you to share your experiences and highlight what aspects have been successful. For those who have not used the contract due to unmet needs, we welcome your feedback on how we can enhance the new solicitation to better suit your requirements. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lillanea Bouknight, at <a href="mailto:lbouknight@mmo.sc.gov">lbouknight@mmo.sc.gov</a>.

<u>Biometric Time Keeping (Extended to 07/06/2026 or until a new solicitation is awarded-whichever comes first)</u> — We anticipate publishing this solicitation no later than October/November 2025. If there are changes that could be made to the existing contract so the new contract would better meet your needs, please provide feedback to Randy Barr at rbarr@mmo.sc.gov. We anticipate a shift in strategy to better maximize savings, efficiencies, and standardization. Stay tuned for additional information as we continue collaborating with our stakeholder user groups on this contract update.

<u>Juniper (Expires 05/31/2026)</u> – We anticipate publishing this solicitation in December 2025 with an anticipated award date of March 2026. If there are changes or improvements that could be made to the existing contract so the new contract would better meet your needs, please provide feedback to Keva Jones at kjones@mmo.sc.gov.

<u>Small Software Applications Development (Expires 05/15/2026)</u> – We anticipate publishing this solicitation in November 2025 with an anticipated award date in January 2026. If there are changes or improvements that could be made to the existing contract so the new contract would better meet your needs, please provide feedback to Yolanda Cohen at <a href="mailto:ycohen@mmo.sc.gov">ycohen@mmo.sc.gov</a>.

Online Reverse Auction Service (Expires 6/16/2026)— We anticipate publishing this solicitation in November with an anticipated award date of March 2026. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Clifton Sanders at cdsanders@mmo.sc.gov. If you are a current or potential user of the Online Reverse Auction contract, we would love to have your input on improvements that could be made from the existing scope of work.

#### State Term Contracts that will NOT be renewed or resolicited

The following current STCs will not be resolicited:

<u>Citrix Netscaler (Expires 07/13/2026)</u> – Citrix Netscaler will be sunset due to findings from the current usage and spend analysis reports. There does not appear to be enough usage to support continuation of this contract; however, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Lillanea Bouknight, at <a href="mailto:lbouknight@mmo.sc.gov">lbouknight@mmo.sc.gov</a>.

McAfee Security Products & Services (Expires 02/19/2026) - McAfee's products and

services will be on the new state term contract for Trellix Security Software Products & Services and will be sunset effective 02/20/2026. If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact Yolanda Cohen at <a href="mailto:ycohen@mmo.sc.gov">ycohen@mmo.sc.gov</a>.

<u>Thales Data Protection Products (Expires 04/21/2026)</u>— After careful review of the spend analysis for Thales, it has been determined that this contract will be sunset based on low usage and spend volume on its expiration date of 04/21/2026. If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact Yolanda Cohen at <a href="mailto:ycohen@mmo.sc.gov">ycohen@mmo.sc.gov</a>.

#### **Currently Published Solicitations:**

<u>Marketing Services (5400028536)</u> – Ginger Hardee (<u>gghardee@mmo.sc.gov</u>) needs a little more time to evaluate the offers so we have extended the award posting date to November 10, 2025.

<u>Propane (5400028604)</u> – Ginger Hardee (gghardee@mmo.sc.gov) held the reverse auction as scheduled on October 28, 2025, and the awards were posted on October 30, 2025. Barring a protest, the contracts will be effective on November 11, 2025.

<u>Type A-1 Mini-Buses (5400028687)</u> – Ginger Hardee (**gghardee@mmo.sc.gov**) published this solicitation on October 13, 2025. The pre-bid was held on October 23, 2025. Ginger is addressing questions received and will publish an amendment to respond to those questions.

<u>Electronic Equipment Recycling (5400028747)</u> – Michael Speakmon (mspeakmon@mmo.sc.gov) published Amendment #1 on October 17, 2025, and the bid opening date remains November 3, 2025.

<u>Water Activated Pothole Patching (5400028758)</u> – Michael Speakmon (mspeakmon@mmo.sc.gov) published Amendment #1 on October 17, 2025, and the bid opening date remains November 3, 2025.

