IMPROVING THE CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

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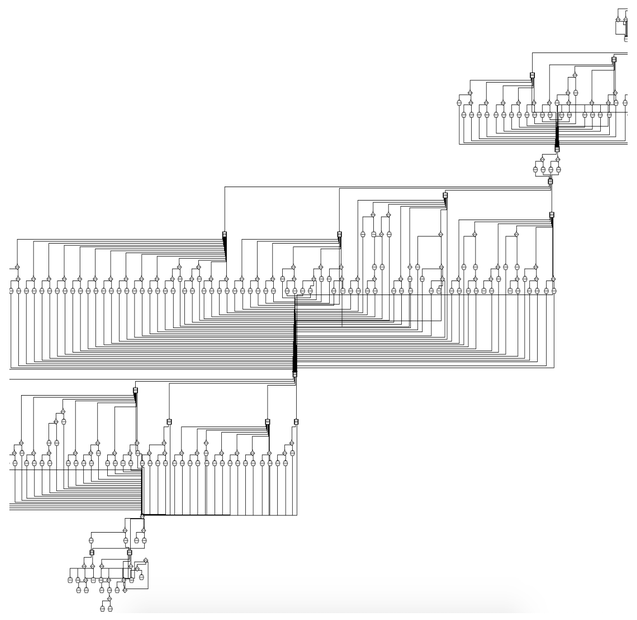
Abstract

Stemming from the President's Management Agenda, the Office of Management and Budget has set goals per functional area to guide the federal government's modernization. The goal for acquisitions is to be able to deliver items at the same speed as the non-government entities, by using modern business practices and technologies.

The contractor responsibility determination (CRD) process is an acquisition process that occurs at least once for every contract and affects the speed at which every contract is awarded. Initial research reveals that the execution of this process is not standardized throughout and within the different federal agencies, lacks compliance, and does not meet the intent of the policy stated in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 9.1. Using a business process improvement method, the contractor responsibility determination process is dissected. Potential solutions to solve issues are identified. One of these solutions is then prototyped and field-tested. The thesis ends with a discussion of alternative processes and recommendations on those processes that could follow the same analysis and prototype development pattern.



