

Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement

Part 234—Major System Acquisition

(Revised December 7, 2011)

234.001 Definition.

As used in this subpart—

“Acceptable earned value management system” and “earned value management system” are defined in the clause at [252.234-7002](#), Earned Value Management System.

“Significant deficiency” is defined in the clause at [252.234-7002](#), Earned Value Management System, and is synonymous with “noncompliance.”

234.003 Responsibilities.

DoDD 5000.01, The Defense Acquisition System, and DoDI 5000.02, Operation of the Defense Acquisition System, contain the DoD implementation of OMB Circular A-109 and OMB Circular A-11.

234.004 Acquisition strategy.

(1) See [209.570](#) for policy applicable to acquisition strategies that consider the use of lead system integrators.

(2) In accordance with Section 818 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Pub. L. 109-364), for major defense acquisition programs as defined in 10 U.S.C. 2430—

(i) The Milestone Decision Authority shall select, with the advice of the contracting officer, the contract type for a development program at the time of Milestone B approval or, in the case of a space program, Key Decision Point B approval;

(ii) The basis for the contract type selection shall be documented in the acquisition strategy. The documentation—

(A) Shall include an explanation of the level of program risk; and

(B) If program risk is determined to be high, shall outline the steps taken to reduce program risk and the reasons for proceeding with Milestone B approval despite the high level of program risk; and

(iii) If a cost-type contract is selected, the contract file shall include the Milestone Decision Authority’s written determination that—

(A) The program is so complex and technically challenging that it would not be practicable to reduce program risk to a level that would permit the use of a fixed-price type contract; and

(B) The complexity and technical challenge of the program is not the result of a failure to meet the requirements of 10 U.S.C. 2366a.

See Class Deviation [2013-O0009](#), entitled **Prohibition on the Use of Cost-Type Contracts for Production of Major Defense Acquisition Programs, dated March 11, 2013, which prohibits the use of a cost-type contract for the**

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production of a major defense acquisition program except as provided in section 811 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Pub.L. 112-239), which is effective until it is incorporated into the DFARS or is otherwise rescinded.

234.005-1 Competition.

(1) A contract that is initially awarded from the competitive selection of a proposal resulting from a general solicitation may contain a contract line item or contract option for the provision of advanced component development or prototype of technology developed under the contract or the delivery of initial or additional prototype items if the item or a prototype thereof is created as the result of work performed under the contract only when it adheres to the following limitations:

(i) The contract line item or contract option shall be limited to the minimal amount of initial or additional prototype items that will allow for timely competitive solicitation and award of a follow-on development or production contract for those items.

(ii) The term of the contract line item or contract option shall be for not more than 12 months.

(iii) The dollar value of the work to be performed pursuant to the contract line item or contract option shall not exceed the lesser of—

(A) The amount that is three times the dollar value of the work previously performed under the contract; or

(B) \$20 million.

(2) A contract line item or contract option may not be exercised under this authority after September 30, 2014.