

## Embracing Business Development: Marketing Your Company in the Federal Marketplace

Ameeta Soni VP, Marketing & Business Development VFA, Inc.

## **About VFA**

 Leading provider of software and services for facilities capital planning and management

 Enables clients to optimize investments in facilities and infrastructure

Almost 300 clients in education;
 federal, state and local government;
 healthcare and corporate markets





## VFA Capital Planning & Management Solution

## Facility Assessments

+

# Capital Planning Software



# Business Process Consulting

- Facility condition
- Systems lifecycle
- Functional adequacy
- Inventory collection
- Facility security
- Energy efficiency
- Environmental

- VFA.facility® for expert capital planning
- VFA.auditor<sup>™</sup> for guided facility evaluations
- AssetFusion™ for application integration
- Hosting & subscription service

- Capital planning process
- Capital project planning
- Decision support analysis
- Database management
- Capital plan presentations

VFA has assessed over 100,000 properties.

VFA software manages over 2 billion square feet of facilities.



## The VFA Story

- Spun off from engineering firm in 1998
- Initial focus on education market
- Federal market profile attractive
- GSA first client in federal market
- GSA Schedule opened doors in other agencies
- Today over 15 federal agencies are clients



## General Services Administration



#### THE ORGANIZATION

- Largest US public real estate organization
  - 342 million sq. feet across 11 regions
  - 8,000 buildings (owned and leased)

#### THE CHALLENGE

- Need to meet congressional and GAO requirements and budget expectations
- Out-of-date, inconsistent facilities data
- Need to prioritize projects on building maintenance and renewal list
- How to optimally distribute limited labor and financial resources

#### **SOLUTION**

- Deployed Web-based self assessment questionnaire
  - Captured data on 182 million square feet of owned property in 2 months
- Provided a logical, prioritized assessment schedule/process
  - "Draining the swamp"
- Deployed VFA software for more granular look at a buildings condition and requirements



## **GSA Schedule**

- Dominant "contracting vehicle" for small businesses
- Federal buyers prefer to lengthy public bid process
- Cuts down on expensive proposal generation & individual contracts
- Services and software
  - Information Technology (IT)
  - Management, Organizational & Business Improvement Services (MOBIS)
- IT products/services schedule available for state and local use





## Partnering

- Access to contracts
- Leverage relationships
- Improve credibility
- Strengthen competitive edge



- Provide complementary technology/services
- Value add to client





## Communicating the Message



- Marketing vehicles that work well for reaching the federal market:
  - Marketing events Seminars, webinars, participation in Federal "industry days"
  - Direct mail Email, physical mail
  - Public Relations Bylined articles, speaking opportunities
  - Directory listings
- Supported by:
  - Web site Copy, demos, white paper offers
  - Sales collateral



## Tricks of the Trade

- Central Contractor Registration
- Access to RFP services
  - FedBizOpps
  - Onvia, Input
  - Critical to have right keywords and classification
- Security Clearances





## Select VFA Federal Government Clients























- Bonneville Power Administration
- Internal Revenue Service
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- National Institutes of Health
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Army Medical Command
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Federal Emergency Mgmt. Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- U.S. General Services Administration
- U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine



## Select VFA State Government Clients













- Commonwealth of Virginia
  - Dept. of Corrections
  - Dept. of General Services
- Georgia Building Authority
- State of Louisiana
- State of Missouri
  - Dept. of Administration
  - Dept. of Transportation
- State of New Jersey
  - Dept. of Education
- State of Texas
  - Dept. of Mental Health & Mental Retardation



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