

CAPABILITY STATEMENTS

"How to stand out in a competitive marketplace."



PRESENTERS



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ABOUT GTPAC

- The Georgia Tech Procurement Assistance Center ("GTPAC") teaches Georgia based companies about all aspects of government contracting – at the federal, state and local level.
- Details at http://www.gtpac.org.
- We are funded by the Defense Logistics Agency and the Georgia Institute of Technology.
- We are part of the **Enterprise Innovation Institute**, the nation's largest and most comprehensive university-based program of business and industry assistance, technology commercialization and economic development.



CAPABILITY STATEMENT: WHAT IS IT?

- A marketing document or flyer geared specifically for the government contracting market.
- A capability statement tells potential customers, who you are, what you do, and how you are different or better than the competition.
- A Capabilities Statement is a critical tool in government contracting, no matter what size company you represent.
- Similar to a "resume" for your business.

WHY DO THEY EXIST?

- It's a tool that procurement officials can use to compare you with other vendors.
- Helps the government (or prime contractors) perform market research and identify vendors they want to do business with.
- Government agencies often request them (sometimes requested as part of bid or proposal or requested by sources sought)
- Its essentially a marketing tool, similar to a brochure or flyer but specifically geared to the government marketplace.
- Helps show the government you are "government procurement ready."

WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Again, the primary purpose of them is marketing. A capability statement is one part of a multifaceted marketing approach (used in conjunction with other marketing materials, website, etc.).
- The information in Capabilities Statements can be valuable when used in conjunction with websites, and other promotional literature.
- When you add information about awards, certifications, and past performance, Capabilities Statements can (1) create a sense of trust; and (2) show your business is experienced and mature.

WHAT SHOULD THEY LOOK LIKE?

- Brief (1 to 2 pages)
- Visually interesting (graphics, not just text, professional design)
- Within the first 10 seconds of reading one, the reader should know WHO you are, and WHAT you do.
- Should contain information regarding your companies "capabilities." What you can do or perform.
- Should summary key or important "past performance."
- Should summarize "differentiators" or how you are different or better than the competition.
- Should provide corporate data, that includes contact information, certifications and procurement CODES (CAGE code, NAICS codes, FSC/PSC codes, NIGP codes)

TYPICAL STRUCTURE

- 1.Who/What statement
- 2. Capabilities Summary
- 3. Past performance Government past performance and/or commercial experience.
- 4. Differentiators How better than competition?
- 5. Corporate Data Address, contact info, certifications, procurement codes.

CORPORATE DATA: CERTIFICATIONS

- <u>Critically important</u> that small businesses highlight any certifications they may have somewhere in the capability statement: SDVOSB/VOSB, HubZone, WOSB/EDWOSB, 8(a).
- Built in preferences in the contracting process for the government and primes to utilize these types of small businesses to meet various small business goals.
- Consultants however stress that its better to <u>LEAD</u> and highlight capabilities first on the statement.
- Certifications are seen as a value-add but main value is what you do.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Explain your Core Competencies and highlight your unique value proposition.
- What exactly can you do for the government or the client?
- Why are you good at it?
- To build your Core Competencies, analyze your operations and determine what part of your business can deliver exceptional results within short time frames.

PAST PERFORMANCE

- Examples of previous, unique, client experiences that you leverage for future projects.
- Be careful using agencies logos, some agencies do not like this.
- Try to cite "relevant past performance," not just "any" past performance.
- If you have no government past performance, cite any relevant commercial experience.
- If you have no commercial experience, highlight any experience or expertise personnel of the business have.

DIFFERENTIATORS

- Explain how your company is unique, different, and distinct from its competitors in responding to the needs of the client.
- Explain the needs of the client, and why your firm is better positioned than others to respond to these needs.

CORPORATE DATA (KEY PARTS)

- Location: Identify the geographical locations from which your company operates. Include contact information: physical address, contact person details, office telephone, office fax, email address, etc.
- Certifications: SDVOSB, 8(a), WOSB/EDWOSB, HubZone
- Relevant codes: Include your DUNS, CAGE, NAICS, NIGP, or other relevant codes.
- Web address: Include your website for additional information. Make sure your website is constantly updated and customer-focused.

KEEP IT UP-TO-DATE AND TAILOR IT

- Critically important you keep the capability statement up-to-date.
- Tailor it for the agency/prime contractor you are sending or providing it too.
- Just like you might tailor a resume for a particular job, tailor your capability statement for a particular opportunity.

NEED HELP?

Utilize the free services of your local Procurement Technical Assistance Center ("PTAC")

- In Georgia, that is GTPAC: www.gtpac.org
- Outside Georgia, see: www.aptac-us.org/find-a-ptac