FAR 9.1: All Subprocesses, Activities, and Tasks

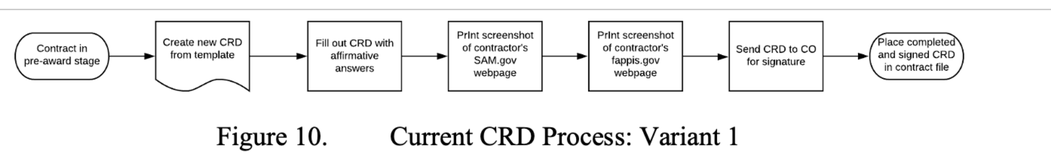


Figure 10. Current CRD Process: Variant 1

Figure 11. Current CRD Process: Variant 2

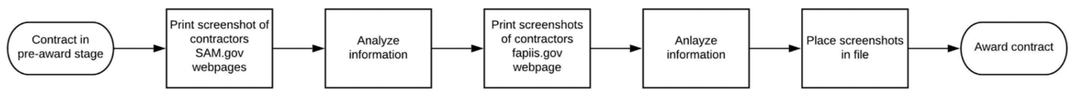


Figure 12. Current CRD Process: Variant 3

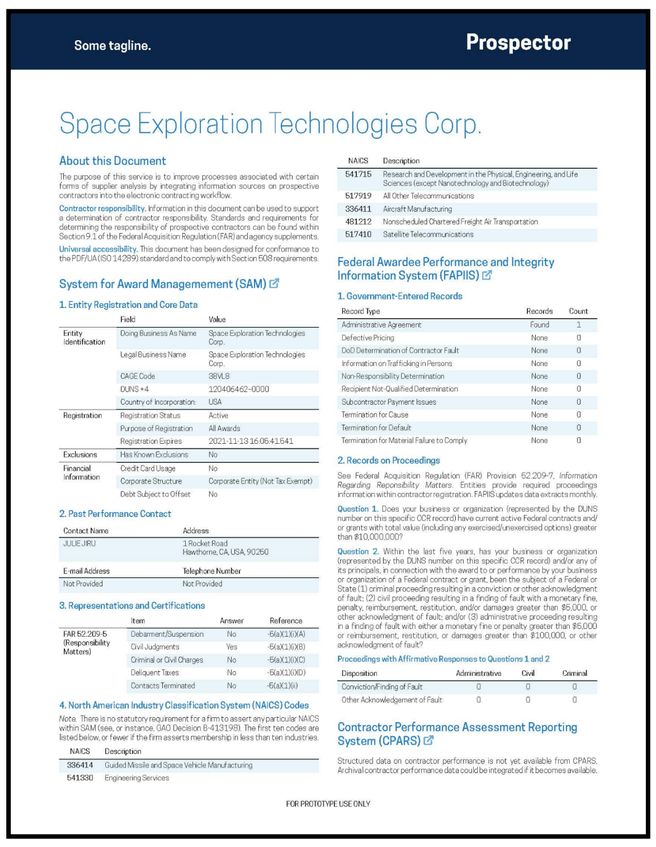
3 Different Variants of the Current CRD Process

Methods

- Interview COs on current CRD processes
- Research and determine best "business improvement" methodology for size and scope of project
- Use H. J. Harrington's 5-Phase BPI approach to improve the CRD process
- Gather feedback from field on prototype

Results

Using H. J. Harrington's BPI method, a new prototype process was created to conduct a CRD. By accessing all required information through the APIs available and including only relevant data, the prospectus allows for COs to process the data much faster for their determination. However, this prospectus is just the beginning. By automating even more data and steps in the CRD process, the CRD process can see radical transformation.



Some tagline. **Prospector**

Space Exploration Technologies Corp.

About this Document

The purpose of this service is to improve processes associated with certain forms of supplier analysis by integrating information sources on prospective contractors into the electronic contracting workflow.

Contractor responsibility. Information in this document can be used to support a determination of contractor responsibility. Standards and requirements for determining the responsibility of prospective contractors can be found within Section 9.1 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and agency supplements.

Universal accessibility. This document has been designed for conformance to the PDF/UA (ISO 14289) standard and to comply with Section 508 requirements.

System for Award Management (SAM)

1. Entity Registration and Core Data

	Field	Value
Entity Identification	Doing Business As Name	Space Exploration Technologies Corp.
	Legal Business Name	Space Exploration Technologies Corp.
	CAGE Code	3BVL8
	DUNS +4	120406462-0000
	Country of Incorporation	USA
Registration	Registration Status	Active
	Purpose of Registration	All Awards
	Registration Expires	2021-11-13 16:06:41.641
Exclusions	Has Known Exclusions	No
Financial Information	Credit Card Usage	No
	Corporate Structure	Corporate Entity (Not Tax Exempt)
	Debt Subject to Offset	No

2. Past Performance Contact

Contact Name	Address
JULIE JIRU	1 Rocket Road Hawthorne, CA, USA, 90250
E-mail Address	**Telephone Number**
Not Provided	Not Provided

3. Representations and Certifications

	Item	Answer	Reference
FAR 52.209-5 (Responsibility Matters)	Debarment/Suspension	No	-5(a)(1)(i)(A)
	Civil Judgments	Yes	-5(a)(1)(i)(B)
	Criminal or Civil Charges	No	-5(a)(1)(i)(C)
	Delinquent Taxes	No	-5(a)(1)(i)(D)
	Contracts Terminated	No	-5(a)(1)(i)

4. North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes

Note. There is no statutory requirement for a firm to assert any particular NAICS within SAM (see, e.g., GAO Decision B-413139). The first ten codes are listed below, or fewer if the firm asserts membership in less than ten industries.

