

**Supporting Statement for the
Procurement Solicitation Package
(FR 1400; OMB No. 7100-0180)**

Summary

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board), under authority delegated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), proposes to extend for three years, with revision, the Procurement Solicitation Package (FR 1400; OMB No. 7100-0180). The Board uses the Procurement Solicitation Package, which includes a supplier database and solicitation documents as appropriate, to assist in the competitive process of soliciting proposals from suppliers of goods and services. The Procurement Solicitation Package includes the:

- Supplier Registration System (FR 1400A),
- Solicitation Package (Solicitation, Offer, and Award Form; Supplier Information Form; Past Performance Data Sheet; and Past Performance Questionnaire) (FR 1400B),
- Supplier Risk Management Offeror Questionnaire (FR 1400C), and
- Subcontracting Report (FR 1400D).

The solicitation documents are typically for the procurement of goods, services and construction that are not off-the-shelf items. The Board's supplier database serves as a venue for Board staff to research potential suppliers and their qualifications. When a solicitation is constructed for a specific acquisition, the solicitation package is typically called a Solicitation, Offer, and Award (SOA) document, which consists of the Solicitation Form (Section A of the SOA) and Supplier Information Form (Section N of the SOA), which are both part of FR 1400B. Depending on the requirements of the specific acquisition, the SOA may also consist of a Past Performance Data Sheet (part of FR 1400B), Past Performance Questionnaire (part of FR 1400B), Supplier Risk Management Offeror Questionnaire (FR 1400C), or Subcontracting Report (FR 1400D). This information collection is required to collect data on prices, specifications of goods and services, and qualifications of prospective suppliers.

The Board proposes to revise the FR 1400 by clearing a new form, the Contractor Conflict of Interest Screening (FR 1400E). This new form will be used to screen whether potential contractors with the Board have any conflicts of interests regarding their financial interests, outside employment, work with foreign governments, or relatives before being interviewed by the Board.

The current estimated total annual burden for the FR 1400 is 24,952 hours and would increase to 24,979 hours. The proposed revisions would result in an increase of 27 hours.

Background and Justification

The Board is continuously seeking suppliers who are interested in doing business with the Board through various outreach events, minority/diversity conferences, meetings, and events targeted to either a specific industry classification of suppliers or an upcoming acquisition. Suppliers are encouraged during these efforts to register in the Board's database of interested suppliers (FR 1400A). A supplier searching the Internet can also find the registration system via

the Board's public website and elect to register.¹ The Supplier Registration System collects pertinent information on the supplier and the capabilities it can offer to the Board. While completion of the registration process does not guarantee future opportunities with the Board, it does bring a supplier's capabilities to the attention of procurement staff whose role is to match supplier capabilities with specific acquisition activities when contracting opportunities arise. In announcing an acquisition, Board staff contacts suppliers registered in the Board's system via electronic mail or by telephone and provides the documents and applicable attachments included in the Solicitation Package (FR 1400B).

The Solicitation Package (FR 1400B) and Supplier Risk Management Offeror Questionnaire (FR 1400C) collect information used in evaluating the competitive bids and contracts submitted by suppliers (also referred to as offerors). Depending upon the goods and services for which the Board is seeking bids, the supplier is asked to provide a document (proposal) covering prices, the means of performing a particular service, and a description of the qualification(s) of the staff of the supplier who will perform the service. The supplier may also be asked to provide past performance and information regarding security protocols. The security controls required, which are reported using the Supplier Risk Management Offeror Questionnaire (FR 1400C), are defined and prioritized based on the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-53 (Security Controls and Assessment Procedures for Federal Information Systems and Organizations). The entire proposal submitted by the supplier is used by the Board staff to evaluate the Procurement Solicitation Package documents and select the offer providing the best value.

In addition, depending upon the supplier selected for the contract award, the supplier is required to submit the Subcontracting Report (FR 1400D). The Subcontracting Report collects information regarding the supplier's subcontracting commitments toward diversity and inclusion of minority-owned and women-owned suppliers in subcontracting activities to facilitate the Board's compliance with section 342(c) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (Dodd-Frank Act).

The information collected through the Procurement Solicitation Package is necessary for Board staff to fairly and accurately evaluate the merits of suppliers' proposals; to select the proposal most advantageous to the Board, taking into account price and other key factors; and to award and administer contracts after a supplier has been selected. This information is not available from other sources. If the Board did not have this information, it would not be able to accurately evaluate potential suppliers, select the most advantageous proposals, award and administer contracts, and obtain information necessary for regulatory compliance with the Dodd-Frank Act, all of which would be prohibitive to the business needs of the Board.

