



ACQUISITION  
AND SUSTAINMENT

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

NOV 05 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DIRECTOR OF COST ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAM  
EVALUATION  
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE  
CHIEF DIGITAL AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER  
COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES  
SERVICE ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES

SUBJECT: Enabling Expedited Response Times for Advanced Manufacturing Indefinite  
Delivery/Indefinite Quantity Contracts

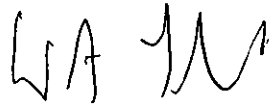
On February 12, 2024, the Deputy Secretary of Defense released a memorandum titled "Accelerating Advanced Manufacturing Capabilities for Joint and Coalition Forces." In that memorandum, the Deputy Secretary assigned six tasks to my office. One of these tasks was to direct the Military Departments' major weapon system Program Executive Offices (PEOs), Program Management Offices (PMOs), and Engineering Support Activities (ESAs) to enable expedited response time (less than 72 hours) to DoD contracting officers and suppliers, as appropriate, for requirements, qualification, and acceptance of items produced under Advanced Manufacturing Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) contracts.

The memorandum made clear the importance of acknowledging and responding to demand signals in our current operational environment. Part of that effort includes identifying where the DoD can internally minimize or eliminate roadblocks to the timely delivery of advanced manufacturing capabilities. One area of opportunity when developing Advanced Manufacturing ID/IQ contracts is to optimize the Department's technical communities' responsiveness to acquisition team and contractor inquiries to requests for information (RFIs) related to requirements, qualification, and product acceptance. Rapid responses to these RFIs can directly impact the delivery of mission-essential warfighter capabilities.

While Secretary Hicks' memo specifically targeted advanced manufacturing ID/IQ contracts, she also emphasized the urgency of accelerating change to maintain our technological edge. To provide our warfighters with the necessary capabilities for the Joint and Coalition Fight, it is crucial that PEOs, PMOs, and ESAs promptly respond to contracting officer and contractor RFIs about requirements, qualifications, or acceptance of items produced for all contracts. Therefore, I expect PEO/PMO/ESA personnel to provide at least an initial response to such RFIs within three business days to acknowledge receipt and provide an estimated completion date (ECD) for a final response. If the requested response cannot be provided by the promised ECD or cannot be provided at all, the PEO/PMP/ESA personnel must obtain approval

from an O-5/GS-14/equivalent or higher authority in their chain of command and provide a written explanation to the contracting officer and/or contractor (as applicable), detailing the reasons for the inability to fulfill the request.

Timely and effective communication is essential to expediting the delivery of critical capabilities to support our nation and its allies. I hope this requirement will create efficiencies in the acquisition process, reduce manufacturing downtime, and reinforce our collective sense of urgency in this era of great power competition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W A LaPlante', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William A. LaPlante