NAICS	Description
336414	Guided Missile and Space Vehicle Manufacturing
541330	Engineering Services
541715	Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology)
517919	All Other Telecommunications
336411	Aircraft Manufacturing
481212	Nonscheduled Chartered Freight Air Transportation
517410	Satellite Telecommunications

Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS)

1. Government-Entered Records

Record Type	Records	Count
Administrative Agreement	Found	1
Defective Pricing	None	0
DoD Determination of Contractor Fault	None	0
Information on Trafficking in Persons	None	0
Non-Responsibility Determination	None	0
Recipient Not-Qualified Determination	None	0
Subcontractor Payment Issues	None	0
Termination for Cause	None	0
Termination for Default	None	0
Termination for Material Failure to Comply	None	0

2. Records on Proceedings

See Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Provision 52.209-7, *Information Regarding Responsibility Matters*. Entities provide required proceedings information within contractor registration. FAPIIS updates data extracts monthly.

Question 1. Does your business or organization (represented by the DUNS number on this specific CCR record) have current active Federal contracts and/or grants with total value (including any exercised/unexercised options) greater than $10,000,000?

Question 2. Within the last five years, has your business or organization (represented by the DUNS number on this specific CCR record) and/or any of its principals, in connection with the award to or performance by your business or organization of a Federal contract or grant, been the subject of a Federal or State (1) criminal proceeding resulting in a conviction or other acknowledgment of fault; (2) civil proceeding resulting in a finding of fault with a monetary fine, penalty, reimbursement, restitution, and/or damages greater than $5,000, or other acknowledgment of fault; and/or (3) administrative proceeding resulting in a finding of fault with either a monetary fine or penalty greater than $5,000 or reimbursement, restitution, or damages greater than $100,000, or other acknowledgment of fault?

Proceedings with Affirmative Responses to Questions 1 and 2

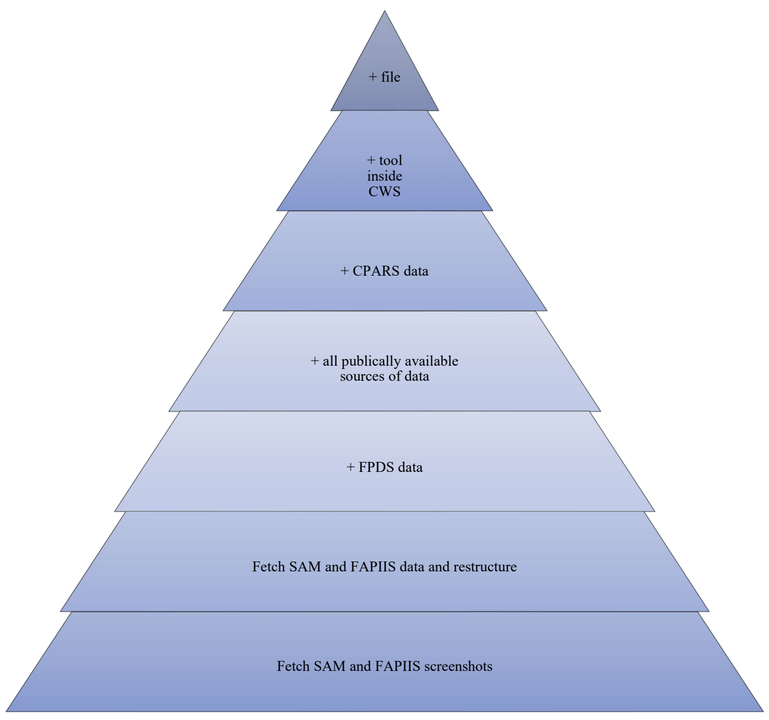
Disposition	Administrative	Civil	Criminal
Conviction/Finding of Fault	0	0	0
Other Acknowledgement of Fault	0	0	0

Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS)

Structured data on contractor performance is not yet available from CPARS. Archival contractor performance data could be integrated if it becomes available.

FOR PROTOTYPE USE ONLY

Prospectus Prototype



Automation Hierarchy

Recommendations

- Transition prospectus API from legacy SAM to Beta SAM API
- Transition prospectus from URL to inside a contract writing system
- Incorporate machine learning and AI into the prospectus data gathering
- Expand use of prospectus to other pre-award data gathering processes (such as market research)

Acquisition Research Program
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