

**Office of the  
Under Secretary of Defense  
For Acquisition, Technology  
and Logistics**



# **Intellectual Property: Navigating Through Commercial Waters**

**Issues And Solutions When  
Negotiating Intellectual Property  
With Commercial Companies  
(Version 1.1)**

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# **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: NAVIGATING THROUGH COMMERCIAL WATERS**

*ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS WHEN NEGOTIATING  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WITH COMMERCIAL COMPANIES*

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
FOR  
ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS

Version 1.1

October 15, 2001

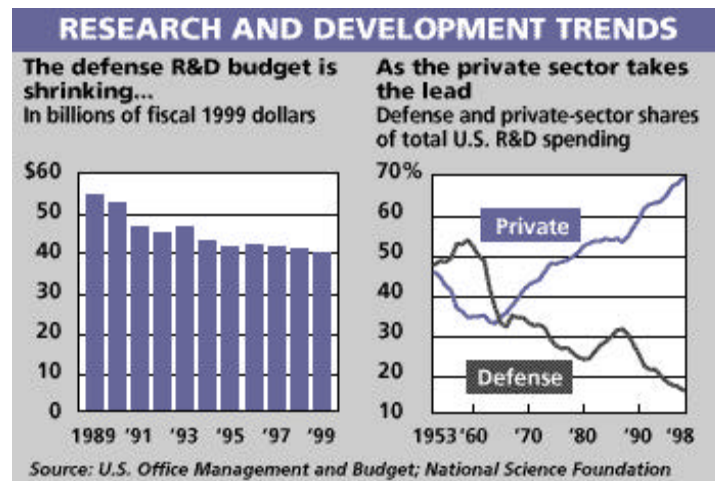




# Foreword

In the past, research programs funded by the Department of Defense (DoD) often led industry efforts in technology. Today the reverse is largely the case—technology leadership has shifted to industry, where most research and development (R&D) dollars are spent.

“Budget pressures have squeezed military R&D spending in recent years... down 30% from its inflation-adjusted peak in 1989. Meanwhile, the private sector’s share of total R&D expenditures in the U.S. is soaring. In 1960, private-sector R&D spending amounted to roughly one-third of the country’s total. In 1999, it accounted for two thirds (an estimated \$166 billion). Over the same period, the military’s share dropped to 16% from 53%.”<sup>1</sup>



Challenges to the Government today are to find ways to entice commercial industry into collaborating with the Department in vital research efforts, and to acquire commercial products using commercially friendly terms. While the acquisition streamlining legislation of the 1990s went a long way to create more commercial-like contracting processes for the Government, some practices from past decades are holdovers to today. One such area is intellectual property (IP).

The concept of IP is fundamental to a capitalist society. A company’s interest in protecting its IP from uncompensated exploitation is as important as a farmer’s interest in protecting his or her seed corn. Often companies will not consider jeopardizing their vested IP to comply with the Government contract clauses that have remained in use since the days when DoD was the technology leader and frequent funder of research programs. We must now create a new environment for

<sup>1</sup> Chen, Kathy (November 12, 1999). “Pentagon Finds Fewer Firms Want to Do Military R&D.” *Wall Street Journal*, Sec. A, p. 20, Col. 1.

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negotiating IP terms and conditions that protect the true interest of the Government—incorporating technologically advanced solutions into the weapons systems and management systems we deploy. This guide was created for the Government acquisition community (i.e., contracting personnel, legal counsel, and program managers) and its industry partners as a tool to equip them with new ideas and solutions to address the IP issues that divide us in the negotiation process.

On September 5, 2000, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics [USD(AT&L)] signed a policy letter announcing a shift in focus for negotiating IP contract terms with commercial firms that ordinarily do not do business with DoD. This letter, found in Appendix A, begins the process of shifting our thinking and putting into place the mandate to develop training materials that will assist the acquisition community in this endeavor.

Subsequently, USD(AT&L) signed a letter on January 5, 2001 (also included in Appendix A) that added to this initiative. In addition to directing that this guide be published, it highlighted the importance of engaging in certain practices currently permitted by regulation, including

- ◆ emphasizing the use of specifically negotiated license rights,<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ exercising flexibility when negotiating patent rights,
- ◆ using performance-based acquisition strategies that may obviate the need for data and/or rights, and
- ◆ acquiring only data and/or rights to data truly needed for a given acquisition.

Additionally, the letter initiated an IP working group, comprised of Department personnel and industry advisors, to evaluate certain patent clause waiver possibilities and the use and protection of industry’s proprietary data, and to revise Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) Part 227, Patents, Data, and Copyrights. Finally, it called for an aggressive education campaign.

This guide is intended to provide a straightforward discussion of the information contracting officers need to negotiate IP arrangements. Such negotiations should strive to balance the needs of the Government and industry, resulting in a win-win solution. This guide is not inclusive of all IP issues and is not meant to be a complete treatise on all nuances of IP. Rather, it is designed to provide

- ◆ a description of the fundamental principles and concepts of negotiating IP rights (Chapter 1);

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<sup>2</sup> DFARS 227.7103-5 (d), Specifically Negotiated License Rights, commonly referred to as “special licenses.”

- ◆ a foundational framework of IP's key aspects and its treatment in Government contracting (Chapter 2);
- ◆ a description of the various planning activities, especially market research, that may reduce IP-related problems later in the acquisition process (Chapter 3); and
- ◆ a description of the major IP issues that keep some companies from responding to Government solicitations, as well as possible solutions to attract their involvement (Chapter 4).

In addition, this guide provides background and reference materials, included as appendices:

- ◆ Appendix A (“USD(AT&L) Policy Letters”) presents the policy context against which this guide was created.
- ◆ Appendix B (“IP Basics—Supplemental Materials”) provides a general understanding of the IP basics, including trade secrets, copyrights, trademarks, patents, technical data, and computer software.
- ◆ Appendix C (“Federal Acquisition Regulation Clause Summary”) provides an easy reference and summary analysis of all IP clauses contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR).
- ◆ Appendix D (“Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement Clause Summary”) provides an easy reference and summary analysis of all IP clauses contained in the DFARS.
- ◆ Appendix E (“History”) provides a chronological history of patent law and describes how technical data requirements came into the procurement process.
- ◆ Appendix F (“References”) lists IP-related educational materials and references for further reading.
- ◆ Appendix G (“Intellectual Property Resources”) identifies key agency points of contact available to provide advice and strategies as needed.

Throughout this guide, the FAR and DFARS clauses relating to IP are discussed. The specific terms in this guide are primarily focused on FAR-based contracts. However, the solutions cited here can be applied, with appropriate legal counsel, to negotiating alternative vehicles such as “other transactions,” cooperative agreements, cooperative research and development agreements (CRADAs), and grants.

This guide's primary focus is on the issues associated with nontraditional Defense contractors in commercial industry. Traditional Defense contractors have similar



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issues, but, because of their familiarity and long-standing involvement, they have a better working understanding of the FAR and DFARS clauses. With either non-traditional or traditional contractors, the Government's policy is to obtain only the minimum necessary rights.

