

Contracting eBusiness

QUARTERLY NEWS BYTES | ISSUE NO. 3 | FY24 Q2

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Message From DoD Contracting eBusiness Leadership

As we get ready to head into the second half of FY 2024, we would like to thank all the dedicated and talented Department of Defense (DoD) procurement and procurement-related professionals for your continued support of our collective DoD Strategic Plan for Defense Wide Procurement Capabilities.

We have together implemented several new capabilities at the DoD enterprise level recently related to improving the solicitation module, government-furnished property module, supplier performance management reports, and the closeout processes in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment (PIEE). Additionally, each of the Military Services have been expanding their deployment of their new contract writing capabilities and we plan to begin formal deployment of the Enterprise Contract Writing Module (ECWM) in this upcoming quarter. Tremendous progress is being made in modernizing procurement-related capabilities across the Department. We appreciate each of our cross-functional and interagency partners, as collaboration and sharing across the DoD is in full swing.

We look forward in May to our annual Procure-to-Pay and Financial Audit Training Symposium where we have the opportunity to come together and share lessons learned and learn about upcoming improvements. We hope to see you there!

• NEWS BYTES •

Defense Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 252.245-7005 - "Management and Reporting of Government Property."

On 20 February 2024, Defense Pricing and Contracting (DPC) issued a [memorandum](#) to the acquisition workforce announcing consolidation of Department of Defense (DoD) property clauses through implementation of [Defense Acquisition Regulation Supplement \(DFARS\) clause 252.245-7005 "Management and Reporting of Government Property"](#).

DFARS 252.245-7005 clause summary is as follows:

- Consolidates DFARS 252.245-7001, 252.245-7002, 252.245-7004, and 252.211-7007 into a single clause
- Requires explicit use of the Government Furnished Property (GFP) Module in Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment (PIEE) for GFP reporting
- Implements mandatory use of the Contractor Acquired Property (CAP) Pre-Screening Tool in the GFP Module for applicable scenarios
- Replaces legacy systems and paper processes for reporting property with a single standard system
- Establishes timeframes for reporting where they did not already exist in policy
- Clarifies GFP item unique marking requirements and supplements

DFARS Procedures, Guidance, and Information (PGI) 204.804 – "Closeout of contract files."

[DFARS PGI 204.804](#) was revised in February 2024 to include changes to take advantage of the Department's electronic closeout capability and reduce the administrative costs associated with contract closeout. Summary is as follows:

- Eliminates need to maintain copies of the DD form 1594 if it is posted at PIEE Electronic Data Access (EDA)
- Eliminates need for issuing office to complete block 10 of DD form 1594 and file a copy to EDA when the issuing office concurs with the closeout date posted in EDA by the administration office for closeouts performed by another office
- Eliminates need for contract modifications to deobligate funds at closeout if funds are identified as excess on block 5 of DD Form 1594
- Makes basic ordering vehicles (e.g., IDIQs, BPAs, BOAs) subject to automated closeout when all orders are closed and the ordering period has expired
- Clarifies process for closing contracts where the Governmentwide Commercial Purchase Card is used for payment

TARGET CONTRACT WRITING ENVIRONMENT

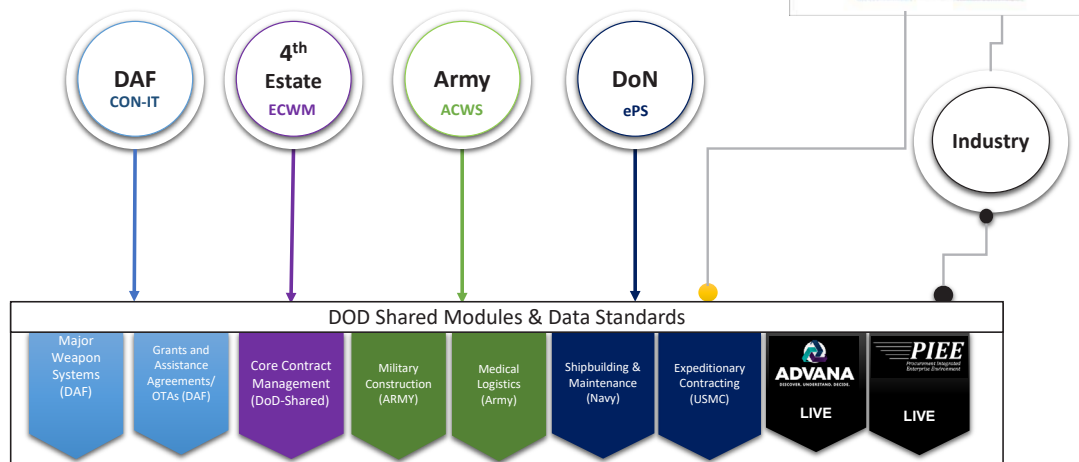
A Modular, Open-Source Approach to Contract Writing at the DoD

