



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Contract Policy Memo 24-C-04

FROM: SAF/AQC
1060 Air Force Pentagon
Washington DC 20330-1060

SUBJECT: DAF Alternate Authorities Guide - Injecting Speed and Innovation in Contracting

In the dynamic landscape of defense acquisition and in the era of Great Power Competition (GPC), it is crucial for contracting professionals to effectively utilize a range of contracting tools to navigate complex challenges. SAF/AQC is dedicated to aligning contracting efforts with the National Defense Strategy ensuring the Department of the Air Force (DAF) remains ready to deliver responsive and effective Global Vigilance, Global Reach, and Global Power. As the Department of the Air Force (DAF) strives for innovation, the acquisition environment necessitates we explore alternate authorities and acquisition flexibilities to enhance resilience and adaptability in the face of evolving threats. By leveraging these authorities, leaders can promote a culture of innovation to meet the dynamic challenges confronting the DAF and drive mission success, empowering Airman and Guardians to rapidly deliver innovative solutions to meet the demands of GPC.

The DAF Guide to Alternate Authorities posted to the [Alternate Authorities Toolbox Drawer](#) provides an overview of various alternate authorities to include warranting requirements and approvals, where applicable. This guide currently covers the authorities outlined below. As additional resources, guidance, or alternate authorities become available, the guide will be updated.

- (a) Grants & Cooperative Agreements pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 4001, Research & Development Projects and 10 U.S.C. § 4141, Award of grants and contracts to colleges and universities: requirement of competition
- (b) Research Other Transactions pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 4021, Research projects: transactions other than contracts and grants
- (c) Other Transactions for Prototypes (OTP) pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 4022, Authority of the Department of Defense to carry out certain prototype projects
- (d) Procurement for Experimental Purposes pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 4023, Procurement for experimental purposes
- (e) Prize Challenges pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 4025, Prizes for advanced technology achievements & 15 U.S.C. § 3719, Prize Competitions
- (f) Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 3715, Use of partnership intermediaries and 10. U.S.C. § 4124, Centers for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership

The Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA) Delegations of Grant Authority, Other Transactions Authority, Procurements for Experimental Purposes, and Cooperative Agreement Authority are in DAFFARS MP5301.601(a)(i) Department of the Air Force Approval Authority Matrices, Table 3¹.

¹ Or as specified in the Head of Contract Activity Designation memo for Space Development Agency, Space Systems Command, and Space Rapid Capabilities Office.

Senior Contracting Officials (SCOs) must provide appropriate oversight to ensure Grant Officers and Agreements Officers (AOs) do not bind the Government in excess of their warrant authority and provide a formal process for terminating appointments. Table 1 represents the minimum requirements for agreement and grant warrants. SCOs can establish additional requirements that comply with applicable statutes and regulations. All warrants are issued on a SF 1402 and the applicable authority must be identified. DAF Grants Officer and AO warrants (including Research OTs, Prototype OTs and Cooperative Agreements) may be transferable within the DAF in accordance with local procedures.

Table 1 – Warranting Requirements		
Authority – Type of Warrant	DAF Required Training *	Other Requirements
Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Agreements Officer Warrant)	DAU GRT 201 Grants and Agreements Management & Training required by the HCA and/or SCO	DoDGARS 32 CFR 21.440(a) standards
Other Transactions – Research (Agreements Officer Warrant)	DAU CON 0660, Other Transactions Course and any additional training required by the HCA and/or SCO	Candidate must have an active Contracting Officer warrant (limited or unlimited)
Other Transactions – Prototypes (Agreements Officer Warrant)	DAU CON 0660, Other Transactions Course and any additional training required by the HCA and/or SCO	Candidate must have an active Contracting Officer warrant (limited or unlimited)
Procurement for Experimental Purposes (Depends on type of instrument awarded)	There is no required training for this authority. However, candidates must follow any additional HCA and/or SCO training requirements.	Candidate must have an active Contracting Officer Warrant (limited or unlimited) or Agreements Officer Warrant for the type of instrument & \$ value to be awarded
Prize Challenges (Depends on type of instrument awarded)	There is no required training for this authority. However, candidates must follow any additional HCA and/or SCO training requirements.	Candidate must have an active Contracting Officer Warrant (limited or unlimited) or Agreements Officer Warrant for the type of instrument & \$ value to be awarded
Partnership Intermediary Agreement	There is no required training for this authority. However, candidates must follow any HCA and/or SCO training requirements.	Candidate must have an active Contracting Officer Warrant (limited or unlimited)