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# Chapter 1

## The Principles

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When acquiring intellectual property (IP) license rights, the Department of Defense (DoD) acquisition community should consider certain core principles. The table below highlights these principles and is followed by more details on each. For the purposes of this guide, the term “intellectual property” means patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets. In dealing with IP rights, the Government has promulgated policies and regulations on patents, copyrights, technical data, and computer software.

<b>Core IP Principles for the DoD Acquisition Community</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Integrate IP considerations fully into acquisition strategies for advanced technologies in order to protect core DoD interests.</b></li><li><b>2. Respect and protect privately developed IP because it is a valuable form of intangible property that is critical to the financial strength of a business.</b></li><li><b>3. Resolve issues prior to award by clearly identifying and distinguishing the IP <i>deliverables</i> from the <i>license rights</i> in those deliverables.</b></li><li><b>4. Negotiate specialized IP provisions whenever the customary deliverables or standard license rights do not adequately balance the interests of the contractor and the Government.</b></li><li><b>5. Seek flexible and creative solutions to IP issues, focusing on acquiring only those deliverables and license rights necessary to accomplish the acquisition strategy.</b></li></ol>

<b>1 Integrate IP considerations fully into acquisition strategies for advanced technologies in order to protect core DoD interests.</b>
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IP considerations have a critical impact on the cost and affordability of technology, and they should not be treated as a separate or distinct issue that can be negotiated apart from contract performance requirements or price/cost factors. Therefore, when developing acquisition strategies, be sure to consider all types of DoD requirements, such as production, acceptance testing, installation, operation, maintenance, upgrade or modification, interoperability with other systems, and transfer of technologies to other programs/systems/platforms. In particular, ad-

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dress IP matters when making source selection determinations and evaluating total ownership cost.

<b>2    Respect and protect privately developed IP because it is a valuable form of intangible property that is critical to the financial strength of a business.</b>
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Innovation requires substantial financial investment and effort over a long period of time and uses scarce resources. To make this investment worthwhile, industry relies on its IP rights as the primary means to recoup these nonrecurring costs and seek profit. A developer's IP rights ensure that the developer has the exclusive right to exploit his or her innovation commercially and financially, with the understanding that the technology must be embodied in products or services that will ensure a return on the investment. The end result of protecting IP rights is that technology is advanced and disseminated widely, and innovators are rewarded for their efforts.

The Government should honor the rights in IP resulting from private developments and limit its demands to IP rights for essential Government purposes. The Government also should encourage the maximum practical commercial use of inventions made while performing Government contracts, and it generally should encourage the use of U.S. patents in performing Government contracts and subcontracts. The Government often acquires supplies or services on a competitive basis; nevertheless, it must ensure the protection of privately developed IP in the process.

Subcontractors are vital members of the technology team and may deal directly with the Government on matters related to rights in IP. Prime contractors are required to flow down to their subcontractors the clauses needed for IP protection. Furthermore, prime contractors may not, as a condition for award, require subcontractors to relinquish their rights in their IP.

The unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure of a trade secret may destroy the (commercial) value of that trade secret. This is equally true for both solicited and unsolicited proposals. Many legal remedies for inappropriate disclosures of trade secrets exist, including money damages, injunctions, and criminal sanctions. However, standard contractual remedies for the inappropriate disclosure of a trade secret are often inadequate to preserve the value of the trade secret because it is difficult to prove their misappropriation. As a result, most commercial businesses simply refuse to allow another party access to their trade secrets unless that party has provided adequate assurances that the trade secrets will be handled and protected according to the best commercial standards. Therefore, DoD must utilize all available means for safeguarding restricted IP, including employee training for the handling of restricted materials, technological access or copying protection, and physical access restrictions.

**3 Resolve issues prior to award by clearly identifying and distinguishing the IP deliverables from the license rights in those deliverables.**

IP terms and conditions are core elements of the deal when developing or acquiring cutting-edge technologies. They are integral aspects of performance requirements and cost or price, and they will have a lasting impact on life-cycle support for that technology. As with any critical issue, the parties must have a meeting of the minds prior to executing the contract. They are more likely to quickly find mutually agreeable terms and conditions during preaward phases.

The standard FAR and DFARS clauses require that certain information be set forth in the contract (e.g., the preaward listing of proprietary IP). If that information is incomplete or ambiguous, the clauses will not be effective. It is not enough merely to incorporate the standard FAR and DFARS clauses, because they do not always resolve critical IP issues. For example, there is no clause establishing rights in commercial computer software. However, the DFARS establishes procedures for the early identification of restrictions on noncommercial technical data and computer software. Similar processes should be established for commercial technologies and other important IP concerns.

“IP deliverables” refers to the contractual obligation to deliver IP that has a predetermined content and format. The Government may own the delivered physical medium on which the IP resides, but generally it will not own the IP rights. “License rights” refers to the Government’s ability to use, reproduce, modify, and release the delivered IP. These two concepts are integrally related. Using creative flexibility in both areas will result in a win-win agreement.

It is important to take steps early in the acquisition process to identify commercial software and technical data that will be delivered. When acquiring commercial software and technical data, DoD normally receives only those deliverables and associated license rights that are customarily provided to the public. However, there is no standard clause for commercial computer software; the parties must incorporate the relevant license agreement into the contract, taking care to ensure that its provisions are understood and are in keeping with the Government’s needs.

**4 Negotiate specialized IP provisions whenever the customary deliverables or standard license rights do not adequately balance the interests of the contractor and the Government.**

A “one-size-fits-all” license agreement will likely include terms and conditions that are inapplicable or irrelevant to a particular acquisition or program. This creates inefficiencies and may force parties to take unnecessarily restrictive positions on other important contract terms (e.g., price) to account for the imbalance. When negotiating, distinguish “off-the-shelf” or non-developmental acquisitions from development partnerships.



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Commercial software should be acquired using the commercial license terms whenever these terms are available. Changes in commercial license terms should be negotiated only when there is a specific Government need that must be addressed and when the Government is willing to pay the cost associated with that particular Government need. Negotiators should not assume that changes in commercial license agreements can be made at no cost.

<b>5 Seek flexible and creative solutions to IP issues, focusing on acquiring only those deliverables and license rights necessary to accomplish the acquisition strategy.</b>
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DoD policy is to require delivery of only the technical data and computer software necessary to satisfy agency needs. The Government should avoid requiring delivery of technical data and computer software “just in case.” Rather, to accommodate potential future needs for technical data and computer software, the Government might explore contingency-based delivery requirements, like a special contract provision that would define the types of technical data and computer software that the Government might wish to order in the future. Also, with regard to technical data and computer software deliverables, the delivery needs or requirements should be separated from the technical data and computer software that is needed only for viewing (e.g., other programmatic data in the contractor’s facility). When acquiring software, rights in that software are the *primary* deliverable to the Government. For commercial technical data and computer software, the Government should seek only that data normally provided to a commercial customer—typically far less than that provided under traditional DoD contracts.

