Date: 12 March 2014

SUBJECT: FedBizOpps Onetime Special Notice Posting re. EPA's Changed Business Practice to Use FedConnect

On 14 January 2014 the following notice was posted in FedBizOpps, advising contractors and potential vendors/contractors of the following changed OAM business practice of using FedConnect for all solicitations and contracts above the micropurchase threshold. For this reason all potential offerors must be registered in FedConnect in order to submit proposals in response to future OAM procurements.

Most Information that used to be found on OAM procurement pages (e.g., sources sought notices, solicitations, and award announcements for HPOD, SRRPOD, CPOD, RTPPOD and Regions) will instead be posted using the FedConnect web portal as described in the notice below. Justifications and Approvals that were previously posted to the OAM procurement pages to satisfy FAR requirements, will be posted at the following OAM J&A weblink: http://www.epa.gov/oam/j&a.htm. Therefore the OAM procurement pages for HPOD, SRRPOD, CPOD, RTPPOD and Regions will no longer be updated with ongoing procurement information.

Below is the FedBizOpps posting from 14 January 2014:

[please note that the effective date of 1 February provided below was an estimate; the actual date when the requirement became effective is 12 March 2014]

"Effective February 1, 2014, the EPA's Office of Acquisition Management (OAM) will begin using Compusearch's FedConnect as the communications web portal for all solicitations and contracts above the micropurchase threshold, unless an exception applies. Therefore all potential offerors must be registered in FedConnect in order to submit proposals in response to future OAM procurements.

FedConnect is a web portal that connects agencies and vendors to streamline the process of doing business with the federal government. It also provides an open channel of communication with the government that is both secure and auditable. Through FedConnect contractors will be able to receive, review and respond to contract administration actions and documents such as correspondence, request for proposals, tasking instruments and contract modifications. The use of FedConnect also furthers the EPA's commitment to moving towards a paperless acquisition environment by reducing its carbon footprint and conducting its business in an ecologically friendly manner. There is no charge to use FedConnect.

Vendors can register with FedConnect at www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/. Please note that FedConnect is used by multiple federal agencies and therefore FedConnect assistance will be provided by Compusearch Software Systems, not the EPA. More information about registration requirements can

be found by downloading the FedConnect Ready, Set, Go! Guide at www.fedconnect.net/FedConnect/PublicPages/FedConnect_Ready_Set_Go.pdf. For assistance in registering, or for other FedConnect technical questions please call the FedConnect Help Desk at (800) 899-6665 or email at support@fedconnect.net.

In addition, all vendors must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM), as this facilitates registration for FedConnect. Please note that vendors MUST have their SAM profile set to "public," otherwise FedConnect will not be able to access the SAM information required to validate vendor credentials. Registration may be completed and information regarding the registration process may be obtained at http://www.sam.gov . There is no charge for registration in SAM."