

technical and 37.65 price). He states that, while Telex's offer was lower in price than that of BellSouth, BellSouth's proposal was significantly superior technically to that of Telex. Given the 60-40% split favoring the technical score, as well as the wide disparity between the two offerors' technical scores, the contracting officer concludes that award was correctly made.

In Management Concepts, Inc., P.S. Protest No. 86-29, July 10, 1986, we set out the standard of review by which protests against the evaluation and scoring of proposals are to be judged:

[T]his office will not substitute its judgment for that of the evaluators or disturb the evaluation unless it is shown to be arbitrary or in violation of procurement regulations. H & B Telephone Systems, [P.S. Protest No. 83-61, February 6, 1984]; Amdahl Corporation, P.S. Protest No. 81-34, September 29, 1981. The determination of the relative merits of technical proposals is the responsibility of the contracting officer. This office does not resolve disputes on the scoring of technical proposals. Computer Systems & Resources, Inc., [P.S. Protest No. 86-9, March 27, 1986], citing Mid-Atlantic Forestry Services, Inc., Comp. Gen. Dec. B-217334, September 9, 1985, 85-2 CPD &279.

* * *

[T]he assignment of numerical scores or ratings to a proposal is an attempt to quantify what is essentially a subjective judgment. This is an accepted procedure. Book Fare, Inc., P.S. Protest No. 80-29, July 3, 1980; Didactic Systems, Inc., Comp. Gen. Dec. B-190507, June 7, 1978, 78-1 CPD &418. "The determination of the desirability of proposals is largely subjective, primarily the responsibility of the

procuring [activity], and not subject to objection ... unless shown to be unreasonable, arbitrary, or violative of the law." High Plains Consultants, Comp. Gen. Dec. B-215383, October 18, 1984, 84-2 CPD &418; Credit Bureau Reports, Inc., Comp. Gen. Dec. B-209780, June 20, 1983, 83-1 CPD &670.

We have reviewed the technical evaluation of the offerors and conclude that, while there is a disagreement between Telex and the contracting officer as to the evaluated weight of its proposal, there is no basis upon which to conclude that the evaluation of its proposal was arbitrary or capricious. The determinations of the technical evaluators and the contracting officer are reasonable and supported in the record.

The protest is denied.

William J. Jones
Associate General Counsel
Office of Contracts and Property Law

[checked against original JLS 3/12/93]