19.502-2 Total small business set-asides.

(a) Before setting aside an *acquisition* under this paragraph, refer to 19.203(b). Each *acquisition* of *supplies* or services that has an anticipated dollar value above the *micro-purchase* threshold, but not over the *simplified acquisition threshold*, *shall* be set aside for small business unless the *contracting officer* determines there is not a reasonable expectation of obtaining *offers* from two or more responsible small business *concerns* that are competitive in terms of *fair market prices*, quality, and delivery. If the *contracting officer* receives only one acceptable *offer* from a responsible small business *concern* in response to a set-aside, the *contracting* officer *should* make an award to that firm. If the *contracting officer* receives no acceptable *offers* from responsible small business *concerns*, the set-aside *shall* be withdrawn and the requirement, if still valid, *shall* be resolicited on an unrestricted basis. The small business set-aside does not preclude the award of a contract as described in 19.203.

(b) Before setting aside an *acquisition* under this paragraph, refer to 19.203(c). The *contracting* officer *shall* set aside any *acquisition* over the simplified *acquisition* threshold for small business participation when there is a reasonable expectation that-

(1) *Offers* will be obtained from at least two responsible small business *concerns*; and

(2) Award will be made at *fair market prices*. Total small business set-asides *shall* not be made unless such a reasonable expectation exists (see 19.502-3 for partial set-asides). Although past *acquisition* history and *market research* of an item or similar items are always important, these are not the only factors to be considered in determining whether a reasonable expectation exists. In making research and development small business set-asides, there *must* also be a reasonable expectation of obtaining from small businesses the best scientific and technological sources consistent with the demands of the proposed *acquisition* for the best mix of cost, performances, and schedules.

Parent topic: 19.502 Setting aside acquisitions.