

**6.401 Sealed bidding and competitive proposals.**

Sealed bidding and competitive proposals, as described in Parts 14 and 15, are both acceptable procedures for use under Subparts 6.1, 6.2; and, when appropriate, under Subpart 6.3.

(a) Sealed bids. (See part 14 for procedures.) Contracting officers *shall* solicit sealed bids if-

(1) Time permits the solicitation, submission, and evaluation of sealed bids;

(2) The award will be made on the basis of price and other price-related factors;

(3) It is not necessary to conduct discussions with the responding offerors about their bids; and

(4) There is reasonable expectation of receiving more than one sealed bid.

(b) Competitive proposals. (See part 15 for procedures.)

(1) Contracting officers may request competitive proposals *if sealed bids are not appropriate under paragraph (a) above.*