

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **AretecSBD Awarded GSA 8(a) STARS III GWAC IDIQ Contract as part of Cohort 2**

**FAIRFAX, VA, February 28, 2022** – AretecSBD, LLC is pleased to announce that we have received an award on the General Services Administration (GSA) 8(a) Streamlined Technology Acquisition Resources for Services (STARS) III Governmentwide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) vehicle. The STARS III GWAC has a \$50 billion ceiling over 8 years and offers government users flexible access to customized IT solutions and emerging technologies from a diverse pool of 8(a) industry partners.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has designated STARS III as the “best-in-class” solution for information technology services. The preferred Governmentwide solution gives government customers access to pre-vetted contract solutions, supports migration to mature and market-proven solutions, and increases available transactional and reporting data to optimize its buying behavior and budget.

In addition, DHS has added STARS III to its suite of preferred vehicles under the Eagle NextGen IT Strategic Solutions portfolio. Protecting the country from ever-evolving threats requires an array of robust Information Technology (IT) services. STARS III gives access to emerging, cutting-edge technologies that are currently unavailable under the portfolio, while also taking into account the upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) standards.

GSA is looking to build off the success of the 8(a) STARS II GWAC and create a contract vehicle that provides a total solution for agencies’ requirements while maximizing opportunities for 8(a) small businesses. In line with Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637 and FAR 19.8) and FAR 16.505(b)(2)(i)(E), sole source awards are allowed up to a total contract value of \$4.5M.

Solutions By Design II, LLC (SBD) the Mentor member of AretecSBD is also a current awardee on the STARS II GWAC. SBD is one of the most successful organizations in the STARS II program as a sole holder as well as a founding and managing member of Estrela Tech, LLC (ET) Joint Venture. Throughout the life of the vehicle, SBD in combination with ET (as the sole member to perform all work under the JV) have been awarded 51 Task Orders valued at over \$233M across 14 different agencies (CMS, DCMA, DISA, DLA, DOI, EPA, FEC, HUD, Navy, SBA, USCIS, USDA, USDT, and USTRANSCOM), ranking SBD 10<sup>th</sup> (of 782 vendors to receive a task order award) in terms of channeling work to the STARS II vehicle.

“It’s extremely exciting to be a part of GSA’s premier 8(a) small business set-aside GWAC, not only for the second iteration, but now for its third” said Gregory Goldbach, SBD’s Director, Acquisition Programs & Strategy. “We are even more thrilled to be able to do this supporting Aretec, Inc. through the SBA Mentor-Protégé Program. This is truly a testament to our organization’s growth and maturity along with the dedication our folks have to help enable the government of tomorrow through our efforts on every program, every project, every day!”

AretecSBD's capabilities, across distinct disciplines, allow us to serve our clients' broad range of requirements in support of their mission. Our diverse teams of subject matter experts work collaboratively with our clients, leveraging their mission and program knowledge, experience, and commitment to deliver excellence to address their unique needs. Unlike most small business peers, AretecSBD has made the commitment necessary to both promote innovation and reduce management risk across our federal engagements. AretecSBD's Innovation Center, SOC-as-a-Service, Software Factory, and Task Order Management Portals are just a few of the innovations we leverage to support our commitment to facilitate research, replicate development environments, share knowledge, and reduce costs.

For more information on GSA 8(a) STARS III, please visit the U.S. GSA website at: [HTTP://WWW.GSA.GOV/STARS3](http://www.gsa.gov/stars3)

#### ABOUT ARETECSBD LLC

AretecSBD is a joint venture (JV) Small Business Administration (SBA) All Small Mentor Protégé approved company and an SBA 8(a) Program Participant. This company is comprised of Aretec, Inc., the Managing Protégé company, and Solutions By Design II, LLC (SBD), the large business mentor. Our certifications include Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI®) For Services and Development Maturity Level 3 practices, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001: Quality Management System (QMS), ISO/IEC 20000: IT Services Management System (ITSM), and ISO/IEC 27001: Information Security Management System (ISMS) and DCAA approved accounting system.



**ABOUT SBD:** SBD specializes in IT system modernization and support as an application transformation and agile process leader. SBD leverages open source technologies and cloud-based solutions to reduce operating costs and advance the value proposition of automated solutions. SBD also has a robust cybersecurity capability optimizing security operation centers through the use of workflow automation, technical expertise, and the use of leading edge security tools. Bottom line, SBD delivers technically innovative, reliable, and cost-effective solutions, services, and products to our federal customers.

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