



2021 Software Innovation Team Award Nomination Instructions

Background: The Software Innovation Team Award was established in 2019 to recognize teams who are driving speed, innovation and the use of best practices in software development and software acquisition. 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 is 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

The 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 2021 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 2021 Software Innovation Team Award, with the exception of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) staff organizations. The award period is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Achievements resulting from efforts starting before July 1, 2020 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 the 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 Site Director of the Office of Human Capital Initiatives (HCI) of OUSD(A&S) will forward nominations to the Software Workforce Innovation Team Award Selection Board. 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.

Monetary Award. Subject to current OSD Personnel and Readiness (P&R) guidance, the Software Innovation Team 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. In the event that additional OSD P&R award guidance is released on group monetary awards, HCI will update this awards guidance, as appropriate.

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