Description of Information Collection

The Supplier Registration System (FR 1400A) has five sections. The first section asks for the company name (legal), the company name (doing business as), and the Federal Tax ID of the company. The second section asks for the full business mailing address. The third section asks

¹ See <https://www.federalreserve.gov/secure/supplierregistration/>.

for the business phone number, fax, website, and number of years in business (0-99). The fourth section asks for Dun & Bradstreet number², industry classification code (NAICS code), business size (small or large), and for the respondent to indicate whether they are a General Services Administration contract holder, Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement contract holder, a woman-owned business, a veteran-owned business, or a minority-owned business; if they select that they are a minority-owned business, a demographic drop down list will appear. In the fifth and final section, it asks for a contact name, title, e-mail address, phone number, a brief description of their business, and how they met the Board (outreach event, advocacy group, or other).

The Solicitation Package (FR 1400B) includes:

- A cover letter,
- A Solicitation, Offer, and Award Form (Section A), which outlines pertinent dates for the supplier as well as requires the supplier to input contact information and a summary of proposed pricing,
- A Supplier Information Form, which requires the supplier to utilize Coupa and provide contact information, demographic, and payment information so that the supplier can be properly established in the contract writing system and receive payment upon the receipt of a proper and valid invoice,
- A description, provided by the Board, of the goods or services desired,
- A statement of how the Board will evaluate the prospective suppliers,
- A statement of how the Board will evaluate the proposal,
- Solicitation instructions (how to prepare and submit the proposal, including all deadlines),
- Contract terms (work standards, inspections, work delays, work change orders, payment, taxes, and compliance with small business and labor laws), and
- Representations and certifications suppliers must make in order to participate in the solicitation.

The Solicitation, Offer, and Award form (Section A of FR 1400B) is required with proposals offered in response to a solicitation issued by the Board. The Supplier Information Form is required for the entry of a supplier into the Board's contract writing and invoice payment system. The Solicitation Package may also include the Past Performance Data Sheet and Past Performance Questionnaire (Section I) if past performance is an evaluation factor. This questionnaire requests information on up to three previous contracts that are recent and relevant to the solicitation, such as a description of the work, the period of performance when the work was completed, the agency for which the work was performed, and an estimated total dollar amount of the effort.

The Procurement Solicitation Package requires additional information for solicitations that require the supplier to process, store, or transmit data from the Board (Data Solicitations) and for solicitations involving contracts that have subcontracting opportunities and are expected to exceed \$100,000, or \$300,000 for construction solicitations (Subcontracting Solicitations). For

² The Dun & Bradstreet D-U-N-S[®] Number is a unique nine-digit identifier for businesses that is associated with a business's Live Business Identity.

Data Solicitations, suppliers must complete the Supplier Risk Management Offeror Questionnaire (FR 1400C). This questionnaire requires suppliers to specify the security controls surrounding the supplier's security protocols and proposed application, if applicable, that will be used to process, store, or transmit the data.³ For Subcontracting Solicitations, non-covered company⁴ suppliers must submit a subcontracting plan in the supplier's own format. The subcontracting plan provided contains information on the nature of subcontracted activities, including the percentage of subcontracted work, and identity of subcontractors, including the subcontractors' size and ownership status, the company will use if awarded the effort. If a supplier is awarded a contract following a Subcontracting Solicitation, the supplier must provide semiannual Subcontracting Reports (FR 1400D) to the Board, to document compliance with section 342(e) of the Dodd-Frank Act.⁵

The Board is the contracting authority for itself and the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), and the Procurement Solicitation Package is also used for solicitations conducted on behalf of the FFIEC. Applicants and members of the Board's Community Advisory Council (CAC) and Insurance Policy Advisory Committee (IPAC) also use the Supplier Information Form to provide banking information for travel reimbursement.

The Board understands that respondents use information technology to comply with these provisions, including completing the FR 1400A on the Board's public website and completing the FR 1400B, FR 1400C, and FR 1400D electronically via the source-to-settle system, Coupa⁶.

