

Purchasing Update

June 2020



Utah Division of Purchasing and General Services

PPE Availability Notification Report

By Tara Eutsler, Contract Analyst

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The Utah Division of Purchasing provides a daily PPE Availability Notification report to interested public procurement employees. The report provides the availability of PPE products from State Cooperative Contract (SCC) vendors whose scope of work allows for the sale of those items. Information provided on the report includes: item name, item number, quantity available, contract number, and SCC information.

Two notes for understanding. First, the information provided in the reports is available for public entities and is not for private use. Second, as the products are sold through one of the state cooperative contracts, it is not considered an emergency procurement.

To buy the item, eligible SCC users call or email the contract contact individual listed in the report, then provide the SCC number and the item numbers for the PPE that are desired. The supply of these high-demand products is very fluid and quantities are not guaranteed. Items are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If your public entity, state agency, or other eligible state cooperative contract user would like to receive these daily PPE Availability Notification emails, please send an email to Tara Eutsler teutsler@utah.gov and ask to be added to the PPE list.



The Division of Purchasing is currently looking for sourcing team and evaluation committee members! The following contract portfolios are currently in the solicitation process and your input would be a welcome help to ensuring effective contracts are put in place to support your agency's needs! Contact the identified contract manager with any questions!

TITLE	NAME	CONTACT
IT Solutions for Innovative Ways to Responding to Pandemics (SK20-31)	Solomon Kingston	skingston@utah.gov

Protests

By Blake Porter, Contract Analyst

“You haven’t lived until you have been through a protest.” The infamous catchphrase of public procurement professionals everywhere couldn’t be truer. What one thought was just another day in the office, just another solicitation, is turned upside with one protest letter. Panic is the natural reaction as we think “What did I do wrong?” as we feverishly go through every detail of our solicitation, hoping beyond hope we did what we were supposed to do.

The first thing to do with a protest is to pause, but don’t stop! Pause additional work on the solicitation while the protest is reviewed. You may need to extend an incumbent’s contract to ensure there isn’t a lapse in services, notify the procurement unit/people impacted by the protest if there’s a delay, and provide additional documentation for the protest officer, etc. Pause and figure out what needs to be done for the current contract to be in a good place while things settle, but don’t stop thinking or working altogether.

Knowing what is and is not grounds for a protest can help deal with the blow of receiving one. Grounds for protest include: violating a provision of the Code, failing to follow a provision in the solicitation, making an error by the evaluation committee, exercising a bias in evaluation, failing to apply or calculate score criterion, and using specifications that are unduly restrictive or anticompetitive (Utah Procurement Code §63G-6a-102(4)(b)). It’s a pretty short list of major issues, and it basically boils down to if we do it right the first time, then

there shouldn’t be anything to worry about.

A popular protest is one stating a vendor should have scored better or worse than another vendor. These protests fall into the category of a vague or unsubstantiated claim and are not grounds for a protest (§63G-6a-1602(5)(b) and R33-16-101a(2)(b)(ii)). It’s important to note that the evaluation committee is supposed to be independent and is allowed to be subjective in scoring subjective criteria, so no error has occurred when the committee has different scoring, nor are they required to be equally impressed by a proposal.

Ambiguity or confusion in a solicitation may potentially be grounds for a protest if a grievance has occurred (R33-16-101a(2)(a)(iv)). Even if a solicitation is written with the best efforts to make it as clear as possible, our finite human brains can’t think of every possibility. A vendor’s perspective in a protest is invaluable to see how our solicitation language can be interpreted and is a great teaching tool. Hindsight is 20/20 and when we look back at our work there is always something to be improved upon.

Protests are a key component of the Utah Procurement Code in promoting the rule of law in public procurement. Receiving a protest may still ruin one’s day, but in time can also be something appreciated and seen as an important check to ensure we are doing what we say we are doing, which is creating a fair, open, and competitive procurement process. Questions? Contact Blake Porter, btporter@utah.gov

UTAH CORRECTIONAL INDUSTRIES

LET US HELP YOU STAY SAFE...



FACE COVERS, HAND SANITIZER, THERMOMETERS, & SOCIAL DISTANCING KIT

UCI has made it a priority to offer items that will help your organization stay safe as more employees return to work. Have your logo, or message, printed on some of these safety items which help you and your staff stay safe during this difficult time. COVID-19 has changed the way we interact and a few simple efforts can have a huge impact!



PROTECTION SHIELDS

Safety is paramount, which is why our Furniture and Welding shops have adapted their offerings to keep your co-workers protected.

We understand the importance for businesses to keep their employees and the community safe now that we all begin to adjust to the “new normal.” These shields are a great way to help your patrons maintain social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.



MISSION

Utah Correctional Industries is dedicated to public safety through innovative career building, community partnerships, and quality production to develop successful people.

VISION

Building a better community through career development.

DID YOU KNOW UCI ALSO OFFERS...

PRINTING | EMBROIDERY/SCREEN PRINTING
FURNITURE | SEATING/UPHOLSTERY
CONSTRUCTION | DOCUMENT SCANNING
SIGNAGE | SEWING

View the “UCI First” State Use Law (63G-6a-804)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT 801-576-7700
UCI.UTAH.GOV

Spotlight Article



David Bundy, Contract Analyst

I am a Utah born and raised. I grew up in South Jordan where I attended Bingham High School before they were good at Football. I spend most of my time chasing my 3 almost 4-year-old around, cleaning up his messes, and trying to keep him from killing my tiny Italian Greyhound. I love to travel, although all that's on hold. I did enjoy going

on a cruise for the first time for my 10-year wedding anniversary.

I got into procurement after attending law school. I always knew that I wouldn't be a traditional attorney and was happy to find a place first working for the Department of Technology Services in their Contract Group and then transitioning over to State Purchasing.

Q and A

Q. What is always a waste of money?

A. Lotto Tickets. I could go on about it but mostly I hate the long lines in Malad when I stop at the gas stations to get a drink while traveling to Idaho.

Q. What is the best kind of cheese?

A. I purchase Colby Jack on the regular. I think It's a fun combo. Of course, if I am feeling fancy I like a good garlic herb goat cheese. Or maybe a baked brie. But those aren't everyday cheeses for me.

Q. If you don't know where your kid is, where are you most likely to find them?

A. He is either chasing the dog or making a mess someplace.



TOPIC: Updates to Part 8— Sole Source

PRESENTER: Justin Dalton

DATE: July 16, 2020

TIME: 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Registration will be sent out July 2, 2020 through the newsletter list.



Future BBLs Dates

Aug 20
Sep 17

How to Receive the Purchasing Update Newsletter

Did you receive this newsletter from a co-worker? Do you want to receive the Purchasing Update directly? Please send an email to Tara Eutsler, teutsler@utah.gov.

Utah Division of Purchasing & General Services
4315 S. 2700 W. FL. 3
Taylorsville, Utah 84129
801-957-7160
Purchasing.utah.gov
Hours: 8:00 am—5:00 pm M-F

