

December 4, 2002 - Bethesda, MD - NetStar-1 receives ECS III contract award from the National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health's Information Technology Acquisition and Assessment Center (NITAAC) has announced that NetStar-1, Inc. is one of the selected 66 vendors to be awarded the ECS III contract. The contract, 263-03-D-0535, includes products from Cisco, Sun, EMC, Compaq, H-P, Network Appliance, Egenera, BEA Systems, WatchFire, SGI, Sony, and others, plus professional services to help design, implement and support these powerful solutions.

In selecting the vendors for the 10-year, \$6 billion ECS III, NIH sought companies with high-level clearances and the ability to deliver orders within seven days — a requirement of the heightened security following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. "We want to make this the homeland security vehicle of choice," said Elmer Sembly, NITAAC communications director.

Larry Allen, executive vice president of the Coalition for Government Procurement, a Washington, D.C., industry group, said ECS III is the "first established program that has recast itself" as a homeland security vehicle. "They are moving very aggressively to market the program as an alternative to the [General Services Administration] schedule and trying to establish brand identity." ECS II, awarded to 45 vendors in 1997, handled \$1.2 billion in business, according to NIH.