



Department of Defense 2021 Flexibility in Contracting Award Nomination Instructions

Please read carefully before completing and submitting the nomination.

Background: The Flexibility in Contracting Award recognizes Department of Defense (DoD) civilian and military professionals who have, in their approach to program management and contracting, demonstrated outstanding innovation and use of flexibilities and authorities provided by the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Department of Defense Instruction 5000.02 (Operation of the Adaptive Acquisition Framework). The award was established by Congress in 2017. Recent winners of this award included the Department of the Air Force's Acquisition COVID-19 Taskforce, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's JANUS Acquisition Team, and the Air Force Materiel Command's FAR 16.5 High Performance Team. This award provides leadership a great opportunity to thank and recognize the best-of-the-best teams smartly using flexibilities and authorities as part of changing how we do business to become more agile and obtain greater efficiency and productivity. Additional information can be found on the awards website at <https://asc.army.mil/web/acquisition-awards/>.

Eligibility: All DoD organizations are eligible for the Flexibility in Contracting Award, with the exception of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) staff organizations. The award period is July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. Accomplishments from efforts starting before July 1, 2020 may be included, but the culmination of the accomplishment must be within the award period.

Evaluation: Nominations will be evaluated on the quality of specific actions taken by program/service acquisition teams or individuals, and the exceptional nature of the problems overcome, or the outcomes produced by those actions. Successful applications clearly describe and substantiate what was done, as well as the resulting quantifiable impacts. Successful applications will describe the acquisition initiatives undertaken, the tools and principles that were applied, and how these led to the exceptional outcomes. Use of innovative acquisition techniques, local adaptation, and tailoring of acquisition processes should be highlighted. 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 the nomination may 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 to include 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 the leveraging of commercial best practices;

- d. Promoted more effective market competition for contracts, to include small business participation and global market outreach; and
- e. Improved program outcomes through the use of other innovative use of acquisition flexibilities to include use of pathways provided in the new Adaptive Acquisition Framework (DoDI 5000.02).

Selection: The Flexibility in Contracting Award Board is comprised of a chair, appointed by OSD leadership of Defense Pricing and Contracting. Board membership is composed of up to ten Senior Executive Service members. HCI will provide the board recommended winner to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)) for review and approval.

Instructions:

Nomination format, content, and logo. The nomination package must include (in Microsoft Word) the completed nomination contact template and a three page (maximum) narrative supporting the nomination, and a brief, not to exceed 200 words, 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.

Nomination approval. The nomination package must be submitted with a signed endorsement letter from the organization commander. Each organization may nominate one team. Contractors may not be listed as members of the team. The Army Director, Acquisition Career Management (DACM) Office 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).

Submission deadline. Your nomination must be submitted electronically no later than May 10, 2021. For more details on award categories and criteria, and to submit your nominations, visit the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center website at <https://asc.army.mil/web/acquisition-awards/>.

Recognition Ceremony. The USD(A&S) will recognize winners at the 2021 Defense Acquisition Awards Ceremony on December 15, 2021 in a pre-recorded streamed awards ceremony. Winners and team accomplishments will be featured in the Pentagon's Defense Acquisition Workforce recognition display, the Defense Acquisition Magazine, and other media venues.

Questions: For questions regarding this award or the nomination process, contact Angela Sanson at angela.n.sanson.civ@mail.mil.