



# 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 is already providing goods or services to the Smithsonian, have been requested to present pricing and/or proposals for goods or services, or currently participating in a Smithsonian solicitation for goods or services. Smithsonian employees are not authorized to complete contract and purchase order awards to vendors whose SAM registrations cannot be verified as active.

Registration with SAM is free and best accomplished via <https://www.sam.gov>. Before you begin SAM registration you will be required to obtain a DUNS number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). Access to D&B is available from the SAM website or at the company website, <http://www.dandb.com>. DUNS numbers are free when you indicate the number is needed to complete registration for U.S. government contract and grant awards. **Please note: Both the SAM and D&B websites include advertisements for private businesses offering registration assistance and other services for a fee. The utilization of such businesses is at your discretion and any fees paid are not reimbursable by the Smithsonian.**

Free assistance with SAM registration is available via the Federal Service Desk (FSD) at <http://www.fsd.gov>, 24 hours a day, or at the toll-free number 1-866-606-8220, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm ET. Free assistance with SAM registration and obtaining a DUNS number is also available from a local or regional Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC). These centers are non-profit, non-governmental organizations established to assist you with doing business with the government. Locate the center nearest at <http://www.aptac-us.org>. 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 FSD and PTACs.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Dempsey", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas E. Dempsey  
Deputy Director

PO Box 37012, CC 350, MRC 1200  
Washington, DC 20013-7012  
202.633.7290 Telephone  
202.633.7410 Help Desk

### **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. **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.
3. **Your IRS Tax Payer Consent Name in SAM must match your Legal Business Name in Duns and Bradstreet (D&B).** The Smithsonian will use your Legal Business Name in D&B to register you in our internal payment and tax reporting system. If your Legal Business Name in D&B and your Tax Payer Consent Name in SAM do not match this will create problems for you both while receiving payment from the Smithsonian and when paying taxes. (These two names may be different 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.)
4. **You must register as eligible to receive Federal Contracts.** When establishing an account, vendors have the option to register to receive either “Federal Contracts” or “Federal Assistance Awards Only.” Federal contracts covers all procurement transactions issued by the Smithsonian and to do business with a vendor they must be registered appropriately. The Smithsonian does not distribute federal assistance awards, and cannot do business with vendors who are registered only to receive such awards.
5. **There can be no breaks in registration after completion.** 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. You will also be required to validate your registration at least annually. Your SAM registration must be active throughout the term of the award and when modifications or amendments to awards are required.