As a general rule under Government contracts, the contractor-developer is allowed to retain ownership of the technical data and computer software it developed; and the Government receives only a license to use that technical data and computer software. DoD does not “own” the technical data and computer software included in deliverables, even if the Department paid for 100 percent of the development costs. The scope of the license depends on the nature of the technical data and computer software, the relative source of funding for development, and the negotiations between the parties.

Finally, program officials should seek to establish performance-based requirements that enhance long-term competitive interests, in lieu of acquiring detailed design data and data rights.

## SUMMARY

These guiding principles require fair treatment of IP owners and encourage the use of that IP to produce commercial products and services that meet Defense needs. They support the current movement for DoD to collaborate with industry on more commercially friendly terms, so that the benefits of commercial research and development can be more readily assimilated into Defense products.

## Chapter 2

# Intellectual Property Framework

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## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition (2000), defines “intellectual property” as “A product of the intellect that has commercial value....” IP is thus the physical manifestation of original thought. Its value, expressed through technology and industrial innovation, is central to the economic, environmental, and social well-being of the United States and offers many benefits. Some such benefits include

- ◆ improved standard of living,
- ◆ increased public- and private-sector productivity,
- ◆ the creation of new industries and employment opportunities,
- ◆ improved public services, and
- ◆ enhanced competitiveness of U.S. products in world markets.

It is important to understand that IP is a form of *intangible* personal property, which must be carefully distinguished from the tangible/physical items or products that include or “embody” that IP. For example, when a person buys a book at the local bookstore, that person acquires ownership of that single, physical copy of the book but does not acquire ownership of the intangible IP rights (in this case, most likely copyright) that may protect the contents of the book.

Due to the intangible nature of IP, the value of any IP is limited to what the courts and legislatures are willing to protect against unauthorized use. In the United States, the parameters of what is—or is not—protected as IP are defined through an extensive collection of statutes, court opinions, legal rules, regulations, and procedures. Generally speaking, IP law is divided into categories according to the form of the human intellect product and the exclusive rights and remedies afforded the producers of that product. These categories are patents, copyrights, trade secrets, trademarks, and service marks.<sup>1</sup> In addition, two other less common forms of IP protection exist under Title 17 of the U.S. Code. They are mask works, which protect the patterns used in fabricating integrated circuits on semiconductor chips; and vessel hull designs, which protect the artistic or distinctive

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<sup>1</sup> These categories—patents, copyrights, trade secrets, trademarks, and service marks—are summarized in Table 2.1, which can be found at the end of Chapter 2 (also see Appendix B for additional details).

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aspects of certain vessel hulls, plugs, or molds. Consult your IP counsel regarding these forms of IP, as they are complex and specific to certain procurements and are not examined in this guide.

## THE GOVERNMENT’S TREATMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

### Statutory Citation and Regulatory Coverage

The statutory provisions for U.S. patent law are found exclusively in Title 35 of the U.S. Code. Copyright law is in Title 17 of the U.S. Code.

FAR Part 27 prescribes policies, procedures, and contract clauses pertaining to patents and directs agencies to develop coverage for rights in data and software. DFARS Part 227 provides the related policy guidance for Defense contracts. In general, under the FAR and DFARS, the Government acquires certain rights (subject to negotiation) in IP that is created in the performance of work under a Government contract or subcontract.

### Current Department of Defense Framework

DoD clauses related to IP are currently built around the following framework:

- ◆ Contractors are generally permitted to retain ownership (e.g., title) of the IP rights governing the technologies/information that they develop or deliver under DoD contracts; and
- ◆ DoD receives only a (nonexclusive) license to use that IP—the scope of the license depends on the nature of the data, the relative source of funding for development, and negotiation between the parties.

The DoD approach categorizes IP into two main categories, most commonly referred to as “patent rights” and “technical data and computer software rights.”

#### PATENT RIGHTS—RIGHTS IN INVENTIONS AND PATENTS

Patent rights refer to the Government’s rights to “practice” an invention that is, or will be, protected by a US patent. It is important to distinguish between “subject inventions” and “background inventions.”

A “subject invention” is an invention that is first “made”<sup>2</sup> during the performance of a Government contract. The Government’s and contractor’s rights and obligations concerning subject inventions are set forth in great detail in the standard

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<sup>2</sup> An invention is “made” if it is either conceived or first actually reduced to practice under the contract. See 35 U.S. Code 201, FAR 52.227-11(a), and -12(a). These criteria are discussed further in Chapter 4.

FAR patent rights clauses, which are based in part on statutory requirements. As discussed above, the general approach is that the contractor is permitted to retain title to the invention, and the Government receives a nonexclusive license to use that invention for Government purposes. It is critical to understand that the granting of a license to the Government for a patent first made during performance of a Government contract is *not negotiable* in a FAR contract, grant, or cooperative agreement. However, the terms of that license may be negotiable, and therefore some potential solutions are raised in Chapter 4 to address industry's concerns.

A “background invention” is any invention—other than a subject invention—that is owned or licensed by the contractor, and that will be incorporated into contract deliverables. The contracting parties generally must take affirmative steps, as discussed in Chapter 4, to fully address background invention issues. Such steps include identifying relevant background inventions and related issues early—prior to award, if possible<sup>3</sup>; and working with IP counsel to establish the rights and restrictions on the Government's use of those inventions.

These issues are addressed in FAR Part 27, which also includes detailed regulations protecting and indemnifying the Government in the event of patent infringement by a contractor. Part 27 also includes numerous regulations discussing the mechanics of paying royalties, identifying Government rights, and conducting follow-up activities by both the Government and the contractor.

## TECHNICAL DATA AND COMPUTER SOFTWARE RIGHTS

DFARS Subparts 227.71 and 227.72 establish a DoD-unique process for acquiring IP license rights governing technical data or computer software that is developed or delivered under a contract. The license restricts the Government's use of the information contained in the deliverable.

In general, the contractor-developer retains title to the IP, and the Government receives a nonexclusive license to use, reproduce, modify, release, perform, display, or disclose the data or software. The specific license granted depends on whether the technical data or computer software qualifies as noncommercial or commercial technology:

- ◆ Noncommercial Technology. The DFARS approach defines a set of standard license categories that vary according to the parties' relative financial investments in the development of the underlying technology. If these standard rights do not effectively balance the parties' interests, specifically negotiated licenses are encouraged.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See Chapter 2 section titled “Early Identification of IP Restrictions and Related Issues.”

<sup>4</sup> The key aspects of this approach are set forth in Table 2.2, which can be found at the end of Chapter 2.

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- ◆ Commercial Technology. When acquiring commercial technologies, DoD normally receives only those deliverables and associated license rights that are customarily provided to the public. In fact, there is no DFARS clause prescribed for commercial computer software; the parties must incorporate the negotiated license agreement, including any specialized requirements, into the contract.<sup>5</sup>

## EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RESTRICTIONS AND RELATED ISSUES

Many DoD acquisitions will involve a mix of commercial and noncommercial technologies. In these situations, it is important to ensure the contract includes provisions to cover both types of technologies and to include a statement clarifying how they apply to the deliverables (e.g., the noncommercial and commercial items can be segregated into separate line items, with each line item being governed by the appropriate clauses or attached license agreements).

