

# 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 has spawned a major effort to rebuild the infrastructure and government of the country. The U.S. government is at the forefront of these efforts. In the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (P.L. 108-11), Congress appropriated \$2.5 billion for reconstruction. Under this legislation, it is anticipated that many federal departments and agencies will award contracts for the reconstruction effort. This fact sheet provides Internet links to federal agencies or departments currently involved in the reconstruction process, and 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 RL31833, *Iraq: Recent Developments in Humanitarian and 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 has taken the first steps in soliciting public and private involvement in the reconstruction of Iraq. The Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (P.L. 108-11), provides \$2.5 billion in funding for initiatives and projects for the rebuilding of postwar Iraq. It is expected that additional needs will be identified and proposed to Congress for authorization. Federal agencies identified below have been designated to lead and 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**

The U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Commerce are the primary federal agencies administering contracts and providing information on the reconstruction of Iraq to date. These agencies, via their Web sites, 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 Web sites also provide additional business information resources on Iraq's reconstruction.

### **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**

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

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

U.S. Agency for International Development Information Center  
Ronald Reagan Building  
Washington, D.C. 20523-1000  
Tel: 202-712-4810; Fax: 202-216-3524

### **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 Web site 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 Web site [<http://www.fedbizopps.gov>] is provided. The USACE Web site also discusses the decision making process and previous contract awards for businesses. Contact information:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20314-1000  
Tel: 202-761-0001; Fax: 202-761-1683

**U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)**

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

The DOC has established a comprehensive Web site for the Iraq Reconstruction Task Force, to help U.S. companies participate in the economic rebuilding of Iraq. This site brings together information from federal agencies participating in the bidding and contracting process. It also serves as a clearinghouse for notifications of federal activities related to private sector bidding for Iraq-related projects. There are links to the announcements of other government agencies, such as the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Defense. The site publishes a biweekly “Business Guide for Iraq” [[http://www.export.gov/iraq/commercial/businessguide\\_current.html#contacts](http://www.export.gov/iraq/commercial/businessguide_current.html#contacts)], which has 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 contractor-supplier conferences and registration information for U.S. companies. Contact information:

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Iraq Business Outreach Hotline  
Herbert Hoover Building, Room 3424  
14<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230  
Tel: 1-866-352-4727; Fax: 1-202-482-0980

**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 are making 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. For the most current information on business opportunities and conditions, the Department of Commerce updates the “Business Guide for Iraq,” at [[http://www.export.gov/iraq/commercial/businessguide\\_current.html#contacts](http://www.export.gov/iraq/commercial/businessguide_current.html#contacts)] every two weeks or when there are major changes to reflect the situation in Iraq.

For general information on federal business opportunities, CRS Info Pack 305B, *Business: Doing Business with the Federal Government*, provides background information and Web sites on doing business with the federal government and on obtaining federal contracts.