



**Privacy Impact Assessment Update
for the
Access to Sensitive Security Information in Contract
Solicitations**

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Abstract

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) currently conducts security threat assessments (STA) on individuals and companies that seek access to Sensitive Security Information (SSI) necessary to prepare a proposal in the pre-contract award phase of contracting with TSA. SSI is a form of unclassified information that if publicly released would be detrimental to transportation security. The standards governing SSI are promulgated under 49 U.S.C. §114(r) in 49 C.F.R. part 1520. There may, however, also be circumstances under which individuals and companies will require access to SSI in order to prepare a proposal for contracts with other governmental agencies (federal, state, or local level) or with private industry. TSA is updating its Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to reflect that TSA will perform STA on individuals and companies seeking access to SSI in order to prepare a proposal with such other entities.

Introduction

TSA primarily awards contracts through a full and open competitive process governed by the Competition in Contracting Act and the Federal Acquisition Regulation. This process, in which industry is publicly invited to submit proposals, requires that sufficient information is uniformly provided to industry such that competitive proposals may be developed in a fair marketplace. If determined necessary by TSA, some contracts may require access to SSI in the form of program-specific technical specifications, test results on vendor technology, testing processes, or responses to vendor questions. The solicitation notice will indicate whether SSI access is required. Timely release of program-specific SSI information will prevent delays in the projected contract award and ultimately enable enhanced operations.

The need for access to SSI, however, may also extend to contracts that do not involve TSA; for example, an airport operated under a local government authority may seek to contract with a company for operations that require access to SSI information in order to prepare a competitive proposal. TSA regulates the airport but is not a party to the transaction. Accordingly, TSA will expand its existing process for conducting assessments on bidders to TSA contracts to accommodate assessments on individuals and companies seeking to bid on contracts with any entity where the bid requires access to SSI.

TSA will use Personally Identifiable Information (PII) to assess individuals before granting individuals and their company access to the limited SSI required for purposes of preparing contract offers. TSA will exercise its discretion in assessing whether a company or individual will be entitled to receive SSI. TSA is republishing this PIA, originally published on September 9, 2010, to reflect the addition of offerors seeking to bid on contracts with any entity involving SSI, including other federal, state or local authorities, and private sector businesses.



Reason for the PIA Update

TSA is updating this Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to expand the population of offerors subject to the STA requirement to include individuals seeking to bid on contracts with any entity involving transportation security-related SSI, including federal, state or local authorities, and private sector businesses.

Privacy Impact Analysis

The System and the Information Collected and Stored within the System

There are no changes to the type of information collected by this activity. This update expands the population of offerors subject to STAs to include individuals seeking to bid on contracts with any entity for which access to SSI is required.

Uses of the System and the Information

In addition to the uses described in the original Access to SSI in Contract Solicitations PIA published initially on September 9, 2010, TSA will use the system and the information to conduct STAs on individuals seeking to bid on contracts with any entity for which access to SSI is required.

Retention

No changes.

Internal Sharing and Disclosure

No changes.

External Sharing and Disclosure

In addition to the disclosures identified in the September 9, 2010 PIA, TSA will share the results of the STA with the contracting entity for whom the STA was conducted.

Notice

No changes.

Individual Access, Redress, and Correction

No changes.

Technical Access and Security

No changes.



Technology

No changes.

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Approval Signature Page

Original signed and on file with the DHS Privacy Office.

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