

BuyLines

■ CONTRACT INFORMATION:
DAS Contracts, Contracts
Expiring, Bid Notice Postings
and Certification Central



■ NEW LOOK TO
PROCUREMENT WEBSITE



■ SUPPLIER DIVERSITY
TRAINING



■ LEGISLATIVE CHANGES



■ HOUSING AUTHORITY
CONFERENCE



■ TOY RECALLS



CONTACT US

Miss a Previous
Issue of *BuyLines*?

DAS Contract Information

The following contracts were issued over the last 10 days.

Contract Number:	Contract Name:	For:	Contract Term:
<u>07PSX0186</u>	Aluminum 10 Cubic Yard Combination Dump Body Sand/Salt Spreaders with Double Wing Plows attached to State supplied 54,000 LB. G.V.W.R. dump trucks cab and chassis	Department of Transportation, all using state agencies, and political subdivisions	Date of Award through September 30, 2009
<u>07PSX0148</u>	Hydraulic Components, Accessories and Service for the Department of Transportation	Department of Transportation, all using state agencies, and political subdivisions	Date of Award through August 31, 2010
<u>07PSX0199</u>	Reconditioning and Recertifying Athletic Equipment	All Using State Agencies and Political Subdivisions	September 1, 2007 through August 31, 2009
<u>07PSX0130</u>	Epoxy Resin Pavement Markings, Furnishing, and Application	Department of Transportation	September 5, 2007 through September 4, 2008
<u>07PSX0180</u>	Rubbish Removal Services for DMR West Region Locations	Department of Mental Retardation	September 5, 2007 through August 31, 2009
<u>07PSX0200</u>	Quarterly inspection and maintenance of Sprinkler Systems at Connecticut Valley Hospital.	Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	From Date of Award through July 31, 2010

Contracts Expiring

Did you know that our state contracts are reviewed one to three months prior to the actual expiration date? Click on the list of “Contracts Issued/Expiring In Last/Next 30/60/90/120 Days.” Choose the radio button marked “Expiring Contracts” and select the time frame. Then click “Get Contracts,” That’s all there is to it! [Contract Search](#)

Bid Notice Postings

To view the entire DAS bid notice listing, click on the following hyperlink to go to our web page [DAS Bid Notices](#).

Certification Central

We have made it even easier for you to see which Connecticut vendors have recently become certified! Use the link we have provided to access the listing of **New Set-Aside Vendors certified in the last 7 days**. The link below lists the company name, contact information, product description and certification type for all Connecticut small businesses that were certified during the **previous** week.

http://www.das.state.ct.us/Purchase/ePartners/ep_whats_new.asp#Vendors

Questions regarding the Supplier Diversity Program can be directed to Meg Yetishefsky, Supplier Diversity Manager, at Meg.Yetishefsky@ct.gov or 860-713-5228.

Catalog Shopping?

Use this link to access the listing of vendors, contract numbers and contract names that have been loaded into the [Core-CT](#) catalog.

DAS' Supplier Diversity Unit Hosts Training

In August, the DAS Supplier Diversity Unit hosted two, half-day training sessions for state agencies on how to correctly establish their Small/Minority Business (s/mbe) set aside goals for this fiscal year.

DAS Commissioner Anne Gnazzo welcomed attendees and said, "We hope that this training will provide you with a comprehensive overview of the annual goal setting process, quarterly report submission and, most importantly, give you the tools you need for successful completion.

"And keep in mind that we're not here to just train you and then send you on your way. Use DAS as a resource. Our new and improved Electronic Goal Calculation Package has been designed with you in mind to support statutory requirements and assist your agency in developing its annual SBE/MBE set-aside goals," Gnazzo emphasized.

New this year, one-on-one training sessions were offered with Supplier Diversity's JoAnne Rella and Stan Kenton. Both commented on the positive feedback these sessions produced. "They had good questions that were specific to their agency and couldn't be answered in general terms," said Kenton. "Some just required extra explanations on how our calculations worked and why," added Rella.

Part of calculating these goals involve other aspects of DAS Procurement. Joe Giliberto gave an overview of the State Contracting Portal, Kerry DiMatteo reviewed the P-Card and how it helps in calculating set aside dollars, and Joann Bellamo gave an overview on MBE reporting in the Core-CT system.

"You know how we know it's working?" asked Program Manager Meg Yetishefsky. "Approximately 80 percent of state agencies met their s/mbe set aside goals last fiscal year. That's a big improvement, and with each training session, we see more success."

Please note that 1st quarter reports from July 1 through September 30 are due October 31, 2007.

NOTE: Read more about Supplier Diversity and Contractor Prequalification legislative changes on the next page.

DAS Procurement Introduces New Look to Website

DAS Procurement Services is excited to announce a new look to its website starting Monday, September 17.

You will see each DAS Procurement program listed with a short description. By clicking on the program header, you will see each program in detail including: services offered – both for the public and state agencies, the online resources each program has to offer - including online forms and online registration info, along with other pertinent information like legislative rules, proposals, contract info and much more.

This change is in response to customer feedback requesting easier navigation and better access to the amount of information DAS Procurement supplies to our online community.

We hope you find these changes an improvement and, as always, we look forward to hearing from you.

Be sure to check us out on Monday, September 17 at www.das.state.ct.us

Legislative Changes to DAS' Set Aside Program

A number of changes to the DAS statutes governing set-aside passed in the OPM budget implementer bill. The DAS set-aside statutes provide special state contracting opportunities to small and minority-owned businesses in Connecticut.