* In the absence of required training, see available training and resources in the applicable section of the [Acquisition Toolbox- Alternate Authorities Drawer](#)

Table 2 outlines the statutory approvals or DAF established approvals for OTPs, follow-on production contract or OTs, and prize challenges.

Table 2 – Required Approvals			
Reference	Authority	Transaction Value	Approval Authority
SAF/AQC PM 24-C-04	Other Transaction Prototype (OTP) Project	≤\$100M	SCO (Delegable to no lower than the AO) -For space programs and systems, as delegated by the HCA
10 U.S.C. §4022(a)(2)(A)	OTP Project	>\$100M ≤ \$500M	Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (SAF/AQ) for non-space programs and systems

Table 2 – Required Approvals			
Reference	Authority	Transaction Value	Approval Authority
			--Or-- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration (SAF/SQ) for space programs and systems (Not Delegable)
10 U.S.C. §4022(a)(2)(B)	OTP Project	>\$500M	USD(R&E) or USD(A&S) (Not Delegable)
SAF/AQC PM 24-C-04	Follow-on Production Contract or OT	≤\$100M	PEO/PM/Requiring Official (GS-15/Colonel or equivalent only)
10 U.S.C. §4022(a)(2)(C)	Follow-on Production Contract or OT	>\$100M	SAF/AQ or SAF/SQ (Not Delegable)
10 U.S.C. §4025(c)(1)	Prize Challenge*	Prize w/ a fair market value more than \$10M	Under Secretary of Defense for Research & Engineering
10 U.S.C. §4025(c)(2)	Prize Challenge*	Award more than \$1M in cash prizes	Under Secretary of Defense for Research & Engineering
10 U.S.C. §4025(c)(3)	Prize Challenge*	Non-monetary prize w/a fair market value more than \$10K	Under Secretary of Defense for Research & Engineering
10 U.S.C §4025(g)(1)	Prize Challenge	NLT 15 days after award of a fair market value of more than \$10M	Written Notice of Award should be sent to congressional defense committees. Content of Notice found in 10 U.S.C §4025(g)(2)(A-E)

*Prize challenges below the values reflected in Table 2 are approved by the SAE unless further delegated (See 10 U.S.C. §4025(a))

The guidance reflected in Attachment 1 does not supersede or replace existing policy/guidance for grants and cooperative agreements, prize challenges, or Partnership Intermediary Agreements (PIAs). However, it does include previously issued DAF guidance regarding OTPs and procurements for experimental purposes. As a result, the following AQC memorandums are rescinded in their entirety:

- a. *Leveraging Other Transactions Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2371b for “Fly, Fight, Win,”* dated 05 Aug 2020
- b. Policy Memo (PM) 22-C-01, *Removal of Requirement for Acquisition Strategy Approval for Other Transactions Pursuant 10 U.S.C. §4003 (formerly §2371b)*, dated 04 Apr 2022
- c. PM 22-C-03, *Delegation of Procurement for Experimental Purposes Authority (10 U.S.C. §4023)*, dated 12 Aug 2022

Mission Focused Business Leaders and Change Agents should continue to explore the [Alternate Authorities Toolbox Drawer](#) for the latest version of the guide and additional resources/guidance regarding these authorities. Please direct any questions to Karen Stevens, SAF/AQCP, karen.stevens@us.af.mil.

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