## 3.603 Responsibilities of the contracting officer.

- (a) Before awarding a contract, the contracting officer shall obtain an authorization under 3.602 if-
- (1) The contracting officer knows, or has reason to believe, that a prospective contractor is one to which award is otherwise prohibited under <u>3.601</u>; and
- (2) There is a most compelling reason to make an award to that prospective contractor.
- (b) The contracting officer shall comply with the requirements and guidance in  $\underline{\text{subpart } 9.5}$  before awarding a contract to an organization owned or substantially owned or controlled by Government employees.