

Authorization Partner Overview GovPoint Cloud Services®

MIS Sciences Corporation – FedRAMP Cloud Service Provider
JAB P-ATO

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MIS Sciences Corporation • 2550 N Hollywood Way • Suite 404 • Burbank, CA 91505
818.847.0213 • 877-262-3923
info@mis-sciences.com • www.mis-sciences.com

Contents

Abstract.....	iii
GovPoint Cloud Services Partner Program Overview	4
What types of offerings does MIS consider for a partner relationship?.....	4
Hardware and Appliances	4
Software Applications and Virtual Appliances	5
Extended Boundary	5
How To Become a GovPoint FedRAMP Cloud Partner.....	5
Initial Evaluation.....	5
Hosting Requirements	5
Security Evaluation	6
Onboarding	6
Market Your Product	7
Fees	8
Initial evaluation	8
Onboarding	8
Monthly Maintenance.....	9
Monthly Hosting	9
Assessment	9
Usage Rights - Annual Renewal	9
About MIS Sciences Corporation	9

Abstract

MIS Sciences Corporation (MIS) is a FedRAMP authorized Cloud Service Provider (CSP) for IaaS/PaaS/SaaS with a JAB P-ATO. MIS offers its FedRAMP authorized cloud services under GovPoint Cloud Services (GCS).

Without FedRAMP authorization, it is difficult, if not impossible, to offer a cloud service or application to the Federal Government. Obtaining a FedRAMP authorization is an expensive and time consuming task, costing up to \$2.5 million and taking 9-24 months. Even after nearly a million dollars in expenses in becoming FedRAMP Ready, there are no guarantees of being accepted into the FedRAMP program.

MIS is continually looking for services and applications that can complement its current FedRAMP offerings, thus offering a broader range of services at a reduced cost to Federal and State government agencies.

The accepted service or application will optionally be included in the MIS GSA MAS IT 70 schedule for sale to Government agencies as a FedRAMP authorized.

As an SBA Woman Owned Small Business, it opens additional Government opportunities to sell your product, service, or offering.

Services and applications within the MIS GCS Fedramp boundary can only be offered through MIS and sold under the MIS GSA IT 70 MAS.

For more information:

MIS Sciences Corporation

818-847-0213

sales@mis-sciences.com

www.mis-sciences.com

GovPoint Cloud Services Partner Program Overview

FedRAMP has become mandatory to sell to the Federal Government and many state governments. MIS Sciences Corporation has a JAB P-ATO authorization for its FedRAMP GovPoint Cloud Services (IaaS/PaaS/SaaS).

Unfortunately, obtaining a FedRAMP authorization is impossible for many companies, not just because of the \$2.5+ million in costs, 9 to 24-month approval process, and ongoing monthly expenses. However, being selected for the FedRAMP approval process is difficult at best. Most vendors applying for FedRAMP authorization are unsuccessful.

MIS is looking for vendors with services and applications that will fill voids in our current FedRAMP offerings and have a high probability of success in the Federal Government procurement process.

If accepted by MIS and the onboarding process is completed, the vendor can offer a FedRAMP authorized version of their service or offering through MIS Sciences Corporation.

The partnership does not grant FedRAMP authorization to the vendor; the vendor cannot say or advertise that they are FedRAMP authorized. The vendor can say and advertise that they offer a FedRAMP authorized version of their product or service through their FedRAMP reseller, MIS Sciences Corporation. All FedRAMP sales must go through MIS Sciences Corporation.

What types of offerings does MIS consider for a partner relationship?

MIS accepts three offerings: hardware and physical appliances, software and virtual appliances, and Extended Boundary. Each has different requirements and involves various processes.

Hardware and Appliances

Offerings include storage, specialty computing, specialized environments such as AIX, HPC, Security, etc., and client specific environments. These are part of IaaS/PaaS and cannot be standalone components. They must be part of a complete IaaS environment, which MIS provides.

As an Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) component, they must comply with all applicable NIST 800-53 Rev5 controls.

Software Applications and Virtual Appliances

Offerings include any application for an end user to complete specific tasks, such as accounting, security, development, HR, management, etc., just about anything for an end user to help their business run.

