



2019 Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Flexibility in Contracting Award

Please read the following information carefully before completing and submitting the nomination package.

Background: The Flexibility in Contracting Award was established to implement Section 834 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. This award is sponsored by the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)), and recognizes Department of Defense (DOD) civilian and military outstanding professionals who have, in their approach to program management and contracting, demonstrated innovation and local adaptation by using the flexibilities and authorities granted by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Department of Defense Instruction 5000.02 (Operation of the Defense Acquisition System) to increase program efficiency.

Eligibility: All component and DOD organizations are eligible to submit nominations for the Flexibility in Contracting Award, with the exception of other (non-Agency) OUSD(A&S) staff organizations. **The award for 2019 will be granted for contributions made or completed within the 12-month period from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019.** Given that many developments result cumulatively from an organization's or individual's efforts and contributions over time, initiatives that began before the 12-month window may be reported, but the culmination of the work must be within the window that is specified above.

Evaluation Criteria: Nominations will be evaluated on the quality of specific actions taken by program or service acquisition teams or individuals, and on the exceptional nature of the problems overcome or the outcomes produced by those actions. Successful applications will describe the acquisition initiatives undertaken and the tools and principles that were applied, and how these led to the exceptional outcomes. Innovative acquisition techniques, local adaptation and tailoring of acquisition processes should be highlighted. The described outcomes should be quantified and verifiable. The application should describe lessons learned in the subject acquisition and how these might be applied to other programs or service acquisition efforts.

Examples of elements described in the nomination should include any innovation initiatives and local adaptations that:

- a. Achieved significant cost savings in any or all parts of the acquisition lifecycle through various means, including expanded use of the simplified acquisition procedures or inherent flexibilities within the FAR.
- b. Used contracting vehicles that improve incentives and speed.
- c. Enabled greater productivity and innovation from industry through, for example (but not limited to), the effective use of contracting incentives, commercial contracting approaches, public-private partnership agreements and practices, cost-sharing arrangements, and leveraging commercial best practices.

- d. Promoted more effective market competition in contracts, including small business participation and global market outreach.
- e. Improved program outcomes through the use of other innovative implementations of acquisition flexibilities.

Note: The list above is not meant to be all inclusive, nor is it necessary to address them all. Rather, teams or individuals should describe in detail any applicable initiatives and clearly describe and substantiate what was done, as well as the quantifiable impacts that were produced.

Detailed Instructions:

1. Nomination packages must be accompanied by an endorsement letter from the organization's commander. The Army Director, Acquisition Career Management (DACM) Office of the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center (USAASC) is the official collection point for U.S. Army nominations. The Army DACM Office will coordinate nomination packages for Army Acquisition Executive approval and endorsement to the USD(A&S).

All nominations must be completed using the award application form herein and submitted, via e-mail in Microsoft Word (not as a PDF), through the online portal at <https://asc.army.mil/web/acquisition-awards/>.

Applications must include:

- a) The administrative information on the following attachment.
 - b) A narrative describing the program/team's or individual's accomplishments, **not to exceed two pages.**
 - c) A citation award abstract summarizing your narrative, **not to exceed 300 words.**
 - d) A high-resolution organizational logo (at least 2 inches by 2 inches at 300 dots per inch) in either JPG or TIFF format with your submission.
2. **Applications must be submitted by June 14, 2019.** Late submissions cannot be considered due to schedule constraints. **Only civilian or military teams or individuals are eligible for this award. Contractors or contract employees are not eligible to be part of a team or submitted as an individual nomination.**
 3. You will receive an email acknowledging that your nomination has been submitted. If the point of contact has not received a confirmation e-mail within two business days after submission, please contact Vicky DeGuzman, award coordinator, at 703-664-5691 or victoria.l.deguzman.civ@mail.mil. Award applications will not be considered complete until you have received a confirmation e-mail.
 4. OUSD(A&S)/Defense Pricing and Contracting will oversee the awards process, and will appoint a chair for the award evaluation team, which will be composed of up to 10 Senior Executive Service panel members within OUSD(A&S). The Chair will be responsible for selecting the other panel members to review and evaluate the nominations. Once the team has completed the review process, the Chair will present the recommendations to the OUSD(A&S), who is the final approval authority.

Recognition Ceremony: Presentation of the 2019 Flexibility in Contracting Award to the winning team or individual is targeted for late October 2019 at a formal awards ceremony. Winner contributions will be featured in the Pentagon's Defense Acquisition Workforce recognition display. OUSD(A&S) will ensure that the winning organizations or individuals are announced in various communication media. Because of limited space at the awards ceremony, individual award winners will be limited to two guests. Team winners are limited to five members attending the award ceremony.

Travel Costs: All travel costs associated with an award presentation will be borne by the nominating organization. Component acquisition leadership and winners will be notified several weeks in advance in order to facilitate travel reservations. Travel costs for each awardee may be funded with an approved Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund (DAWDF) request. Components should contact their component DAWDF manager to facilitate this process.

Questions: Questions regarding the 2019 Flexibility in Contracting Award or the application process should be addressed to Vicky DeGuzman, award coordinator, at 703-664-5691 or victoria.l.deguzman.civ@mail.mil. Additional information can be found on the awards website at <https://asc.army.mil/web/acquisition-awards/>.

Administrative Information

Award coordinator POC:

Name:

Telephone:

Email:

Organization, Team, or Individual

Name:

(Note: The selected nominee's name will be printed on all materials and trophies as listed above.)

Mailing Address:

Address (continued):

City:

State:

Zip:

Primary Organization Point of Contact (POC)

Name:

Title:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Alternate Organization POC

Name:

Title:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Current Number of Employees:

Your organization's mission statement:

Brief description of your organizational structure:

Chain of command to whom your organization, team or individual reports:

Names and position titles of individual(s) contributing to organization, team:

Award Nomination Narrative

(Two pages maximum, 12-point Times New Roman, based on criteria described herein)

Award Citation Abstract

(Maximum 300-word summary that will be placed in the award program for the winner(s))