<u>Tasers (5400028857)</u> – Ginger Hardee (gghardee@mmo.sc.gov) published this solicitation on October 21, 2025. The pre-bid is scheduled for October 30, 2025, and the bid opening is scheduled for December 4, 2025. It's important to note that this is NOT the Axon Taser 7 contract, this contract is for the Axon taser XP26

Managed Cloud Services (5400028075) – This solicitation opened on September 25<sup>th</sup> and is currently under evaluation. We have an anticipated award date of March 2026. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Randy Barr, Sr. at rbarr@mmo.sc.gov

ITSM Atlassian Managed Service Provider (5400027931) — This solicitation published September 10, 2025, and the Pre-Bid Conference was conducted September 25, 2025. The bid opening date was October 27, 2025, with an anticipated award date of January 2026. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Clifton Sanders at cdsanders@mmo.sc.gov.

<u>Disaster Recovery Hosting Services (5400028029)</u> – This solicitation opened on June 20, 2025, and is currently under evaluation. We have an anticipated award date of late October 2025. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Randy Barr, Sr., at rbarr@mmo.sc.gov.

<u>Dynamics Licenses Managed Service Provider (5400028721)</u> – The solicitation opened August 6, 2025, and is currently under evaluation. We have an anticipated award date of October/November 2025. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Randy Barr, Sr., at <a href="mailto:rbarr@mmo.sc.gov">rbarr@mmo.sc.gov</a>.

<u>Extreme (Expires 03/26/2026)</u> – Keva Jones (kjones@mmo.sc.gov) published this solicitation on October 20, 2025. The pre-bid is scheduled for November 3, 2025, and the bid opening date is December 5, 2025.

<u>Digital Transaction Management (5400027916)</u> – The solicitation opened on September 11, 2025, and is currently under evaluation. We have an anticipated award date of December 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Clifton Sanders at cdsanders@mmo.sc.gov.

#### **Newly Awarded State Term Contracts (STC):**

Quest One Software and Hardware (5400028175) – Lillanea Bouknight (Ibouknight@mmo.sc.gov) published the intent to award on October 20, 2025. The contract was effective October 20, 2025, due to only one offer being received. The contract start date is November 30, 2025.

Remanufactured Toner Cartridges (5400027356) — The CPO published their opinion denying all protests on August 14, 2025. An appeal was timely filed so we are once again in a holding pattern while that appeals process plays out. October Update: No change to the status of these contracts.

#### **Cooperative Contracts Updates:**

N/A

## South Carolina P-Card Policy Training Now Available

The Division of Procurement Services is happy to announce that training for the updated State P-Card policy is now available. Per Proviso 104.10, all cardholders and approving officials must now complete the appropriate training(s) and pass the corresponding assessments before being assigned their card or role. All current cardholders and approving officials must complete this training before April 15, 2026.



The P-Card training consists of two e-learning modules.

The first module, <u>South Carolina P-Card Training: Cardholder provides a basic explanation of the State-level policies and procedures.</u> **All cardholders, supervisors, approvers, liaisons, and PCAs will need to complete the e-Learning and pass the assessment with an 85% or higher.** It should take no more than 30 minutes to complete.

The second module, <u>South Carolina P-Card Training: Approving Officials</u>, provides a deeper dive into the administration of the program and the function of those who oversee it. **All supervisors**, approvers, liaisons, and **PCAs will need to complete the e-Learning and pass the assessment with an 85% or higher.** It should take no more than 45 minutes to complete.

Accessing the training:

#### **Group A Agencies**

This training is available in MySCLearning as MMO PC101 – South Carolina P-Card Training: Cardholders and MMO PC201 – South Carolina P-Card Training: Approving Officials.

Like any training in SCEIS, users will need to log into SCEIS Central, click on the My Talent tile, then click on "view my learning." They can then search for the learning by entering the code, or a key word such as "MMO" in the search field. The listing is public, meaning anyone should be able to find and complete it. Managers (direct supervisors) can assign the training, if necessary. Further guidance for accessing and assigning training is available in the **P-Card section of the** 

#### **Division of Procurement Services' website.**

If you have technical questions about **accessing the training or using MySCLearning**, please submit a SCEIS helpdesk ticket: **SCEIS.HelpDesk@admin.sc.gov** 

For questions about **the content of the training**, please reach out to the Division of Procurement Services: **training@mmo.sc.gov** 

#### **Group B Agencies**

The Division of Procurement Services worked with the Learning Management System Coordinators at the SC Technical College System and each Institute of Higher Education to ensure that the trainings are available on each university's learning management system. Please reach out to the school's LMS team with any questions about access or technical issues.

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