

CRS Report for Congress

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Iraq Reconstruction Resources: Fact Sheet

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Summary

The conclusion of major military actions in the U.S.-led coalition's war to change the regime in Iraq spawned a major effort to rebuild the infrastructure and government of the country. Reconstruction efforts continue in Iraq despite ongoing hostilities. The Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (P.L. 108-11) and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (P.L. 108-106) provide more than \$20 billion in funding for initiatives and projects for the rebuilding of postwar Iraq. Under this legislation, several federal departments and agencies have awarded contracts for the reconstruction effort. This fact sheet provides Internet links to the federal agencies or departments currently involved in the contracting process, along with their specific Iraq reconstruction programs underway or proposed. It provides overview information on federal agency contract solicitations, application procedures, and contact information where appropriate. For background information on reconstruction efforts and policy, see also CRS Report RL32229, *Iraq: Frequently Asked Questions About Contracting*; CRS Report RL31833, *Iraq: Recent Developments in Reconstruction Assistance*; and CRS Report RS21555, *Iraq Reconstruction: Frequently Asked Questions Concerning the Application of Federal Procurement Statutes*. This report will be updated as events warrant.

Introduction

The U.S. government solicited public and private involvement in the reconstruction of Iraq in the wake of major military action in 2003. Reconstruction activities, though hampered by ongoing hostilities, continue in Iraq. The Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (P.L. 108-11) and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004

(P.L. 108-106) provide a sum of more than \$20 billion in funding for initiatives and projects for the rebuilding of postwar Iraq. It is possible that additional needs will be identified and proposed to Congress for authorization. Iraq's interim government and other U.S. federal agencies identified below are designated to lead or administer the effort with the solicitation of bids for contracts and selection of private sector entities to undertake reconstruction related work.

Iraq Reconstruction — U.S. Federal Agency Role

Primary authority for the awarding and administration of Iraq reconstruction contracts was originally assigned to the Program Management Office (PMO) under the U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), the agency established to temporarily rule Iraq and implement assistance programs for Iraq. On June 28, 2004, the CPA was dissolved as Iraq regained its sovereignty.

The United States will continue to provide reconstruction assistance and policy guidance to the interim Iraqi government through the U.S. embassy in Baghdad. A temporary Iraq Reconstruction Management Office (IRMO) has been created within the embassy to coordinate previous CPA assistance efforts. The former CPA's Program Management Office (PMO), although changing its name to the Project and Contracting Office (PCO), continues to be responsible for program management and contracts and remains within the Department of Defense. The PCO website provides contract information, requests for bids on proposals, application and bidding procedures, and the outcome of awards for contracts.

The U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Commerce are the primary federal agencies working with the PCO to administer contracts or provide information on the reconstruction of Iraq. As with the PCO, these agencies, via their websites, provide introductory information on the nature and scope of projects, contract details, the requests for bids on proposals, application and bidding procedures, and the subsequent awarding of contracts. The websites also provide additional business information resources on Iraq's reconstruction.

Iraq Project and Contracting Office (PCO)

[<http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net/>]

The PCO in Baghdad is responsible for selecting and overseeing Iraq reconstruction prime contracts. This site includes links to the "Awarded PCO Prime Contracts" and "Frequently Asked Questions" with the names of companies, values of the awards, and information on the process of contracting in Iraq. PCO's Public Affairs contact in the United States is listed below:

John Procter
Media Relations
Project and Contracting Office
Washington, DC
Tel: (703) 697-8356
john.procter@hqda.army.mil

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

[<http://www.usaid.gov/iraq/>]

USAID is the lead federal agency for disbursing and administering U.S. foreign assistance, including reconstruction project business contracts. USAID developed this Assistance for Iraq website to guide interested parties through the contracting process. It includes a link to the bidding process and contract awards for the majority of competitively-bid Iraq rebuilding projects at [<http://www.usaid.gov/iraq/activities.html>]. Information at the website includes the Requests for Proposals (RFPs), the awards, and guides to the application and qualifying processes for businesses. USAID may be contacted at the following address:

U.S. Agency for International Development Information Center
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, DC 20523-1000
Tel: (202) 712-4810; fax: (202) 216-3524

U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

[<http://cpolsdev.belvoir.army.mil/sofia/>]

DOD's "Support Our Friends in Iraq and Afghanistan (SOFIA)" website solicits interest and seeks to hire "motivated civilian employees" as temporary contract workers to assist in rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan. This DOD program seeks those skilled in civil engineering, banking, agriculture, education, communications, and security, as well as other professions or trades. The website states that applicants must be willing to live under field conditions. Foreign language aptitude and prior military experience are also listed as helpful but not required. DOD may be contacted at the following address:

U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)
Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC)
8725 John J. Kingman Road
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-6218
Tel: (703) 428-0711; fax: (703) 767-8228

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

[<http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/iraq/iraq.htm>]

The USACE is the Army branch most directly involved to date in physical repair and reconstruction activities on the ground in Iraq. Its website tracks military-related and infrastructure reconstruction projects. While USACE is not currently soliciting for contractors to work in Iraq, information on potential contracting opportunities via a Department of Defense hotline at (866) 461-5171 and reference to the Federal Business Opportunities website [<http://www.fedbizopps.gov>] is provided. The USACE website also discusses the decision making process and previous contract awards for businesses. Contact information for USACE is as follows:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000
Tel: (202) 761-0001; fax: (202) 761-1683

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)

[<http://www.export.gov/iraq/>]

DOC established a comprehensive website for the Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Force to provide information and help U.S. companies participate in the economic rebuilding of Iraq. This site serves as a clearinghouse of information from federal agencies participating in the bidding and contracting process. Awarded contracts include construction services contracts for Iraq's infrastructure and program management contracts, under the authority of the PCO. A regularly updated document, "Doing Business in Iraq; Frequently Asked Questions," is directly linked to the page, at [<http://www.export.gov/iraq/>]. There are links to the announcements of other government agencies involved in Iraq-related projects, such as the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Defense.

Also provided is a regularly updated "Business Guide for Iraq," with current information on reconstruction plans, commercial conditions in Iraq, important business contacts, and procedures concerning trade regulations, licensing, and investment strategies. In addition, there are links to subcontracting information, including announcements of contracting regulations seminars and registration information for U.S. companies. DOC may be contacted at the following address:

U.S. Department of Commerce
Iraq Business Outreach Hotline
Herbert Hoover Building, Room 3424
Fourteenth Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230
Tel: (866) 352-4727; fax: (202) 482-0980

Iraq Reconstruction — Business and Contracting Information

The process of selling products or services to the federal government can be a complicated procedure for businesses. However, increased access to information, especially through the Internet, and recent laws mandating streamlined procurement and contracting procedures make it easier for businesses to identify procurement opportunities and to contact agencies.

Due to the postwar environment and current economic conditions in Iraq, one should not expect normal business practices and procedures for commercial activities. On May 23, 2003, the Office of Foreign Assets Control in the Department of the Treasury issued revised sanctions regulations for Iraq; these authorized many previously prohibited transactions, at [<http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/sanctions/iraq.txt>]. These regulations permit U.S. exports of many goods and services to Iraq. However, it is essential to check directly with the agency one wishes to do business with regarding Iraq reconstruction.

The Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Force site of the Department of Commerce at [<http://www.export.gov/iraq/>] updates several guides to announce changes in the business climate and travel conditions, including the following documents:

- "Doing Business in Iraq; Frequently Asked Questions"
- "Business Guide for Iraq"