



## Department of Defense 2020 Software Innovation Team Award Nomination Instructions

**Please read carefully before completing and submitting the nomination.**

**Background:** The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the Honorable Ellen Lord, established this award in 2019 to recognize teams who are driving speed, innovation and the use of best practices in software development and software acquisition. In parallel, the Honorable Lord also deployed the new Adaptive Acquisition Framework for Software Acquisition – a tailored acquisition pathway for mission-focused government-industry software teams to iteratively develop, integrate, test and deploy software capabilities rapidly. Across DoD, new software teams are standing up to deliver frequent and high quality software capabilities into the hands of warfighters – supporting the National Defense Strategy imperative to increase readiness and lethality. The Defense Innovation Board states the case and need for DoD to significantly improve and expand its software development and software acquisition capability.

*“Software is assessed among the most frequent and most critical challenges, driving program risk on ~60% of acquisition programs.” - Defense Science Board, 2018*

*“The ability to develop, procure, assure, deploy, and continuously improve software is thus central to national defense. At the same time, the threats that the United States faces are changing at an ever-increasing pace, and the Department of Defense’s ability to adapt and respond is now determined by its ability to develop and deploy software to the field rapidly.” – Defense Science Board, 2019*

Last year’s inaugural winner of this award was the Air Force Kessel Run (KR) team. KR was recognized as a model for Defense DevSecOps and Agile software acquisition. The KR Team rapidly fielded eighteen software capabilities, including an aircraft tanker-planning tool, using agile software development and lean start-up methodologies. KR also helped modernize the F-35 Autonomous Logistics Information System. The 2020 award provides leadership another great opportunity to recognize the innovative efforts of Services and Agencies to swiftly innovate, with urgency, to deliver solutions now and deploy DoD’s new generation of software capability.

**Eligibility:** All DoD organizations and teams are eligible to be nominated for the 2020 Software Innovation Team Award, with the exception of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) staff organizations. The award period is **July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020**. Achievements resulting from efforts starting before July 1, 2019 may be included, but the culmination of the achievement must be within the award period.

**Evaluation:** Nominations will be evaluated as follows:

- 1) Specific achievements and/or innovations (50 points). Describe your organization’s exemplary accomplishments driven by innovation, using software development and acquisition best practices, with speed, to deliver frequent and high quality solutions to the warfighter.
- 2) Value of the contribution (30 points). Describe the positive impacts and value for warfighter.

- 3) Demonstration of leadership initiative (20 points). Describe examples of leadership initiative, for example (not inclusive): creating improved organic software talent; creating software development units who develop and deploy with speed and reduced cycle time, software to the field using DevSecOps practices; and strengthening program office software development and acquisition capabilities.

**Selection:** The DoD Software Workforce Working Group will serve as the Software Innovation Team Award Board. The board is comprised of members from the Services, the DoD Defense Digital Service, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD (A&S)). The Human Capital Initiatives office of OUSD (A&S) will provide the board recommended winner to the USD (A&S) for review and approval.

### **Detailed Instructions:**

**Nomination format, content, and logo.** The nomination package must include (in Microsoft Word) the completed nomination contact template (below) and a three page (maximum) narrative supporting the nomination, and a brief, not to exceed 200 word, award citation. A high-resolution organizational logo (at least 2 inches by 2 inches at 300 dots per inch) in either JPG or TIFF format must also be included with the email submission. The submitted nomination package must be Unclassified.

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

**Submission deadline. Organizations must submit nominations by Thursday, June 4, 2020.** Due to schedule constraints, late submissions cannot be considered. 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 Rachel Berry, 703-664-5687, DSN 664-5687 or [rachel.h.berry.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:rachel.h.berry.ctr@mail.mil). An award application will not be considered complete until the applicant or submitter has received a confirmation e-mail.

**Nomination approval.** 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).

**Recognition Ceremony.** The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment will recognize the winner at the 2020 Defense Acquisition Awards Ceremony at the Pentagon, tentatively planned for late October 2020. Winners are typically limited to five government team members for the awards ceremony. Winners and their accomplishments will be featured in the Pentagon's Defense Acquisition Workforce recognition display, the Defense Acquisition Magazine and other media venues.

**Monetary Award.** Subject to current OSD Personnel and Readiness guidance, the Small Organization and Large Organization winners may be eligible for a \$10,000 group monetary award for not more than five (5) civilian team members. Contractors, while integral to the winning

organization's success, are not eligible to be part of the group monetary award. Component organizations normally fund monetary awards with mission funding or available component Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Account (DAWDA) funding.

**Travel Costs.** Winning organizations are responsible for all travel costs associated with winners attending the awards ceremony. Component acquisition leadership and winners will be notified several weeks in advance in order to facilitate travel planning and reservations. Awardee travel may be funded by component/organization funds or, if available, with component/organization DAWDA funding already allocated to components for FY 2020. Contact your Component DAWDA manager regarding availability of funding.

**Questions.** For questions regarding this award contact Rachel Berry, 703-664-5687, DSN 664-5687 or [rachel.h.berry.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:rachel.h.berry.ctr@mail.mil).