This approach is unique to DoD and involves multiple forms of IP and a variety of license categories. The following areas, each of which is discussed below, are of particular interest in regards to understanding how to address DoD's approach to IP.

- ◆ Early identification of IP restrictions and related issues,
- ◆ Distinguishing IP deliverables from license rights,
- ◆ Specifically negotiated license agreements, and
- ◆ Markings and restrictive legends.

One of the simplest and yet most important aspects of acquiring IP is identifying the critical issues prior to contract award. Taking steps to identify and resolve these key issues early will benefit all parties, by

- ◆ Ensuring the contractor's ability to preserve valuable IP interests by asserting restrictions on trade secret information;
- ◆ Facilitating source selection by identifying IP-based restrictions that may impact the overall life-cycle cost of competing technologies;
- ◆ Facilitating structured negotiations by ensuring that the parties are fully aware of the critical IP issues; and

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<sup>5</sup> The key aspects of this approach are set forth in Table 2.3, which can be found at the end of Chapter 2.

- ◆ Providing convenient methods for incorporating the results of IP negotiations into the contract.

However, the widespread belief that IP issues can be complex or contentious often results in delaying resolution of these matters until just before, or even after, contract award. The unfortunate result of this practice is that there may not be a “meeting of the minds” on core elements of the contract. Renegotiating such critical issues after award, when other related terms and conditions (e.g., cost or price factors, and performance tradeoffs) have already been “set,” can be extremely difficult.

To avoid these problems, the DFARS prescribes certain mandatory pre- and post-award identification procedures, which should be supplemented whenever necessary to ensure that all key IP issues have been identified and resolved.

## Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement Mandatory Listing Requirements

The DFARS includes a mandatory requirement for each offeror and contractor to identify, in a list, all noncommercial technical data and computer software that it plans to deliver with less-than-unlimited rights, and to assert specific restrictions on those deliverables. The listing requirement has both preaward and postaward phases, which are closely related:

- ◆ **Preaward List.** DFARS 252.227-7017 (the 7017 clause) requires prospective offerors to include the list, signed by a person with authority (to contractually bind the offeror) as part of the proposal. The Government may use the list during source selection to evaluate the impact of the identified restrictions on evaluation factors. If necessary, the Government may request additional information to evaluate the contractor’s assertions. Upon contract award, it is critical that this list be attached to the contract.
- ◆ **Postaward List.** After contract award, any updates or changes to the preaward list are governed by paragraph (e) of the clauses DFARS 252.227-7013 and -7014. The contractor’s ability to modify its assertions is limited to cases where a new assertion is based on new information or was inadvertently omitted from the preaward list but would not have materially affected source selection. No data/software may be delivered with restrictive markings unless identified on the list(s).

It is very important to check both preaward and postaward lists for accuracy and conformity. Paragraph (c) of the 7017 clause, and paragraph (e) of the 7013 and 7014 clauses, provide detailed guidance regarding the form and content of the lists (it is important to pay special attention to the asterisked notes). It also is important to note that the asserted restrictions are not immediately binding on the Government. The Government has up to three years after the completion or termination of the contract to respond to the assertions. However, assertions have

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some binding effect on the contractor, because the ability to raise new assertions is limited after award.

## Supplemental Intellectual Property Listings

The mandatory DFARS listing requirement covers only asserted restrictions on deliverable *noncommercial* technical data and computer software. Depending on the nature of the acquisition plan for the technology (see Chapter 3), it may also be desirable to seek information pertaining to other forms of IP:

- ◆ Commercial Computer Software and Commercial Technical Data. In light of the general preference for acquiring commercial items, it is important to take steps to identify these commercial deliverables so that the Government can plan for maintenance and support. It may be extremely difficult to determine whether the absence of a particular data/software deliverable on the mandatory DFARS list is because it is being offered with unlimited rights, or because it is commercial data/software. If it is the latter, the associated reduction in IP deliverables and license rights may significantly impact the acquisition plan. To help identify and resolve these issues early, consider requiring a list of commercial data/software restrictions.
- ◆ Background Inventions. Even if all of the technical data and computer software is delivered with unlimited rights or Government-purpose rights (GPR), these deliverables may include background inventions, which may subject DoD to potential infringement liability for future uses that are contemplated by the acquisition plan. The license rights granted under the DFARS clauses covering rights in technical data and computer software do *not* grant rights in any inventions that may be incorporated into that data/software. These issues can be identified in a list of background inventions, which should identify (1) the U.S. patent or patent application covering the invention, (2) the contract deliverables that incorporate the invention, and (3) information regarding the license rights that the contractor is willing to grant to the Government for the background invention.
- ◆ Other Forms of Proprietary Information. There are other forms of valuable IP that may not be covered by any of the previously mentioned lists, such as a trade secret or copyrighted information that does not meet the definition of “technical data” or “computer software.” These deliverables may qualify as “special works” or “existing works,” or they may be some other form of company-proprietary information, such as financial, cost, business, or marketing information. When acquiring these deliverables, the contracting officer should consider requiring the contractor to identify and assert any restrictions on the Government’s use thereof, similar to the 7017 list.

If these procedures are followed, the parties should be able to identify and resolve all critical IP issues before any significant problems develop. Generally speaking,

most issues will center around either the IP deliverable requirements or the license rights associated with those deliverables.

## DISTINGUISHING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY *DELIVERABLES FROM LICENSE RIGHTS*

“IP deliverables” refers to the contractual obligation to deliver IP having a predetermined content and format. The Government may own the delivered physical medium on which the IP resides, but it generally will not own the IP rights. “License rights” refers to the Government’s ability to use, reproduce, modify, and release the delivered IP. These two concepts are integrally related. Using creative flexibility in both areas will result in a win–win agreement.

### Establishing Intellectual Property Deliverables—Content, Format, and Delivery Medium

DoD must ensure that the contract requires the delivery of all information that is necessary to accomplish each element of the acquisition strategy. It is important to realize that the standard DFARS clauses that establish the rights in technical data or computer software do not specify requirements. Therefore, when drafting delivery requirements for either technical data or computer software, it is important to specify

- ◆ Content (e.g., level of detail or nature of information),
- ◆ Recording/storage format (e.g., image files versus word processing format), and
- ◆ Delivery/storage medium (e.g., paper, CD-ROM, or on-line access).

In addition, when specifying delivery of technical data, the Government should carefully consider whether it needs the data to be delivered in a format necessary for use with a computer-aided design and/or computer-aided manufacturing system. Also, for computer software, it is critical to distinguish the human-readable source code from machine-readable object/executable code.

### Options for Resolving Intellectual Property Deliverable Issues

There are a number of options available to structure mutually acceptable IP deliverable requirements:

- ◆ Altering the form or content of the deliverable. For example, the level of detail required might be reduced (e.g., requiring “form, fit, and function” data for detailed design data); or delivery might be required in a different format (e.g., drawings as CAD-CAM files as opposed to image files).