Effective **July 1, 2007**, the following administrative changes were made to the set-aside statutes:

- Language that restricted small and minority-owned businesses from legitimately transferring ownership was removed from the statutes;
- The statutes were changed to codify the DAS practice of including small contractors who are individuals with mental impairments, not just physical impairments, as qualified minority businesses;
- The DAS annual review of agency set-aside goals will begin a month earlier than previously, and other monitoring and enforcement provisions were added to the statutes to bolster the effectiveness and integrity of the set-aside program;
- Language was removed that previously prohibited DAS from awarding a small contractor a contract or contracts totaling more than \$10 million in a fiscal year; and
- Statutory language was changed to assist the program's use of online, paperless communications.

Effective **January 1, 2008**, the definition of what constitutes a "small contractor" eligible for benefits under the set-aside program will be updated to include businesses that had gross revenues not exceeding \$15 million dollars in the most recently completed fiscal year; the current standard is \$10 million.

To find out more, visit:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/ACT/Pa/pdf/2007PA-00004-R00SB-01500SS1-PA.pdf>

There was also an Act that makes a number of changes to DAS's Contractor Prequalification Program to ensure consistency in the prequalification statutes and to bolster the program so that only companies with experience, integrity and proven performance may bid and work on large state construction projects. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires that, when surety companies take over a large state construction project, they use contractors that are prequalified by DAS to complete the job;
- Requires that companies performing large state construction projects not only be prequalified when they bid on state contracts, but that they maintain their prequalified status throughout the life of their contract;
- Ensures that DAS may deny a renewal application for prequalification – not just an initial prequalification application – when a company is convicted of or pleads guilty or nolo to one of a number of crimes relating to business honesty or has a history of failing to perform satisfactorily on public contracts;
- Gives DAS the ability to suspend a contractor's prequalification for up to three months before revoking or reducing a company's ability to bid on contracts;
- Gives an awarding agency the ability to terminate a construction contract when the agency discovers substantial evidence of fraud in obtaining or maintaining prequalification;
- Adds an enforcement mechanism into the prequalification statutes – if an awarding authority is required to use a prequalified contractor on a project and fails to do so, it may be ineligible for state funds for the project at issue;
- Requires that DAS notify contractors, prospective contractors, and their principals, during the prequalification application process, about the campaign contribution bans in the state statute;
- Extends the period of potential disqualification for companies that have plead guilty to a number of contracting related crimes from two years to five years;
- Streamlines and clarifies the performance evaluation process; and
- Adds language to the statutes to ensure that DAS and the DOT prequalification processes are not in conflict.

Sections 2 through 10, effective upon passage (July 10, 2007). <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/ACT/Pa/pdf/2007PA-00202-R00SB-00707-PA.pdf>

CT Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (ConnNAHRO) Ninth Annual Convention and Exhibition

The main goal of the ConnNAHRO is to ensure safe, clean and affordable housing for anyone who needs it: individuals, families, elderly, etc. The CT Chapter is comprised mainly of people who work at various public housing authorities across the state. The group works closely with Housing and Urban Development, CT Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) on behalf of all of the people who live in public housing through both state and federal programs.

“Unfortunately, it’s a never-ending battle to provide housing for those in need. Funding is always fluctuating, and over 80 percent of the state-owned properties were built in the 1950’s and are in various need of repair,” said DAS Housing Authority Representative Aimee Gagnon.

NAHRO fought in earnest this past legislative session to get what is needed to maintain the physical properties alone. DAS has a particular interest in the conditions and safety of the property because DAS administers the Housing Authority Master Insurance Program that protects tenants. Gagnon said that ConnNAHRO works hard throughout the year to make public housing the best that it can be, and DAS has a seat at the table. Gagnon serves as Secretary on the Executive Board of Directors and participates in various activities while serving on two other committees - the annual convention committee and the program planning committee.

“This year was a positive year in many ways. The convention last year wrapped up with a meeting and a commitment from Speaker of the House Jim Amann to educate other legislators and work with ConnNAHRO to ensure the future of public housing. He sponsored a bill concerning the sustainability of state assisted housing and requiring a physical needs assessment for public housing with funds attached to it. The goal was to get \$100 million and the bill was passed with \$10 million attached to it. Not a bad start,” added Gagnon.

During the convention, three scholarships were given out for \$3,500 each to students living in public housing that will be attending, or are already attending college. In addition to CHFA’s donation, funds are raised through the annual convention and annual golf tournament.

Also, DECD rolled out a new website to assist people in finding affordable rental housing (www.cthousingsearch.com).

Educational Games & Toys

Doesn’t it lately seem like every time you turn on the television or you open up the newspaper all you hear or read about is another toy being recalled?

DAS Procurement Services wants to ensure customers who utilize Contract Award **#05PSX0287** that, per contract terms and conditions, contractors on this award shall guarantee that the equipment offered is guaranteed against any defect due to faulty material and/or workmanship. Also, products must meet all federal, state and local standards for quality, and safety requirements and must be Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved.

All products purchased from the contractor shall be warranted against defects in workmanship or materials under normal use for one year from date of purchase. Any product, which determined by the contractor to be defective in material or workmanship, will be repaired or replaced at the contractor’s option, with no charges for parts, service and labor.

For questions or concerns regarding this contract award, contact Janet DelGreco-Olson, Contract Specialist at 860 713-5079 or email Janet.DelGreco@ct.gov