



RESEARCH  
AND ENGINEERING

DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3030 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3030

12-26-2023

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT

SUBJECT: Delegation of Research Other Transaction Authority to Department of Defense  
Components

Reference: Section 4021 of Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.)

The purpose of this memorandum is to delegate authority to execute research other transaction (Research OT) agreements as provided for in section 4021 of title 10, U.S.C., to Department of Defense (DoD) Components. I hereby delegate the authority to carry out Research OT agreements as permitted by section 4021 of title 10, U.S.C., to the Directors of the Defense Agencies, the Directors of Field Activities with contracting authority, the Commanders of Combatant Commands with contracting authority, and the Director of the Defense Innovation Unit. All previous delegations of this authority to Defense Agencies and Defense Field Activities are supplanted by this memorandum. This delegation does not apply to the Military Departments or the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, which have their own authorities to carry out Research OT agreements as prescribed in statute.

Specific guidance and best practices on Research OT agreements are needed to help DoD agreements officers negotiate and award these innovative instruments. I therefore direct the DoD Grants Policy Office to maintain a guide for Research OT authorities. My point of contact for this matter is Dr. Jason Day at [jason.o.day.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jason.o.day.civ@mail.mil).

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