The Department continues to make great strides towards its target contract writing environment.

Army Contract Writing System (ACWS), Navy Electronic Procurement System (Navy ePS), and the 4th Estate Enterprise Contract Writing Module (ECWM) all went live in FY2023: awarding contracts and interfacing with financial systems.

The Department of the Army (DA), Department of the Navy (DoN), and 4th Estate have chosen to leverage the base low-code technology in the Department of the Air Force's (DAF's) CON-IT system including its established interfaces to enterprise capabilities such as Advana, the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment (PIEE), and the Integrated Award Environment (IAE).

Each Service is taking lead on developing new capabilities, which are then able to be shared to the other systems. This system of open,



shared libraries of code allows iterative improvement while avoiding cost and accelerating full deployment. It also allows for implementation of the Department's enterprise data standards and business rules in a standard, re-usable way and allows for full, end-to-end visibility of transactions throughout the Procure-to-Pay process.

Interfacing Contract Writing Systems with DoD's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems Spotlight: DEAMS

DEAMS is a Major Automated Information System that uses commercial off-the-shelf Enterprise Resource Planning software to provide accounting and management services. DEAMS is used by the Air Force and a few Defense Agencies as its primary ERP.

On 12 Feb 24, DEAMS enabled the interface capabilities to perform Procure-to-Pay (P2P) Handshake #2 (HS2) with DAF's CON-IT

- DEAMS Functional Management Office (FMO) worked closely with CON-IT throughout the development process to ensure the accounting system generated error messages which were concise and easy to understand
- DEAMS FMO provided documentation to contracting and Financial Management (FM) to clarify errors not easily understandable and what the user action would be
- DEAMS FMO worked with the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC) to establish connections between the DEAMS test environment and the CON-IT test environment which enabled routing issues to be identified and ensure different scenarios were working as expected
- DEAMS FMO is monitoring the funds certification validation responses post go-live to ensure consistent and accurate error messages are being sent back to contracting

LESSONS LEARNED:

- There are many combinations of scenarios for providing funds certification validation responses as both an accounting and entitlement system
- Version 2.0 of Handshake Talk Back schema allows systems to respond back in the role of the accounting system or the entitlement system
- Importance of implementation of proper business rules within the accounting system on which lines to validate and/or ignore in cases of mixed funding on a contract
- In cases of being the entitlement system for contracts with mixed funding sources (transactions for others), funds validation may not be required, but the system would still alert contracting users if the line item would automatically post or not
- DEAMS and CON-IT teams have agreed to ensure the HS2 solution is stable and consistent before introducing hard stops to contract awards

Reporting Responsibility and Integrity Data to the FAPIIS module in CPARS

On 12 December 2022, Responsibility/Qualification ([FAPIS.gov](https://fapiis.gov)) integrated with the System of Award Management ([SAM.gov](https://sam.gov)) as part of the ongoing modernization of the integrated award environment.

[SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) is the single access point for information about entity management, exclusions, and responsibility and qualification (R/Q) information.

- Users are required to sign in to SAM.gov using [Login.gov](https://login.gov) to search and view R/Q data as part of entity information.
- Some entity information will not be publicly available and will only be visible to users with a role with the entity or to federal users with the appropriate roles and permissions.
- R/Q training materials are available on the Federal Service Desk ([FSD.gov](https://fso.gov)) under the [Knowledge Base](#) section.
- FAPIS module in Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) training materials are available [CPARS.gov](https://cpars.gov).

