

## **GSA Gets New Authority to Help State and Local Governments**

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WASHINGTON – The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) received new authority to help state and local governments in purchasing homeland security equipment and services under the Local Preparedness Acquisitions Act (HB 3179) signed by President Bush on June 25, 2008.

“This is wonderful news for the American people and a big improvement to the status quo,” said Acting Administrator David Bibb. “State and local governments can now take advantage of GSA’s volume discounts for the supplies and services that will help keep our citizens secure.”

The new law authorizes the GSA Administrator to allow state, local, and tribal governments to buy homeland security goods and services through the cooperative purchasing program. Officials will be able to use GSA’s Schedule 84 to buy items such as: alarm systems, facility management systems, firefighting and rescue equipment, law enforcement and security equipment, and marine craft.

Federal Acquisition Service Commissioner Jim Williams said, “GSA’s ability to leverage the federal government’s enormous buying power enables us to provide goods and services at best value and pass the savings on to our client agencies. Now we can pass these discounts on to state and local governments, while also allowing for enhanced security through greater interoperability possibilities across the federal, state and local environment. That’s a win-win for our customers and the American taxpayers.”

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GSA provides a centralized delivery system of products and services to the federal government, leveraging its enormous buying power to get the best value for taxpayers.

- Founded in 1949, GSA manages more than one-fourth of the government’s total procurement dollars and influences the management of \$500 billion in federal assets, including 8,600 government-owned or leased buildings and 208,000 vehicles.
- GSA helps preserve our past and define our future, as a steward of more than 420 historic properties, and as manager of USA.gov, the official portal to federal government information and services.
- GSA’s mission to provide superior workplaces, expert technology solutions, acquisition services, purchasing and E-Gov travel solutions and management policies, at best value, allows federal agencies to focus on their core missions.