As a Software as a Service (SaaS), they must comply with all applicable NIST 800-53 Rev5 controls. As a SaaS, they are stand alone and inherit all applicable NIST 800-53 Rev5 controls from the underlying MIS IaaS/PaaS.

Extended Boundary

An Extended Boundary is when a partner has a dedicated infrastructure environment with a specific purpose, such as storage pods, specialized compute environments, customer environments, etc., and needs FedRAMP authorization. Extended boundaries are usually hosted in commercial data centers and can comply with the rigid FedRAMP security controls.

An Extended Boundary is an Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) component and must comply with all applicable NIST 800-73 controls. Once approved, it becomes a part of the MIS GSC FedRAMP security boundary.

How To Become a GovPoint FedRAMP Cloud Partner

Initial Evaluation

Contact MIS Sciences for an initial evaluation to determine if your service or offering will be a good fit and considered for further processing. MIS will discuss requirements and associated fees.

Hosting Requirements

NOTE: Does not apply to Extended Boundary

The vendor's hardware, application, or service must be hosted within the MIS infrastructure. The version of the hardware, application, or service must be the version that will be offered to FedRAMP clients.

This permits MIS to perform the required security and compliance evaluations and to test compatibility within the MIS GCS environment.

Hosting is mandatory and must be completed before any other steps occur. Standard hosting fees apply based on the current MIS GCS price schedule.

Security Evaluation

Software Applications and Virtual Appliances

MIS requires the vendor to configure a production version of their application within the MIS Test Environment. The application must be fully functional and have all the components and functionality offered to the end user.

MIS will perform a security and compliance evaluation to determine FedRAMP compliance and identify deficiencies. MIS will then provide the vendor with a list of vulnerabilities and deficiencies and recommendations for remediation.

MIS may require a pre-assessment from a 3PAO or similar to identify possible compliance issues and work with MIS to prepare the SCR for JAB approval. The vendor is responsible for the costs of this pre-assessment.

Before onboarding, the vendor must remediate all Critical, High, and Moderate issues and any identified deficiencies.

Hardware Appliances

MIS requires that the vendor configure their hardware appliance within the MIS test environment. This must include all hardware and networking components and connectivity, as well as all operating systems and applications offered to the end user.

MIS will perform a security and compliance evaluation to determine FedRAMP compliance and identify deficiencies. MIS will then provide the vendor with a list of vulnerabilities and deficiencies and recommendations for remediation.

Before onboarding, the vendor must remediate all Critical, High, and Moderate issues and any identified deficiencies.

Extended Boundary

MIS requires a FedRAMP security controls gap analysis and pre-assessment of the partner infrastructure and data center conducted by a 3PAO to identify any issues and incompatibilities and to assist in preparing the SCR for JAB approval. The partner is responsible for the gap analysis and pre-assessment costs. This is a mandatory requirement

Before onboarding, the vendor must remediate all Critical, High, and Moderate issues and any identified deficiencies.

Onboarding

Host your Application or Hardware *(Does not apply to Extended Boundary)*

Host your application or hardware at MIS within the GPC FedRAMP environment. Fully configure the application or hardware for production as a client will use it. This step does not grant independent FedRAMP authority; your application or hardware is only part of the MIS GCS FedRAMP environment under the MIS FedRAMP P-ATO.

The current MIS GCS hosting fees apply.

Documentation and Fees

Upon receipt of the onboarding fees:

Complete the documentation to allow MIS to add the services or applications to their GSA MAS IT 70 schedule (optional).

Complete the documentation to allow MIS to add the application to the MIS FedRAMP services offering. If the FedRAMP JAB requires an additional assessment by a 3PAO. The vendor is responsible for any fees associated with the assessment and remediation costs.

Complete the documentation to allow MIS to update the GCS SSP to reflect the new addition of services and submit it to the FedRAMP JAB for approval.

Complete the documentation to allow MIS to update the MIS GCS security boundary diagram and network flow, authorized open ports documentation to reflect the new offerings, and submit them to the FedRAMP JAB for approval.

Complete the documentation to allow MIS to update the GCS A-13 inventory to reflect the addition of the services and submit it to the FedRAMP JAB for review.

Complete the documentation to allow MIS to update the GCS continuous monitoring process to include the new services.

Complete a new compliance and security scan. Add any vulnerabilities to the FedRAMP POA&M and submit them using the monthly FedRAMP continuous monitoring documents.

