

Announcement Type: Advanced Notification

Potential Project Title: Digital Acceleration Consortium (DAC) Prototype

Release Date: 9 May 2024

The Government is contemplating the issuance of a Project Announcement soliciting white papers from our SOSSEC Consortium members under the ACI OTA. The contemplated-project is titled “Digital Acceleration Consortium Prototype.” Below is a draft of information related to the requirement that can currently be released to our members. This is for information and planning purposes only and no questions can be submitted at this time.

Program/Project Objectives:

The objective of this effort is to replace existing standard contracting, data item description, and contract data requirements list processes and artifacts from today’s traditional standard processes to advanced digital-first, model-based processes. The focus should be on complex, large scale, major capability weapon system acquisitions. The specific objectives are:

- 1) Establish a communication battle rhythm, sharing mechanism, and consensus-making and deconfliction process across multiple project performers for government approval. Opportunity for government participation is expected in all cross-project performer meetings.
- 2) Compile a high-priority list of critical data types to address. Types of data may include structural (e.g., CAD, Finite Element Analysis), complex engineering relationship models (e.g., SysML based architecture models), high fidelity analysis models (e.g., computational fluid dynamics, physics based simulations, wargaming analysis), certification based data (e.g., artifacts required for Airworthiness or structural integrity certifications), product support data (e.g., Bills of Material, maintenance work instructions), programmatic (e.g., schedule, financial), or other types of data. Communication across project performers should be in accordance with the consensus-making and deconfliction process developed in Objective 1.
- 3) Establish a prioritized list of decomposed and tactical, specific artifacts for each data type that should be purchased, accessed, and/or delivered on future acquisitions via Data Item Descriptions, Contract Data Requirements Lists, and other contract language considerations (e.g., delivery mechanisms). Project performers will need to be aware of existing decomposed and tactical, specific artifacts for each data types; currently available Data Item Descriptions (DIDs) are available at: <https://quicksearch.dla.mil/qsSearch.aspx>. Project performers may leverage existing program examples or establish ‘clean sheet’ considerations. The government will not provide program examples or data. Communication across project performers should be in accordance with the consensus-making and deconfliction process developed in Objective 1.

- 4) Prototype contract language as informed by the objectives above. Project performers should note barriers to the government effectively leveraging the prototype contracting language (e.g., policy/guidance issues, technical inhibitors). These deliverables shall be consensus-based across all project members as outline in Objective 1. Products, once drafted and delivered to the government, will have no company specific intellectual property and will be fully government owned products. The DAF intends to use modified deliverables in future acquisitions, prototyping projects, or any other government need. Division of labor and focus areas for each project performer should be decided based on the consensus-making process described in Objective 1.
- 5) Provide regular updates to other DAC Prototype members, as well as quarterly Industry Association Consortium (IAC) events led by Air Force Materiel Command in partnership with SERC, NDIA, AIAA, etc.

Background Information

Currently, processes in major acquisition programs leverage existing contracting language from traditional acquisition programs. Advancing digital-first, model-based processes is necessary to keep pace with our near-peer adversaries' ability to field weapon systems and to not restrict the potential of the US industrial base.

This contemplated effort will seek to conduct a data exchange process prototype by transitioning existing standard contracting, data item description, and contract data requirements list processes and artifacts from today's traditional standard processes to advanced digital-first, model-based processes. The prototype will focus on contract language to define industry to government data purchase, access, and delivery associated with complex, large scale, major capability weapon systems. For the purpose of this document, the term "contracting language" includes data item descriptions (DIDs), contract data requirements lists (CDRLs), or other considerations as approved by the Government. For this effort, "data" includes the format, structure, style, meta-data, and other considerations as approved by the Government.

The Government is expecting multiple awards (~4-8 in total) against this potential solicitation.

Additional AFMC and industry discussions on this topic have occurred through the Industry Association Consortium forum. More information is available here:
<https://guide.dafdto.com/industry-association-consortium-sharing-site/>

Additional information on Digital Materiel Management can be found here:
https://media.defense.gov/2023/Jun/12/2003239595/-1/-1/1/DMM%20-%20An%20Accelerated%20Future%20State_Final_Compliant.PDF