Federal Government Personnel are to continue submitting R/Q data in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIS) Module in Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) in accordance with [FAR subpart 9.104-6\(d\)](#) and [42.1503\(h\)](#) for the following adverse actions on contracts:

- Terminations for default
- Terminations for cause
- Non-responsibility determinations
- Defective pricing determinations
- Administrative agreements made in lieu of suspensions/debarments
- DoD determinations of contractor fault (in accordance with DFARS 209.105-2-70)
- Trafficking in Persons
- Subcontractor Payment Issues

What is CPARS?

CPARS is a web-enabled application that collects and manages the library of automated Contractor Performance Assessment Reports (CPARs).

A CPAR assesses a contractor's performance and provides a record, both positive and negative, on a given contractor during a specific period of time.

Each assessment is based on objective facts and supported by program and contract management data, such as cost performance reports, customer comments, quality reviews, technical interchange meetings, financial solvency assessments, construction/production management reviews, contractor operations reviews, functional performance evaluations, and earned contract incentives.

Contracting Officers are responsible for ensuring performance assessments are reported to CPARS in accordance with [FAR subpart 42.15](#) and [DoD Class Deviation 2013-00018](#).

SAM SIDEBAR: UPDATING EMAIL ADDRESS

On 12 January 2024, new terms and conditions were released to SAM.gov production environment that required existing users to accept the terms via email address authentication.

Users without an accurate email address in their SAM.gov profile are unable to receive the One Time Password to authenticate and gain access to SAM.gov.

To regain access to SAM.gov:

- Create new SAM.gov account using preferred email address.
- New Login.gov account will be generated for the email address used in SAM.gov.
- Login.gov account will be linked to SAM.gov account.

SAM.gov only recognizes one email address on Login.gov accounts. Users that added email addresses to Login.gov account may experience SAM.gov login failure.

To regain access to SAM.gov:

- Remove email address in Login.gov.
- Create new SAM.gov account with email address.
- New Login.gov account will be generated for the email address. used to create SAM.gov account.
- Login.gov account will be linked to SAM.gov account.

THINGS TO NOTE:

- You may be required to request roles as a part of SAM.gov account creation process.
- You do not need to deactivate your existing accounts for either system; however, you may choose to do so.
- For further assistance regarding these instructions, contact the Login.gov helpdesk.

How to Review and Resolve PALT Anomalies in FPDS Data

Components should be routinely reviewing potential Procurement Administrative Lead Time (PALT) data quality issues, which include DoD transactions in FPDS with significant recorded PALT (such as over 200 days for simple purchase orders or task/delivery orders).

When recorded PALT times are found to be significant for task and delivery orders, typically this issue arises because the issues typically relate to user enters the solicitation date for the underlying IDIQ instead of the solicitation date for the order itself. This can result in PALTs for task and delivery orders of thousands of days.

Solicitation Date

[DFARS PGI 204.606 \(3\)\(v\)\(F\)](#) indicates the “Solicitation Date” data field generally represents the date an Invitation for Bids, Request for Quotation, or Request for Proposal was issued to potential bidders or offerors. This DFARS PGI section includes additional instruction for different scenarios. See CAR Instructions below that comply with DFARS PGI requirements.

Instructions for Selecting Solicitation Date in Contract Action Reports (CARs) (See DFARS PGI 204.606(3)(v)(F))

The “Solicitation Date” data field generally represents the date an Invitation for Bids, Request for Quotation, or Request for Proposal was issued to potential bidders or offerors. However, follow the instructions below for other situations where an IFB, RFQ, or RFP is not issued:

- (1) When the action is the award of an order using existing pre-priced line items under an ordering instrument where no proposal is required (i.e., there are no elements of the delivery or performance to negotiate)—
 - (i) For orders under single-award indefinite delivery vehicles, BPA calls under single-award BPAs issued under FAR part 8, and BPA calls under BPAs issued under FAR part 13; use the date the procurement-ready requirements package (including funded purchase request or MIPR) was provided to the contracting office as the “Solicitation Date”. If unknown, use the date of the award of the order as the “Solicitation Date”.
 - (ii) For orders under multiple-award indefinite delivery contracts and BPA calls issued under multiple-award BPAs issued under FAR part 8; use the date of the survey of the multiple-award contracts or BPAs prices as the “Solicitation Date”.
- (2) When the action is the award of a contract under a broad agency announcement (BAA) or a commercial solutions opening (CSO), use the date when a final (not draft) combined synopsis / solicitation is issued as the “Solicitation Date” except—
 - (i) For two-step BAAs and CSOs, including white paper submissions for review, selection, and subsequent request for full proposals, the “Solicitation Date” is the date when the contracting officer signs the proposal request;
 - (ii) Under BAAs and CSOs with calls, the “Solicitation Date” is the date when the individual call is issued; or
 - (iii) For open BAAs and CSOs, when white papers and/or proposals are accepted for review over an extended period (typically open for a year or longer), the “Solicitation Date” is either the date when the contracting officer signs a proposal request (white papers) or the date on which the proposal is submitted, whichever is earlier.
- (3) For awards made in response to unsolicited proposals, the “Solicitation Date” is the date when the offeror is notified of proposal acceptance for negotiations and/or award.

Latest Service Pack Impact (SP20)

Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) Service Pack 20 (SP20) deployed on 27 Jan 2024 and release notes can be found on [FPDS.gov](https://www.fpds.gov). SP20 updated FPDS Data Dictionary V1.5 and added two (2) system generated data elements that were not previously included:

- TYPE OF SET-ASIDE SOURCE
- NUMBER OF OFFERS RECEIVED SOURCE

NIA Code Decommissioned in FPDS

The National Interest Action (NIA) data element was decommissioned on 27 Jan 2024 and will not be collected on new Contract Action Reports (CAR) after this date. NIA data elements will continue to be available for correction on the existing CARs and based on their respective END DATES.

Use of the Emergency Acquisition Field (Data Dictionary Element 6H)

Agencies using [FAR subpart 18.2 – Emergency Acquisition Flexibilities](#) and increasing the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) should be using the Emergency Acquisition field in FPDS.

- ‘Presidential issued emergency declaration or a major disaster declaration’: Agencies should ensure users identify the emergency/disaster and include a description of what is being purchased in the description of requirement field. Listing of declarations can be found at [FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov).
- ‘Contingency Operation’; ‘Humanitarian and Civic Assistance’; or ‘Humanitarian and Peacekeeping’: Agencies should ensure users identify the named military operation and include a description of what is being purchased in the description requirements field.

It is recommended that as agencies inform users on the use of FAR subpart 18.2 – Emergency Acquisition Flexibilities and SAT increases, users are also reminded on the following FPDS reporting requirements:

- Make the appropriate selection in the Emergency Acquisition field; and
- Provide both a plain English language description of what is being purchased AND identify the event itself
 - ◆ e.g., ‘The contract is for the purchase of tarps in response to Hurricane Alex’

SAM Data Bank will be updated to include a standard report allowing users to search for actions selecting Emergency Procedures other than ‘Not Applicable’ and further allow the ability to include a key word search in the Description of Requirements field.

- Historical static NIA reports will be retained

• PROCUREMENT-TO-PAY SYMPOSIUM •

Mark your calendar for the 2024 Procure to Pay and Financial Audit Training Symposium!

DPC and Comptroller are pleased to jointly host this opportunity for the Component procurement, finance, and logistics communities to come together once again to collaborate and learn. The Symposium will be held at the Hyatt Regency Orlando from 29-31 May 2024. If you are interested in attending, please contact your Component quota manager to be considered. If you do not know your quota manager, please contact Kris Humphrey at kristen.j.humphrey.ctr@mail.mil for more information. There is no registration cost to attend for government attendees, but all travel must be Component funded. Registration will open to the public later this spring; at that time, more information will be posted on the [Training Symposium website](#).