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- ◆ Establishing life-cycle maintenance/support agreements with the original contractor-developer/supplier. This reduces or eliminates DoD’s need for detailed design data for these purposes. Competition may be achieved by incorporating life-cycle support coverage into earlier procurement contracts.
  - ◆ Providing for inspection of the data/software at the contractor’s facility (e.g., see FAR 52.227-14 with its Alternate V; this civilian agency clause is not directly applicable to DoD but may serve as a model).
  - ◆ Utilizing deferred ordering under DFARS 252.227-7027. This option permits DoD to require delivery of any data/software that was generated under the contract. The right expires 3 years after (1) acceptance of all items, or (2) termination of the contract. Also, see Chapter 4, Issue 7-A for issues and solutions regarding deferred ordering.
  - ◆ Utilizing deferred delivery procedures under DFARS 252.227-7026. This provision may apply to any data/software that is designated in the contract. The right expires 2 years after (1) acceptance of all items, or (2) contract termination.
  - ◆ Utilizing third-party escrow arrangements. These arrangements are used more commonly in the commercial arena, especially concerning computer software. Generally, the contractor-developer delivers a copy of the relevant “deliverable” to a neutral third party for safekeeping during a predefined escrow period. Within the escrow period, the Government may obtain delivery of the item if certain conditions occur. The parties must negotiate a number of important elements, such as the escrow period, the conditions under which the Government can require delivery, the procedures for requesting delivery, and the payment of escrow fees.

Although many IP issues may be resolved by tailoring the IP deliverable requirements, some matters will also require the negotiation of special license agreements.

## SPECIFICALLY NEGOTIATED LICENSE AGREEMENTS

***Remember:*** What may initially appear to be a license-rights issue may actually be solved by (1) modifying the IP deliverable requirements, (2) following the DFARS guidance concerning source of funding determinations at the lowest practicable level, and/or (3) verifying whether the data/software should be treated under commercial or non-commercial rules.

The parties should negotiate specifically negotiated license agreements (often called “special license agreements”) whenever the customary deliverables or standard license rights do not adequately balance the interests of the contractor and the Government. Accordingly, before entering into any license negotiations, it

is crucial that both parties have clearly identified their core requirements, needs, and objectives. For DoD, this requires that IP considerations have been fully integrated into the acquisition plan (see Core Principle 1 and Chapter 3).

When negotiating a special license, carefully select the starting point or template for the license agreement. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Consider the following:

- ◆ If the negotiation involves commercial technologies, consider starting with the license agreement that is customarily offered to the public.
- ◆ If the negotiation involves noncommercial technologies, consider starting with the standard DFARS license that most closely parallels the relative funding of the parties.
- ◆ For development primarily funded at private expense, start with limited or restricted rights and add the additional rights the Government needs.
- ◆ For development primarily funded at Government expense, start with GPR and add limitations to preserve additional rights for the contractor-developer.

After selecting the appropriate starting point, there are several general principles to keep in mind when crafting specialized provisions:

- ◆ The Government cannot accept less than limited rights in noncommercial technical data, the standard “7015 rights” in commercial technical data, or restricted rights in noncommercial computer software (unless a waiver is obtained).
- ◆ The license should clearly set forth the data/software covered by the license, by identifying specific deliverables or establishing well-defined classes, categories, or types of deliverables; and the license should clearly set forth the specific rights granted to the Government, by enumerating all restrictions on the Government’s ability to use, reproduce, modify, release, perform, display, and disclose the licensed materials, and authorize others to engage in those activities.
- ◆ The Government’s license should be royalty-free (meaning that the license fee is included in the contract price), worldwide, irrevocable, and non-exclusive.

Specific examples and suggestions for special license provisions are discussed in Chapter 4, Issue Category 3.

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## MARKINGS AND RESTRICTIVE LEGENDS

Rights and obligations concerning restrictive markings or notices play a central role in many forms of IP. Restrictive markings are either required or permitted on all forms of technical data or computer software that is to be delivered to DoD. The specific format and content of these markings depends on whether the data or software is noncommercial or commercial.

### Restrictive Markings on Noncommercial Data and Software

Restrictive markings are required for all noncommercial technical data and computer software being delivered with less-than-unlimited rights. The DFARS establishes specific procedures governing the placement of restrictive markings on deliverables, storage media, and transmittal documents. In addition, there are only six types of legends that are authorized under the clauses:

- ◆ A notice of copyright under 17 U.S.C. 401 or 402,
- ◆ The GPR legend,
- ◆ The limited-rights legend,
- ◆ The restricted-rights legend,
- ◆ The special-license-rights legend, and
- ◆ Pre-existing markings authorized under a previous Government contract.

The DFARS clauses specify the precise wording of the legends. Any alterations of the prescribed content or format result in the marking being considered “no conforming.”

### Restrictive Markings on Commercial Data and Software

For commercial technical data and computer software the rules are more flexible, following best commercial practices. For commercial technical data, there is no prescribed legend, but DFARS 252.227-7015(d) provides that there will be no liability for the release or disclosure of technical data that is not marked to indicate that the data is subject to restrictions. The issue of markings on commercial computer software is not addressed in the DFARS, although it is customary in the commercial marketplace to mark software with appropriate legends (e.g., copyright notices).

## SUMMARY

The IP law and its application to Government contracting is complex, and some people spend their entire careers interpreting only one small aspect of it. Inventions and creative works are developed at what seems to be a daily rate, so IP increasingly is a significant asset to corporations and its protection is at the forefront of every corporate philosophy. Stock market analysts, venture capitalists, and investment bankers base a large part of their valuation of a company on its IP and the company's ability to leverage new products and profits from that IP. This is largely based upon a review of the company's contracts and an assessment of how "diluted" the value of the company's IP is due to transfers, assignments, or licenses of IP to other parties. As the Government participates more and more in the commercial community and tries to act more like a commercial entity in its dealings with the civilian marketplace, the Government will have to assume a more commercial mindset when acquiring IP rights.

Flexibility and collaboration will be the hallmarks of future Government/industry research and development (R&D) agreements. It is, therefore, in the Government's best interest to understand and, when possible and appropriate, accommodate industry's concerns for protecting its IP. Only in this way will the Government be able to tap into the billions of dollars worth of R&D, cutting-edge technologies, and state-of-the-art commercial products available from commercial companies and the commercial divisions of traditional Defense companies.

## TABLES

The following tables are applicable to Chapter 2:

- ◆ Table 2.1: The Most Common Types of Intellectual Property Protection,
- ◆ Table 2.2: Rights in Noncommercial Computer Software (CS) and Technical Data (TD) Covering Noncommercial Items, and
- ◆ Table 2.3: Rights in Commercial Computer Software (CS) and Technical Data (TD) Covering Commercial Items.

