



**Comptroller General
of the United States**

Washington, D.C. 20548

B-233008

December 29, 1988

The Honorable Edward C. Aldridge, Jr.
The Secretary of the Air Force

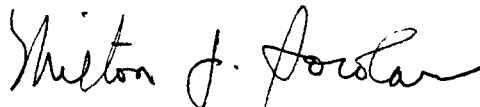
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is a copy of our decision of today sustaining the protest of STR Painting, Inc., concerning the rejection of STR's bid submitted in response to invitation for bids No. F64605-88-B-A026, issued by Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. We sustain the protest based upon our finding that the failure of the protester's individual sureties to disclose an outstanding bond obligation in this case was insufficient to support a nonresponsibility determination.

We are recommending that if the Air Force determines that the individual sureties are acceptable, award should be made to STR, if otherwise proper. We also find that STR is entitled to recover the costs of filing and pursuing this protest. See 31 U.S.C. § 3554(c) (Supp. IV 1986); 4 C.F.R. §§ 21.6(d) and (e) (1988).

Since the enclosed decision contains a recommendation for corrective action, we direct your attention to the Competition in Contracting Act of 1984, 31 U.S.C. § 3554(e)(i), which requires that the head of the procuring activity responsible for the solicitation report to our Office if the agency has not fully implemented our recommendation within 60 days of receipt of our decision. In any event, please advise our Office of the action taken on this recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

for 
Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure

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