

Analysis of Expedited Defense Contracting Methods in the Acquisition of Emerging Technology



NAVAL
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Abstract

- National security depends on technological advantage
- U.S. government R&D is shrinking with defense budgets under pressure
- DoD increasingly depends on innovative technology firms
- Technology firms differ from DOD in acquisition process
- Emerging technology enjoys broad market demand
- R&D funding sources affect rights to intellectual property
- The DOD has authority for non-traditional contracting methods to better adapt to this competitive marketplace
- This project analyzes how the DOD can effectively leverage its existing and potential authorities to be a competitive buyer



Methods

- Explore methods available to DOD organizations charged with quickly procuring emerging technology solutions
- Policy review, interviews, and technology procurement cases to investigate acquisition methods available to agencies
- Attendance of DIUx small business town hall and a series of meetings with staff to learn their processes in outreach efforts
- Operational feedback based on oral and written responses from professionals in various rapid acquisition offices

Results

- Limited awareness of expedited contracting methods in defense acquisition community
- Congress granted expedited authority 11 agencies with various degree of use for various acquisition efforts
- Support within the government depends on organizational that tends to be risk-averse
- Intellectual property balance between government and prospective contractors remains elusive



DEFENSE INNOVATION
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Recommendations

- Government should use a strategic approach to emerging technology acquisitions by leveraging its strengths, including expedited procurement authority, and mitigating administrative burdens
- The intellectual property policy spectrum should be applied carefully and selectively based on government's leverage in a given procurement, not simply on legacy policy or internal preference – data rights come with monetary and non-monetary costs