Table 2-1. The Most Common Types of Intellectual Property Protection  
(See Appendix B for detailed discussion)

Type of IP Protection	Protectable Subject Matter	Nature of Protection/Rights Granted to the IP Owner	Requirements for Protection	Remedies Available	Duration of Protection	Statutory Basis	DoD-Specific Statutes/Regs
Patents <sup>1</sup>	Processes, machines, articles of manufacture, and compositions of matter.	Right to exclude others from making, using, selling, or importing the invention; sometimes referred to as the right to exclude others from “practicing” the invention.	Application filed in U.S. Patent & Trademark Office; invention must be new, useful, and non-obvious.	Money damages, and injunction. <sup>2</sup>	20 years from application date.	Title 35 U.S.C.; 28 U.S.C. 1498(a).	FAR 27.1 to 27.3 and related clauses; DFARS 227.3 and 227.70, and related clauses.
Copyrights	Original, creative works fixed in a tangible medium of expression (e.g., literary, musical, or audiovisual works; computer programs).	Exclusive right to (1) copy; (2) modify; <sup>3</sup> (3) perform; (4) display; and (5) distribute copies of the copyrighted work. No protection against independent creation of similar works, or against certain “fair uses.”	Automatic when fixed in a tangible medium; added remedies for registration and notice.	Money damages (actual or statutory), injunction, <sup>2</sup> and criminal sanctions. <sup>4</sup>	Life of the author plus 70 years.	Title 17 U.S.C.; 28 U.S.C. 1498(b).	10 U.S.C. 2320 and 2321; DFARS Subparts 227.71 and 227.72, and related clauses.
Trade Secrets	Any information having commercial value by being kept secret (e.g., technical, business, or financial information)	Right to control the disclosure and use of the information through contracts or nondisclosure agreements; protection against theft or misappropriation of that information, but not from independent creation or discovery by another party.	Must take reasonable steps to safeguard the information from disclosure; reasonableness depends on the value of the information.	Money damages, injunction, and criminal sanctions. <sup>4</sup>	Potentially unlimited, as long as remains secret.	18 U.S.C. 1905; 18 U.S.C. 1831-39; various state laws.	10 U.S.C. 2320 and 2321; DFARS Subparts 227.71 and 227.72, and related clauses.
Trademarks and Service Marks	Distinctive words, phrases, or symbols that identify the source of goods or services.	Protection from confusingly similar marks, deception, and unfair competition in the marketing of goods and services.	Automatic upon use in commerce; added remedies for registration and notice.	Money damages, injunction, and criminal sanctions. <sup>4</sup>	Federal registration can be renewed every 10 years.	Title 15 U.S.C.; various state laws.	None; although a new draft FAR subpart is under development.

## Notes :

1. Information provided here for “utility” patents—the type most common in DoD acquisitions ; see Appendix B for details on “plant” patents and “design” patents.
2. There is no injunctive relief available against the Government for patent or copyright infringement; see 28 U.S.C. 1498(a) and (b).
3. This right is more formally called the right to create a “derivative work” by modifying an existing copyrighted work.
4. Although private individuals cannot enforce criminal penalties, violations of criminal statutes may be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Table 2-2. Rights<sup>1</sup> in Noncommercial Computer Software (CS) and Technical Data (TD) Covering Noncommercial Items

Rights Category <sup>2</sup>	Applicable to TD or CS?	Criteria for Applying Rights Category	Permitted Uses within Government	Permitted Uses outside Government <sup>3</sup>
Unlimited Rights (UR)	Both TD and CS	Development exclusively at Government expense; <sup>4</sup> also any deliverable of certain types—regardless of funding. <sup>5</sup>	Unlimited; no restrictions.	
Government Purpose Rights (GPR)	Both TD and CS	Development with mixed funding. <sup>4</sup>	Unlimited; no restrictions.	Only for “Government purposes”; no commercial use.
Limited Rights (LR)	TD only	Development exclusively at private expense. <sup>4</sup>	Unlimited, except may not be used for manufacture	Emergency repair/overhaul; evaluation by foreign government.
Restricted Rights (RR)	CS only	Development <sup>1</sup> exclusively at private expense. <sup>4</sup>	Only one computer at a time; minimum backup copies; modification.	Emergency repair/overhaul; certain service/maintenance contracts.
Prior Government Rights	Both TD and CS	Whenever Government has previously acquired rights in the deliverable TD/CS	Same as under the previous contract.	
Specifically Negotiated License Rights (SNLR)	Both TD and CS	Mutual agreement of the parties; use whenever the standard rights categories do not meet both parties' needs	As negotiated by the parties; however, must not be less than LR in TD, and must not be less than RR in CS. <sup>6</sup>	

**Notes:**

- Critical Need to Specify Deliverables. The standard clauses address rights but do *not* include delivery requirements. The contract must explicitly specify the content, format, and delivery medium for all IP deliverables that are necessary to meet DoD's needs. For TD, it is necessary to specify the level of detail and requirements for delivery in preferred electronic/digital formats. For CS, it is critical to specify requirements for both the executable code and the source code.
- Mandatory Listing Requirements. All TD and CS to be delivered with less than UR *must* be identified in a list attached to the contract. Pre-award listing requirements are specified at DFARS 252.227-7017; post-award requirements are at DFARS 252.227-7013(e) and -7014(e).
- Release Procedures/Restrictions. All authorized third-party recipients of TD/CS with other than UR must either sign the standard NDA from DFARS 227-7103-7 or receive the TD/CS under a contract containing DFARS 252.227-7025. Additional notice requirements exist for releases of LR data or RR software.
- Source of Development Funding—at the “Lowest Practicable Level.” For TD, the determination is based on the funding for the development of the item, component, or process (ICP) to which that data pertains (vice the development of the technical data itself). For CS, the determination is based on the source of funding for that software. If the ICP or software is developed with mixed funding, the default GPR license may be inequitable if the Government has funded only a small portion of the overall development costs. This imbalance is resolved by determining the source of funding at “lowest practicable level”: the deliverable ICP or software is divided into segregable components (e.g., sub-elements of ICPs, or sub-routines of CS), and the funding determination is made for each of the components individually. For TD, see DFARS 227.7103-4(b) and 252.227-7013(a)(6)-(9); for CS, see DFARS 227.7203-4(b) and 252.227-7014(a)(6)-(9).
- Unlimited Rights—Regardless of Funding Source. Paragraph (b)(1) of the DFARS 252.227-7013 and -7014 clauses establish numerous categories for which the Government is entitled to receive UR, regardless of which party funded the development of the underlying technology. For example, “form, fit, and function” data; or data/software that is publicly available without restrictions. See 10 U.S.C. 2320(a)(2)(C).
- Minimum Rights. For TD, the minimum rights are established by statute (10 U.S.C. 2320) and are nonnegotiable. For CS, the minimum rights are based solely on the DFARS, for which the parties could seek a deviation in circumstances in which DoD's requirements can be satisfied with less than RR.