Market Your Product

You can market your product as an offering of MIS Sciences Corporation. When marketing, you can say a FedRAMP version of your product is available from your company or reseller.

Optionally, your product or offering will be listed in the MIS GSA IT 70 MAS along with the price to the Government and discounts offered. Customers can order directly from the MIS GSA IT 70 MAS via their normal ordering process.

Fees

The fees and costs for participation in the MIS Sciences FedRAMP partner program. There are four separate fees:

1. Onboarding
2. Monthly Maintenance
3. Monthly Hosting (does not apply to extended boundary)
4. Assessment (FedRAMP SCR Assessment by 3PAO)
5. Usage Rights Fee – Annual Renewal

These fees are based on the type of offering and complexity. Contact MIS for the fee schedule.

Initial evaluation

There is no cost for the initial evaluation of hardware, virtual appliances, and software. For the Extended Boundary, the partner is responsible for all costs associated with the gap analysis.

Onboarding

The onboarding fee includes:

- Documentation and Implementation fees
- Usage rights fee

The documentation and implementation fee offsets the expense incurred by MIS Sciences for the MIS security evaluations, document preparation, document and SSP changes, JAB interactions, and 3PAO documentation.

The usage rights fee is for the use of the MIS GCS ATO. It is approximately 15-20% of the costs that a company would incur to try and obtain a FedRAMP authorization. A company will spend between \$100,000 and \$250,000 just to become FedRAMP ready, which is a requirement before being considered for the FedRAMP authorization process. The entire process, including authorization, can cost between \$1 million and \$2.5 million and take 9-24 months to complete if a sponsor can be found.

The usage rights fee is due and payable upon complementation of the documentation and before the partner offering is included within the MIS GCS FedRAMP authorization boundary and optionally in the MIS GSA IT 70 MAS.

Monthly Maintenance

The monthly maintenance fee covers the FedRAMP continuous monitoring requirements of scanning, remediation, POA&M completion, weekly JAB meetings, issue remediation, etc.

Monthly Hosting

The cost of hosting the instances or hardware in the GCS FedRAMP environment is based on the current MIS GCS price list as of the invoice date.

Assessment

The FedRAMP JAB may occasionally require additional assessment by a 3PAO or a full significant change request before or at any time after approval. It can be as simple as a POA&M entry to a significant change process involving an SAP (Security Assessment Plan), assessment, and SAR (Security Assessment Report).

An additional assessment may delay the approval and introduction of the services or offers until the assessment is complete and approved by the FedRAMP JAB.

In The case of an assessment, the vendor is responsible for all associated costs.

Usage Rights - Annual Renewal

The right to use the MIS FedRAMP ATO is renewed annually and is non-refundable.

About MIS Sciences Corporation

MIS Sciences Corporation (MIS) is an SBA-certified Woman-Owned Small Business and a GSA IT-70 contractor. Established in 1996, MIS has provided managed services to the public and private sectors and serves as a SUB on many large contracts.

MIS offers Managed Services, Dedicated Hosting, Cloud Services, and FedRAMP cloud services.

In 2014, MIS started the FedRAMP process and, in 2016, was granted a FedRAMP P-ATO at the moderate level for IaaS and PaaS. MIS is the only small business with a FedRAMP IaaS.

MIS does not leverage or inherit services from any other ISP or CSP. MIS manages its data facilities in Burbank, CA, Las Vegas, NV, and Manassas, VA. MIS owns all the infrastructure and hardware, allowing it to provide specialized and custom environments to its clients.

Notes:

1. This document is informational only and implies no guarantees or warranties regarding any service or statement.
2. Any ATO issued by any agency for the partner offering or service shall be issued to MIS Sciences Corporation, GovPoint Cloud Services.
3. MIS Sciences offers no representations or warranties regarding any vendor's product or offering as to inclusion into the GCS FedRAMP ATO.
4. If the vendor fails to remediate any Critical, High, or Moderate finding within FedRAMP guidelines, MIS may discontinue and disconnect the vendor's services from the GCS network without notice.
5. Failure to pay the monthly fees will result in service termination.
6. Prior assessments or FedRAMP Ready status may minimize the initial security assessment but will not have any impact on any of the fees required by MIS.