

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

February 28, 2020

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Government Operations

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Making IT a Priority for the Federal Government”

On **Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., in room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee will hold a hearing to examine whether programs at the General Services Administration (GSA) designed to facilitate the modernization of existing technologies and the adoption of new technologies are delivering solutions efficiently, securely, and in a cost-effective manner. This hearing will specifically focus on 18F, Centers of Excellence (CoE), Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions (EIS), and the online marketplace.

I. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE HEARING

The Federal Acquisition Service at GSA operates several programs to help agencies modernize their information technology infrastructure and adopt new technologies such as artificial intelligence.

18F seeks to improve federal agencies’ delivery of services to the public through improvements to agency technology procurement. Agencies looking for an agile approach to software development can partner with this program to mitigate issues related to incomplete and changing requirements, which may arise while technology systems update.

CoE is a White House initiative to improve government services by accelerating Information Technology (IT) modernization. The program seeks to accelerate the modernization process by leveraging private sector innovation and government services while centralizing best practices and expertise.

GSA is responsible for ensuring that federal agencies have access to telecommunications services and solutions needed to meet mission requirements. The EIS contract vehicle will provide federal agencies with an opportunity to transition to modern telecommunication services that offer cost savings and improved functionalities. Agencies have until May 2023 to transition all telecommunication contracts to EIS.

As mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, GSA is creating an online marketplace for federal purchase card transactions under the micro purchase limit of \$10,000. While this platform is still being developed, potential sellers have expressed concerns about how GSA will address the issue of counterfeit products, supply-chain management, and the use of pricing data by the owners of the marketplace.

II. WITNESSES

Carol C. Harris

Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity
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Bill Zielinski

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