Table 2-3. Rights<sup>1,2</sup> in Commercial Computer Software<sup>3,4</sup> (CS) and Technical Data (TD) Covering Commercial Items<sup>3,4</sup>

Rights Category <sup>5</sup>	Applicable to TD or CS?	Criteria for Applying Rights Category	Permitted Uses within Government	Permitted Uses outside Government
Unlimited Rights (UR)	TD only	Any TD of certain specified types or classes, regardless of commercial status. <sup>6</sup>	Unlimited; no restrictions.	
Standard DFARS "7015" Rights	TD only	Default rights category for all TD covering commercial items except those qualifying for UR as stated above.	Unlimited, except may not be used for manufacture.	Only for emergency repair overhaul.
Standard Commercial License	CS only	Default rights category for all commercial CS.	As specified in the license customarily offered to the public, DoD must negotiate for any specialized needs.	
Specifically Negotiated License Rights (SNLR)	Both TD and CS	Mutual agreement of the parties; should be used whenever the standard rights do not meet both parties' needs.	As negotiated by the parties; however, by statute, the Government cannot accept less than the minimum standard 7015 rights in TD. <sup>7</sup>	

**Notes:**

- Critical Impact on IP Delivery Requirements. DoD policy is to acquire, in addition to lesser rights, only those IP deliverables that are customarily offered to the public. In many cases this will be substantially different (e.g., less detailed TD; no source code for CS) than the deliverables DoD typically receives for noncommercial TD or CS. DoD must specifically negotiate for any additional IP deliverables that it requires.
- Key: Early Identification of Commercial Technologies. Because both the IP deliverables and the license rights are significantly affected when acquiring commercial technologies, it is critical to identify how these issues affect the acquisition strategy early in the acquisition process.
- Definitions. "Commercial item" is defined at FAR 2.101 (and 52.202-1), and "commercial computer software" is defined in DFARS 252.227-7014(a)(1).
- Adapting/Modifying Commercial Items. Commercial items may be modified to meet DoD's requirements without losing their commercial status, as long as the adaptations qualify as "minor modifications" or modifications "of a type customarily available in the commercial marketplace." See FAR 2.101(c), and DFARS 252.227-7014(a)(1) and (12).
- DFARS Rights versus Standard Commercial Licenses. Rights in TD covering commercial items are specified at DFARS 252.227-7015; the default rights are similar to limited rights that apply to noncommercial TD. There is no clause covering commercial CS; DoD takes the rights customarily offered to the public (often a "shrink-wrap" or "click-wrap" license) unless those rights do not meet DoD's minimum needs or violate Federal procurement law. In all cases, a copy of the standard commercial license agreement or any SNLR must be attached to the contract.
- Unlimited Rights—Regardless of Commercial Status. DFARS 252.227-7015(b)(1) lists numerous categories of TD for which the Government is entitled to receive UR—regardless of the commercial status or source of funding for the technology. For example, "form, fit, and function" data or data/software that is publicly available without restrictions. The categories are based on 10 U.S.C. 2320(a)(2)(C).
- Minimum Rights. For TD, the minimum rights are established by statute (10 U.S.C. 2320) and are nonnegotiable.

## Chapter 3

# Acquisition Planning

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Good acquisition planning, including market research, begins with a review and complete understanding of the requirements. Only through understanding the real program requirements can a contracting officer anticipate the valid Government interests in IP. This understanding can begin to shape the procurement process in order to achieve the maximum participation of commercial sources and maintain appropriately designed program competition. Early planning and market research will best enable the contracting officer to assess the environment and requirements, incorporate this knowledge into the acquisition strategy, and make the best business deal for the Government. Acquisition planning continues throughout the life of the contractual instrument and program cycles. Paying constant attention to postaward issues and planning for their resolution are as important as initial contract placement planning. This is particularly true in a rapidly changing technology area.

Remember, many commercial technologies are attractive solutions to DoD's performance and affordability needs. In most cases, DoD has not invested heavily in development costs in these technologies. Wider markets for the commercial items ensure that DoD's portion of the development costs is minimized. IP is intangible property and is an asset that may be used and built upon repeatedly; therefore, the IP owner is able to recoup costs and profit from multiple transactions. Each transaction thus bears only a fraction of the development cost. The greater the number of transactions, the lower the shared cost per transaction. Thus, both parties benefit as the market base (i.e., the number of transactions) grows. In addition, worldwide commercial market pressures on these technologies will help ensure long-term competition in price, technical support, and technology upgrades.

## POLICY CHANGES

Much has changed in the acquisition environment in recent years. Laws have been enacted, policy changes have been articulated, and many programs now pursue substantively different strategies that embrace technology and meet warfighter needs faster, better, and cheaper. These changes have been driven by some of the following objectives:

- ◆ Stay "closer" to technological advances in the commercial sector and have access to firms performing at the cutting edges of advanced technologies.
- ◆ Define requirements in terms of performance or outcomes rather than through detailed design specifications.



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- ◆ Attract commercial firms and their advancing technology to the Government marketplace with the use of other transaction authority or FAR Part 12 procedures.
  - ◆ Match the system development cycle to the technology turnover cycle to achieve earlier technology insertion and improvement upgrades.
  - ◆ Increase reliance on contractor logistics support, including just-in-time supply support, to reduce the Defense inventory infrastructure.
  - ◆ Recognize that the Defense-unique marketplace is not large enough to support a unique industrial base and infrastructure.

Contracting officers must work very closely with the acquisition team to sort out many of the critical questions that are addressed by these objectives and that influence commercial industry involvement. The team must be sure that requirements and strategies embedded in the various aspects of the solicitation do not inadvertently limit the Department's options in accessing vital technology and commercial solutions available from companies that heretofore have refused to do business under historical IP approaches. Market research and long-term planning are the best weapons to combat this dilemma.

## MARKET RESEARCH

“Market research,” as used here, is the process of identifying appropriate commercial technologies to meet Government needs. The following IP issues should be explored during market research:

- ◆ What is the maturity level of relevant commercial technologies?
- ◆ Can existing technologies be adapted for DoD requirements?
- ◆ For each technology, what are the standard commercial approaches to the nature and type of data to be furnished to commercial end-users, and what license rights are typically provided to end-users (vice co-developers)?
- ◆ What is the business tradeoff between buying established technology from multiple competitive sources and buying state-of-the-art technology that requires alternative approaches to achieving competitive market pricing?
- ◆ To what extent will the standard data rights and patent clauses discourage vitally needed firms from participating?
- ◆ What is the pace of technology? (For example, a company whose software technology turns over every year or so is unlikely to pursue a patent; a trade secret is the more likely IP route in this situation.)

- ◆ What is the Government's relative position (e.g., a small or large buyer) in this market?
- ◆ Would a company acquire the same IP rights in a similar situation?

If market research reveals that a practice or particular strategy is in the best interest of the Government and is not specifically addressed in the regulations, nor prohibited by law or executive order, the Government team can assume it is not prohibited and pursue it, with appropriate legal counsel, if it creates a win-win scenario.

