

A TRADE PUBLICATION FOR FEDERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

Federal Construction Magazine

Issue 1 · October 2026

SAMPLE — FREE EXCERPT

What the courts, the boards and the rulemakers changed this month — and what it means for your next bid. Decisions Desk · Rule Watch · Small Business · Claims & Disputes · Costs · Agency Focus.

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General information, not legal advice. Advertising positions in this issue are marked *THIS SPACE AVAILABLE* until sold.

This is a free sample excerpt of Issue 1, not the paid issue. It contains the cover, the editor's letter and the first two Decisions Desk items. The full, 15-page issue and the searchable archive are what the \$99/year subscription pays for. To subscribe, or to request advertising rates, email support@federalconstructionmagazine.com.

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1. Editor's letter — what this issue is, and what we promise
2. The Decisions Desk — first two items (sample)

The full 15-page issue also carries the complete Decisions Desk (six items), Rule Watch (five), Small Business (five), Claims & Disputes (three), Costs & Economy and Agency Focus. Those sections are not included in this free sample.

EDITOR'S LETTER

This is Issue 1, the first monthly issue of Federal Construction Magazine.

Every item in this issue is a summary of a named firm's published analysis or a primary data source, dated and linked, with our position stated. That is what the magazine is: what the courts, the boards and the rulemakers changed this month, filtered to federal construction, with a plain line on what each item means for your next bid.

The monthly issue is what the subscription pays for, alongside the archive. The weekly Decisions Desk digest stays free. If a week yields nothing we can source, we publish a skip notice rather than fill space — a schedule is a promise, and a quiet week is announced, not hidden.

What you can expect each month: the Decisions Desk (what the courts and boards did), Rule Watch (what the rulemakers changed), and the desks that have something sourced on small business, claims, costs and agency programmes. What you will not get is a page of hedges. Where a decision leaves contractors worse off, we say so.

— The Decisions Desk

THE DECISIONS DESK

Six things a court, a board, GAO or an appellate panel did this month, each with a plain line on what it means for your next bid.

1. GAO: an agency has to actually ask the conflict question

DECISIONS DESK · GAO · 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

GAO sustained a protest where the agency's conflict-of-interest investigation was found unreasonable because it never asked the awardee whether it had a business relationship with anyone on the evaluation team. In *Viderity Inc. – Costs*, GAO held the agency's inquiry inadequate: it "failed to inquire with" the awardee as to the relationship before making the award. A shallow paper inquiry is not an investigation.

Our position. If you think a competitor has an unfair relationship with the evaluation team, the strength of your protest turns on what the agency asked and recorded, not on what you suspect. Put the concern in writing early and ask the agency to document its inquiry — before award, if you can, and in a GAO protest if you cannot.

Source: Covington, *Inside Government Contracts* — [GAO Finds Conflict Investigation Unreasonable Where Agency Failed to Ask Awardee About Business Relationship](#) (30 Sep 2026).

2. Federal Circuit resolves a split on IDIQ awardee standing

DECISIONS DESK · FEDERAL CIRCUIT · 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

When an agency runs a multiple-award IDIQ competition, awardees often wonder whether they can protest the award to other companies at the Court of Federal Claims. The Federal Circuit resolved the court split over whether a disappointed offeror has standing to bring that challenge, settling who can get into court.

Our position. If you lost an IDIQ and are weighing a protest, standing is now on firmer ground in the Federal Circuit. Flag it to counsel before the protest deadline passes — a standing question resolved late is a protest lost on procedure.

Source: Crowell, *Government Contracts Legal Forum* — [Federal Circuit Resolves Court Split Over IDIQ Awardee Standing](#) (29 Sep 2026).

END OF SAMPLE

This excerpt ends here. The full Issue 1 runs 15 pages and carries the complete Decisions Desk, Rule Watch, Small Business, Claims & Disputes, Costs & Economy and Agency Focus, each item dated and linked to its source with our position stated.

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