



ACQUISITION AND
TECHNOLOGY

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010



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MEMORANDUM FOR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (RD&A)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (RD&A)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
(ACQUISITION)
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (LOGISTICS)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(C3I ACQUISITION)
DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC AND SPACE SYSTEMS
DIRECTOR, TACTICAL WARFARE SYSTEMS
ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE, US SPECIAL
OPERATIONS COMMAND

SUBJECT: Acquisition of Weapons Systems Electronics Using Open
Systems Specifications and Standards

The Secretary of Defense emphasized his commitment to use performance and commercial specifications and standards in a June 29, 1994 memorandum, "Specifications & Standards -- A New Way of Doing Business." The order of preference for the use of specifications & standards in system acquisitions was directed to be performance, commercial, and lastly military.

To further the goals set out in that memorandum, I am directing that "open systems" specifications and standards (electrical, mechanical, thermal, etc.) be used for acquisition of weapon systems electronics to the greatest extent practical. Open system specifications and standards are consensus-based public or nonproprietary specifications and standards for systems and interfaces of hardware, software, tools, and architecture. Effective immediately, these systems and subsystems shall be designed, developed, and constructed as open systems during the acquisition and modification process to reduce life-cycle cost and to facilitate effective weapon system intra- and interoperability. Acquisition Executives in the Department of Defense shall execute this policy. Requests to use specifications or standards which result in other than open systems shall be subject to the same waiver process established in the Secretary's June 29 Memorandum.

The Open Systems Working Group reported on September 16, 1994 their recommendations for implementation of this policy. They recommended to us a jointly sponsored oversight office. I hereby establish the Open Systems Joint Task Force to sponsor and accelerate the adoption of open systems in electronics included in weapons systems acquisitions. The charter for the task force is found at attachment (1). Mr. H. Leonard Burke will be the



first Director of the Task Force, and he will be supported by a small staff of Army, Navy, and Air Force representatives. Establishment of this Task Force requires no additional personnel resources in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The primary duties of the Task Force will be to promote and oversee the enactment of this policy, identify opportunities for implementing open systems architectures, develop training and education programs, and coordinate the identification and selection of open systems specifications and standards.

The Task Force will be the Lead Standardization Activity (LSA) for Open Systems Weapons Electronics and coordinate with other LSA's relevant to open system designs. Identification and selection of information technology standards for weapon systems shall be coordinated by the Task Force, but shall remain under the purview of the Executive Agent for Information Technology Standards at the Defense Information Systems Agency. The Task Force will identify and select other necessary standards in coordination with the Defense Standards Improvement Council.

Specific guidance implementing this policy will be developed and included in the DoD Instruction 5000.2.

The Military Departments shall forward open systems implementation plans to the Under Secretary of Defense Defense (Acquisition and Technology) within 150 days.

Paul G. Kaminski

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Attachment:
Charter for the Open Systems Joint Task Force

cc:
ASD (C3I)
ASD (ES)
Mr. Gill Decker
Mr. Clark Fiester

CHARTER
for the
OPEN SYSTEMS JOINT TASK FORCE

The Open Systems Joint Task Force (OS-JTF) is chartered as a cooperative effort of the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, the Department of the Air Force, and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology).

An opportunity exists to make a significant impact on the cost, interoperability, modularity, technology transparency, supportability, and a host of other important aspects of the electronics in future weapon systems by sponsoring and accelerating the adoption of an Open Systems approach for new systems and system upgrades. A great deal of good work is already going on in this area, but it is still somewhat fragmented and stovepiped. Also, the scope of most of these current efforts is relatively narrow, limited primarily to computers and bus structures. There is far too little interaction between the Air, Land, and Sea based communities, even though the technology used by all three is converging and ripe for common approaches. The Open Systems Joint Task Force is the means by which these improvements will be realized. The intended focus of the OS-JTF is weapons systems and platforms, and not C3I systems, communications networks, nor non-real time data processing functions. The OS-JTF will not attempt to force the use of common hardware everywhere, but rather, will seek to standardize at a level that permits tailoring of physical hardware to each unique need while retaining the advantages of common architecture and major interfaces.

The Open Systems Joint Task Force is charged with the actions necessary to accomplish these goals. Specifically the OS-JTF will:

- a. Implement the policy requirements of the memo forwarding this charter;
- b. Oversee the Military Departments' transition to open systems-centered acquisitions and advise Acquisition Executives on open systems implementation;
- c. Act as the Lead Standardization Activity for Open Systems Weapons Electronics and plan the transition of this role to a permanent activity;
- d. Coordinate and support DoD participation with appropriate industry standards bodies for non-Information Technology standards. For Information Technology standards, support the Executive Agent for Information Technology Standards in developing and representing the DoD position;
- e. Establish sources of training in open systems;
- f. Establish a repository that facilitates communication of open systems ideas, implementations, techniques and technologies;
- g. Designate appropriate open systems standards for DoD weapons

- systems use; and
- h. Coordinate with the Executive Agent for Information Technology Standards and forward information technology standards issues to the Executive Agent for resolution.

The Director of the OS-JTF will be provided by one of the Military Departments as selected by the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology). Each of the Military Departments will provide two staff members, one military and one civilian, on rotational assignment to the OS-JTF for a period of two to three years.

The office of the OS-JTF will be located in Northern Virginia. Support will be provided by Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology) - Director for Administration.

Funds will be allocated to the OS-JTF for the following purposes:

- a. For technical support to coordinate DoD participation with commercial industry standardization groups;
- b. For technical support to augment existing work by the Military Departments with commercial industry standardization groups;
- c. To develop open systems training mechanisms and to transfer them to an appropriate delivery mode;
- d. To develop and maintain a repository of information pertaining to adoption of open systems approaches; and
- e. For contractor technical support, travel expenses and other costs of operation of the office.

The Director and staff of the OS-JTF are authorized to work directly with the Military Departments, Defense Agencies and in particular with the Service Acquisition Executives to satisfy the intent of this charter. They are also authorized to represent the DoD in dealing with industry standardization bodies. The Director of the OS-JTF is authorized to direct expenditure of funds allocated for the purposes of this charter and to sign correspondence for the OS-JTF.

The Director OS-JTF reports to the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology). Military and civilian staff assigned to the OS-JTF report to the Director within the scope of this charter. The Director will make periodic reports as directed to include accomplishments, issues and use of funds.

This charter will expire four years from the date of its approval, or when the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology) determines it is no longer required.