Personally Identifiable Information

Personally identifiable information (PII) obtained in this information collection includes information regarding the ownership of a company based on race and ethnicity in the Supplier Information Form. Suppliers are also asked to provide banking information to allow for electronic payment in the Supplier Information Form. The information provided is sensitive in nature and is necessary for the Board to comply with the Dodd-Frank Act, which requires the

³ Security controls are defined and prioritized based on the FIMSA and the NIST Special Publication 800-53 (Security Controls and Assessment Procedures for Federal Information Systems and Organizations).

⁴ A "covered company" is a firm qualified as a small business concern under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. § 632) and regulations thereunder, including (1) business concerns that meet the size eligibility standards set forth in 13 CFR 121, (2) small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 632(q), (3) qualified HUBZone small business concerns pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 632(p) and 13 CFR 126, (4) socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 637 and certified as such under 13 CFR 125, and (5) small business concerns owned and controlled by women as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 632(n).

⁵ 12 U.S.C. § 5452(e) requires the Board to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the total amounts paid by the agency to contractors since the previous report, the successes achieved and challenges faced by the agency in operating minority and women outreach programs, the challenges the agency may face in hiring qualified minority and women employees and contracting with qualified minority-owned and women-owned businesses, and any other information, findings, conclusions, and recommendations for legislative or agency action.

⁶ Source-to-settle describes an end-to-end sourcing experience between the Board and its suppliers that begins with a requisition and ends in payment or contract closeout for large, complex acquisitions. Coupa is a third-party cloud-based spend management application streamlined to handle every spend-related aspect of our business such as procurement, invoicing, expenses, and payments. Suppliers will still be allowed to submit PDF versions via email of the FR 1400B, FR 1400C, or FR 1400D if they are unable to complete them in Coupa.

Board to develop and implement standards and procedures to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, the fair inclusion and utilization of minorities, women, and minority-owned and women-owned businesses in all business and activities of the agency at all levels, including procurement, insurance, and all types of contracts. The payment information is necessary to securely complete payment transactions to suppliers and travel reimbursement for applicants and members of the Board's CAC. Information collected as part of this process is stored in the System of Records BGFRS-9 Supplier Files⁷. This information is also covered by the Privacy Impact Assessment, "Coupa Business Spend Management for Federal."

Respondent Panel

The FR 1400 panel comprises businesses and individuals.

Frequency and Time Schedule

The FR 1400 is event-generated. The use and input of supplier information into the Board's Supplier Registration System (FR 1400A) is solely at the discretion of the supplier and may occur at any point in time. The remainder of the Procurement Solicitation Package is collected as-needed from suppliers when Board staff issues a solicitation. Board staff will provide prospective suppliers with deadlines for inquiries regarding the solicitation and for submitting proposals, which must include the Solicitation Package (FR 1400B) and, if appropriate, the Supplier Risk Management Offeror Questionnaire (FR 1400C). For Subcontracting Solicitations, the selected supplier must submit the Subcontracting Report (FR 1400D) semiannually beginning six months after the contract was awarded if it is not a covered company.

Proposed Revisions to the FR 1400

The Board proposes to clear a new, event-generated form, the Contractor Conflict of Interest Screening (FR 1400E). The FR 1400E will be used to screen potential contractors that would be conducting research pertaining to the Board's mission (e.g., monetary policy, financial stability, or supervision and regulation) and/or have access to sensitive Board information such as confidential supervisory information, in order to determine if they have any conflict of interests. The 1400E has four main sections: Financial Interests, Outside Employment or Consulting in Banking or Economic Industries, Work with Foreign Governments, and Relatives in Related Businesses. Applicants are asked to list assets that they, their spouse, or their minor children hold that might be conflicts of interest. The potential contractor is also asked to list any outside employment that is relevant to the Board, including any employment for or with a foreign government, within the past three years. Lastly, the applicant is asked to specify any position their spouse, child, parent, or sibling currently holds at a financial institution (such as a bank, bank holding company, savings and loan holding company, thrift or savings and loan association, or affiliate of any such entity; consulting or law firm advising financial institutions; economic forecasting or consulting firm; or a vendor/contractor) that works with the Federal Reserve System.

⁷ See 88 FR 40270.

Public Availability of Data

The Supplier Information Form (Section N of the FR 1400B) collects supplier size and ownership status, which is used by the Board to comply with Congressional reporting requirements⁸. No other data collected by this information collection are published.

Legal Status

The filing requirements under the FR 1400 are authorized by sections 10 and 11 of the Federal Reserve Act (“FRA”)⁹ and section 342(c) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.¹⁰ Registering in the Supplier Registration System (FR 1400A) is voluntary. The remaining portions of the FR 1400 (FR 1400B, FR 1400C, FR 1400D, and FR 1400E) are required to obtain a benefit for prospective suppliers to the Board.

