



Smithsonian Institution

Office of Contracting and Personal Property Management

Notice to all Current and Prospective Smithsonian Institution Contractors

Subject: Mandatory Registration in the System for Award Management (SAM)

Individuals and companies that want to do business with U.S. government agencies, including the Smithsonian Institution, are required to maintain active and valid registrations in the System for Award Management (SAM). We are informing you of this requirement because you are a vendor who has been requested to present pricing and/or proposals for goods or services, is currently participating in a Smithsonian solicitation for goods or services, or is already providing goods or services to the Smithsonian.

Registration with SAM is free and accomplished via <https://www.sam.gov>. Included with this letter are tips on how to register in SAM. These have been written by the Smithsonian Office of Contracting and Personal Property Management and are intended to convey specific information on how to register with SAM to do business with the Smithsonian. Full guidance on how to register in SAM is available from the Federal Services Help Desk (FSD) and Professional Technical Assistance Centers, as described in the tips.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you received this letter in conjunction with a solicitation or Request for Quote, please address any questions you may have to the Smithsonian point of contact whose name and telephone number are provided therein.

THOMAS E. DEMPSEY
Director

General Tips for Businesses To Register in SAM

1. **There is assistance directly on the SAM website to start registration.** Look for quick start guides and the SAM user manual using the Help tab on the SAM.gov website. These guides are helpful for vendors in completing the SAM registration process.
2. **Registration in SAM is Free.** If you search online for SAM registration your search might return businesses that will assist you with SAM registration for a fee. You are not required to utilize these services, and the Smithsonian does not reimburse for their use. The easiest way to ensure you are in the right location is to navigate directly to www.SAM.gov.
3. **Free assistance with SAM registration is available via the Federal Service Desk (FSD).** This is available at <http://www.fsd.gov>, or at the toll-free number 1-866-606-8220
4. **APEX Accelerators offer free assistance with SAM registration.** These offices are non-profit, non-governmental organizations established to assist you with doing business with the government. You must use the local or regional office closest to your business address. Locate the center nearest at <https://www.apexaccelerators.us/#/>.
5. **You control all information entered into SAM, and may opt out of public searches.** If you choose to opt out of public searches, please notify the Smithsonian employee you are working with and provide confirmation of your SAM registration.
6. **Be sure to keep your SAM registration up-to-date.** After you have completed registration you will be required to update your information if it ever changes (such as mailing address or banking records) and notify Smithsonian staff as soon as possible. Keep your Unique Entity Identifier Number in a safe place, you will need it to renew or update your registration.

Tips on Valid Registrations:

7. **Your registration must be active before the purchase can be made.** Obtaining a Unique Entity Identifier only is only the first step to a complete registration. You must complete all steps thereafter and be listed in SAM with a record labeled “Active.”
8. **If you have a registration that inactive, then your registration must be made active before you can receive a procurement.** Inactive records cannot be used for a purchase. Your SAM registration must be active throughout the term of the award.
9. **If you have a registration that requires updates then your updates must be complete before you can receive a procurement.** Changes to information including (but not limited to) company or contact names, banking information, and addresses must be completed before you may receive an award. If changes to any information in your SAM registration must be made during the timeframe of an award then you must notify the Procurement Officer who issued the award within two business days of the change in information.
10. **You must register as eligible to receive “All Awards” to qualify for Smithsonian Awards.** In the SAM registration process, you will be asked for your purpose of registration. The question is “Why are you registering this entity to do business with the U.S. Government?” You must answer this question with “I want to be able to bid on federal contracts or other government opportunities. I also want to be able to apply for grants, loans, and other financial assistance programs.” This option will allow you to accept procurements issued by the Smithsonian. Do not select “I only want to apply for federal assistance opportunities like grants, loans, and other financial assistance programs.” If you register for assistance opportunities only then procurements may be delayed until your record is corrected.

11. **The name of your business (entity) that you enter in SAM must match your IRS Tax Payer Consent Name.** This will be the name that Smithsonian will use to register your entity in our internal payment and tax reporting system. If your SAM entity name and your Tax Payer Consent Name differ this can create problems during the Smithsonian vendor enrollment and tax reporting processes, as well as for you when paying taxes. (These two names may be allowed to differ only if you are a single member LLC, and you report and pay taxes to the IRS using the owners name and tax id. In this case, IRS will count the owners name and tax id as the legal business name while disregarding the legal business name of the LLC registered in SAM.)

Tips on Entity Administrators

SAM requires each non-federal entity to have someone with the role of Entity Administrator. SAM will appoint the Entity Administrator role to the first individual who registers a new business entity. They will have the capability to update, renew and end your registration. They will also have the authority to appoint administrative roles with SAM to your entity's staff and to assign other users within your entity to become an Entity Administrator. This administrator must be an employee of your entity. Information for new Entity Administrators and on role assignment is found in the FSD knowledge base.

It is important that your entity always have a current Entity Administrator. If, for any reason your, Entity Administrator leaves your entity before appointing a replacement and you do not have a current administrator, then you must follow the process to appoint a replacement. This process includes submitting a notarized Entity Administrator Appointment Letter and may take several weeks to complete. Your SAM registration will not be editable or renewable until you have a new Entity Administrator. Information on appointing a replacement Entity Administrator is found in the FSD knowledge base.