

NOAA Ocean and Coastal Mapping Contracting Policy

***Roger L. Parsons
NOAA IOCM Coordinator
Hydrographic Services Review Panel
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Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act

“The Administrator shall continue developing a strategy for expanding contracting with non-governmental entities to take maximum advantage of non-governmental capabilities in fulfilling The Administration’s mapping and charting responsibilities.”

Mapping and charting has been broadened beyond “hydrographic services” to include “ocean and coastal mapping services.”

2006 NOAA Hydrographic Services Contracting Policy

- *FY05 Consolidated Appropriations Act – directed NOS to work with the private mapping community to develop a strategy for expanding contracting with private entities.*
- *Congressional staff guidance - the contracting policy should be limited to hydrographic services programs funded under the “mapping and charting” budget (Navigation Services).*
- *1996 NOS Contracting Policy was revised based on public input and HSRP recommendations.*



2006 NOAA Hydrographic Services Contracting Policy

2006 HSRP Recommendations:

- *The provision of hydrographic services is a core NOAA mission.*
- *NOAA must maintain an in-house capability.*
- *It is essential for NOAA to continue to maintain a viable operational core capability.*
- *The use of contracting has enhanced NOAA's ability to accomplish its hydrographic services missions.*
- *Continue to utilize a mix of in-house resources and contracting to accomplish hydrographic services mission.*
- *Maintain necessary operational core capability then contract for the remainder of its services to the extent of available funding.*
- *Seek additional funding for contractual services to reduce backlog.*
- *Work collaboratively with the private sector to improve overall quality and efficacy of hydrographic surveys and products.*



2006 NOAA Hydrographic Services Contracting Policy

2006 HSRP Recommendations:

- *HSRP defined a core hydrographic services capability.*
- *Determine the optimal resource allocation between in-house and contracting resources based on the strength of the governmental interest, and the particular operational capabilities of either government or private industry resources that may make one more suitable.*

2006 Public Input:

- *NOAA policy mistakenly focuses solely on hydrographic services.*
- *Acquisition of geospatial data is not a core agency mission and therefore should not be maintained as a core capability.*



2009 NOAA Ocean and Coastal Mapping Contracting Policy (draft)

Proposed revisions to 2006 policy:

- Broadens focus from hydrographic service to ocean and coastal mapping.*
- Recognizes that NOAA has other mapping authorities in addition to the USC&GS Act of 1947.*
- Recognizes contracting for mapping services as being important to supplementing NOAA's OCM operational capacity.*
- Acknowledges that NOAA will procure acquisition of hydrographic data in accordance with Title IX of FAR (Brooks Act) when required by law or when otherwise deemed appropriate.*
- Identifies a representative number mapping activities that might not be subject to contracting.*



2009 NOAA Ocean and Coastal Mapping Contracting Policy (draft)

Proposed revisions to 2006 policy:

- *Defines hydrographic services” and “hydrographic data” as per the HSI.*
- *Adds “services that can only be carried out aboard a NOAA ship or aircraft because the survey platform possesses unique operational capabilities not available in the private sector” as not subject to contracting.*
- *Promotes the leveraging of government mapping resources by making NOAA’s geospatial and hydrographic services contracts available to State and local government entities.*
- *Deletes reference to NOAA’s annual hydrographic training and field procedures workshops.*



Discussion