A prospective supplier may request confidential treatment under exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for information submitted as part of its Procurement Solicitation Package if it contains commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private.¹¹ Information provided by a supplier as part of its Procurement Solicitation Package may also be considered confidential under FOIA exemption 6 if it contains personal information, the disclosure of which would “constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.”¹²

Consultation Outside the Agency

There has been no consultation outside the Federal Reserve System.

Public Comments

On September 30, 2024, the Board published an initial notice in the *Federal Register* (89 FR 79590) requesting public comment for 60 days on the extension, with revision, of the FR 1400. The comment period for this notice expires on November 29, 2024.

Estimate of Respondent Burden

As shown in the table below, the estimated total annual burden for the FR 1400 is 24,952 hours and would increase to 24,979 hours with the proposed revisions. The number of FR 1400A, FR 1400B, FR 1400C, and FR 1400D respondents is based on the average number of FR 1400 filings received in the past two years and review of current projections for upcoming procurement efforts.

⁸ See previous reports here: [The Fed - Office of Minority and Women Inclusion \(federalreserve.gov\)](https://www.federalreserve.gov).

⁹ Section 10(3) and section 11 of the FRA authorize the Board to manage its buildings and staff. 12 U.S.C. §§ 243 and 248(1). Section 10(4) of the FRA authorizes the Board to determine and prescribe the manner in which its obligations shall be incurred, and its disbursements and expenses allowed and paid.

¹⁰ 12 U.S.C. § 5452(c) (requiring the Board to develop and implement standards and procedures for the review and evaluation of contract proposals and for hiring service providers that include a component that gives consideration to the diversity of a prospective vendor and the fair inclusion of women and minorities in the workforce of such vendor and any subcontractor).

¹¹ 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4).

¹² 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6).

The burden estimate was produced using the standard Board burden calculation methodology. These reporting requirements represent less than 1 percent of the Board’s total paperwork burden.

FR 1400	<i>Estimated number of respondents</i> 13	<i>Estimated annual frequency</i>	<i>Estimated average hours per response</i>	<i>Estimated annual burden hours</i>
Current				
FR 1400A	250	1	.67	168
FR 1400B	300	1	81	24,300
FR 1400C	60	1	7.6	456
FR 1400D	20	2	.7	<u>28</u>
	<i>Current Total</i>			24,952
Proposed				
FR 1400A	250	1	0.67	168
FR 1400B	300	1	81	24,300
FR 1400C	60	1	7.6	456
FR 1400D	20	2	.7	28
FR 1400E	60	1	.45	27
	<i>Proposed Total</i>			<u>24,979</u>
	<i>Change</i>			27

The estimated total annual cost to the public for this collection of information is \$1,742,897 and would increase to \$1,744,783 with the proposed revisions.¹⁴

Sensitive Questions

As stated above in the PII subsection, in order to comply with the mandate and reporting of the Dodd-Frank Act, suppliers are asked to submit information regarding the ownership of their company based on race and ethnicity in the Supplier Information Form. The collection of

¹³ Respondents to this collection fall under a variety of small business thresholds from \$18.5 million to \$39.5 million and it is estimated that 150 out of 300 would be considered small entities as defined by the Small Business Administration. Size standards effective March 17, 2023. See <https://www.sba.gov/document/support-table-size-standards>. There are no special accommodations given to mitigate the burden on small institutions.

¹⁴ Total cost to the responding public is estimated using the following formula: total burden hours, multiplied by the cost of staffing, where the cost of staffing is calculated as a percent of time for each occupational group multiplied by the group’s hourly rate and then summed (30% Office & Administrative Support at \$23, 45% Financial Managers at \$84, 15% Lawyers at \$85, and 10% Chief Executives at \$124). Hourly rates for each occupational group are the (rounded) mean hourly wages from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wages, May 2023, published April 3, 2024 <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.t01.htm#>. Occupations are defined using the BLS Standard Occupational Classification System, <https://www.bls.gov/soc/>.

banking and payment information is necessary to securely complete payment transactions to suppliers and travel reimbursement for applicants and members of the Board's CAC.

Estimate of Cost to the Federal Reserve System

The estimated cost to the Federal Reserve System for collecting and processing this report/information collection is negligible.