

6.303-1 Requirements.

(a) A *contracting officer shall* not commence negotiations for a sole source contract, commence negotiations for a contract resulting from an *unsolicited proposal*, or award any other contract without providing for *full and open competition* unless the *contracting officer-*

(1) Justifies, if required in [6.302](#), the use of such actions *in writing*;

(2) Certifies the accuracy and completeness of the justification; and

(3) Obtains the approval required by [6.304](#).

(b) The *contracting officer shall* not award a sole-source contract under the 8(a) authority ([15 U.S.C. 637\(a\)](#)) for an amount exceeding \$25 million unless-

(1) The *contracting officer* justifies the use of a sole-source contract *in writing* in accordance with [6.303-2](#);

(2) The justification is approved by the appropriate official designated at [6.304](#); and

(3) The justification and related information are made public after award in accordance with [6.305](#).

(c) Technical and requirements personnel are responsible for providing and certifying as accurate and complete necessary data to support their recommendation for other than *full and open competition*.

(d) Justifications required by paragraph (a) of this section *may* be made on an individual or class basis. Any justification for contracts awarded under the authority of [6.302-7](#) *shall* only be made on an individual basis. Whenever a justification is made and approved on a class basis, the *contracting officer must* ensure that each contract action taken pursuant to the authority of the class justification and approval is within the scope of the class justification and approval and *shall* document the contract file for each contract action accordingly.

(e) The justifications for contracts awarded under the authority cited in [6.302-2](#) *may* be prepared and approved within a reasonable time after contract award when preparation and approval prior to award would unreasonably delay the *acquisitions*.

Parent topic: [6.303 Justifications](#).