## LONG-TERM PLANNING

Acquisition planners should consider both the instant project requirements and any expected production and/or support follow-on activity required. If no future buys are planned or if maintenance and support will be done through exercising negotiated warranties, the need for technical data and other IP is greatly reduced. If the developer is embracing the concept of contractor logistics support, the need for technical data downstream may be obviated and may thereby remove that IP barrier from the procurement. If, on the other hand, organic maintenance capability is required at some level, new assumptions should be considered. For example, planning for downstream competitions on subsystems based on form, fit, and function requirements, will reduce the need for technical data that would form the basis for a reprourement of precisely the same item.

It is essential that the acquisition team apply good business sense when considering the balance of the Government's and industry's needs for IP rights. For example, what good is done if highly restrictive data rights and patent clauses are used that may only discourage vitally needed technology firms from participating? Competition would be reduced and the key technology leaders in a particular field may not participate. The Government's interests can be best protected by changing the IP-affected clauses as needed to obtain broader participation for the technological leaders to meet the Defense need.

Early and continued communication among all disciplines of the team, including program, contracting, logistics, and legal counsel, will enhance the likelihood of a successful program and ensure early appropriate focus on the IP issues. Involving commercial industry in the planning process also will provide the necessary commercial input that can help shape the acquisition strategy and program plan.

Part of the planning process is to determine where that technical "trade space" is and how potential commercial technologies can meet the need. One way to achieve this determination is through effective market research. Another widely used approach is the issuance of sources sought and draft solicitations. These contacts should be part of the plan as a way to make potential sources aware of the program and to help determine whether the draft solicitation has restrictive

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minimum technical or IP requirements that may preclude commercial companies' involvement.

The contracting officer must embrace the responsibility to ensure the IP terms and conditions negotiated are appropriate for the particular project. The contracting officer must understand the short- and long-term implications of his or her position, on commercial industry, including the use of standard clauses that may result in limiting competition from the commercial sector. Commercial firms do not necessarily know of or understand the clauses, or recognize that they are negotiable. When a procurement action is very dependent upon new or emerging technology, a good strategy is to begin by including only the minimum clauses, recognizing that others can be added through negotiations if necessary. Further, an affirmative statement regarding DoD's approach to IP, asking for companies to indicate alternative approaches if necessary to secure commercial technology, could be included in the solicitation. Contracting officers should refer to the core IP principles (set forth in Chapter 1) in creating the acquisition strategy.

## COMPETITION

The need for competition has stimulated much of the desire to acquire technical data and assert patent rights. In the past, to ensure that the prices for spare parts for maintenance were fair, programs would acquire technical data packages (e.g., detailed design drawings, manufacturing data, and source code). The technical data packages would be used for the follow-on competitive reprocurement of spares, year after year, to support fielded systems maintained by the military services and stockpiled by the Defense Logistics Agency and military depots. However, in recent years, this type of competition strategy has become obsolete; DoD has moved instead from form, fit, and function specifications to contractor logistics support strategies and just-in-time inventory spares/parts supply. With this in mind, contracting officers and program managers should look to satisfy competition requirements through alternative strategies such as

- ◆ long-term initial competitive contracts,
- ◆ cycling technical insertion in shorter increments by using form, fit, and function specifications that enable new entrants; and
- ◆ dissimilar competition (see DoD Directives 5000.1 and 5000.2).

Another area of competition that sometimes impacts the perceived need for IP occurs when the Government outsources maintenance operations. While the tendency of viable competitors is to ask for technical data to perform such functions, alternative strategies should be pursued if at all possible. For example, even if the Government accomplished maintenance and refurbishments using original design data, outsourcing to industry may create an opportunity for the Government to pursue performance-based approaches. This may not only obviate the need for data, but also improve quality and reduce cost.

## DELIVERABLE REQUIREMENTS

When planning deliverable requirements, it is critical to determine whether the technology being acquired qualifies as a “commercial item”<sup>1</sup> or as “commercial computer software.”<sup>2</sup> Not only is there a statutory preference for commercial items, but this determination may have a significant impact on the both the nature of the deliverable and the associated license rights.

Many commercial technologies require some adaptation to meet DoD’s requirements. A frequently made mistake is presuming that modification of the commercial technology causes that item to lose its status as a commercial item. The definitions for commercial items and commercial computer software both permit the item/software in question to undergo “minor modifications” or modifications “of a type customarily available in the commercial marketplace” and still qualify under the respective definitions.

## SUMMARY

One of the simplest and yet most important aspects of acquiring IP is identifying the critical issues prior to contract award. Taking the steps discussed above to identify and resolve key IP issues early will benefit all parties, by

- ◆ ensuring the contractors’ ability to preserve valuable IP interests by asserting restrictions on trade secret information,
- ◆ facilitating source selection by identifying IP-based restrictions that may impact the overall life-cycle cost of competing technologies,
- ◆ facilitating structured negotiations by ensuring that the parties are fully aware of the critical IP issues, and
- ◆ providing convenient methods for incorporating the results of IP negotiations into the contract.

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<sup>1</sup> “Commercial item” is defined at FAR 2.101 (and 52.202-1).

<sup>2</sup> “Commercial computer software” is defined at DFARS 252.227-7014(a)(1).



## Chapter 4

# Issues and Solutions

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To meet the ultimate objectives of the Department, contracting officers must be better equipped to handle the complex and myriad issues that may arise under IP discussions. This chapter offers potential solutions to often difficult IP challenges posed by various FAR and DFARS clauses. The issues are grouped in the following seven categories:

1. Application of Intellectual Property Clauses
2. Patent Rights—Retention by the Contractor (FAR 52.227-11 and–12)
3. Rights in Technical Data—Noncommercial Items (DFARS 252-227-7013) and Rights in Noncommercial Computer Software and Noncommercial Computer Software Documentation (DFARS 252.227-7014)
4. Technical Data—Commercial Items (DFARS 252.227-7015)
5. Royalty Information (FAR 52.227-6)
6. Disclosure of Information (DFARS 252.204-7000)
7. Deferred Delivery of Technical Data or Computer Software (DFARS 252.227-7026), Deferred Ordering of Technical Data or Computer Software (DFARS 252.227-7027), and Additional Data Requirements (FAR 52.227-16)

Each issue is treated in sections below that describe the related clause, highlight industry concerns, summarize the Government’s viewpoint, and finally—and most importantly—provide potential solutions.

The contracting officer should consider typical FAR and DFARS procedures and clauses for IP, as well as common commercial business practices, and ultimately negotiate clauses that appropriately reflect the risk to be undertaken by all parties on their particular contract. Reflecting upon the core IP principles described in Chapter 1 also will help in navigating through these murky waters. Regardless of their approach, contracting officers should, of course, consult with their local general counsel and, if available, IP attorneys. In the end they should negotiate appropriate arrangements that will meet the Government’s vital interests. Appendix G provides a resource list of Department IP attorneys who can assist in providing advice in these matters.

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# ISSUE CATEGORY 1: APPLICATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CLAUSES

## Issue 1-A: Application of the Patent Clauses

### **Clause**

FAR 52.227-12 is required for contracts where the effort is for experimental, research, or developmental work with large, for-profit business entities. (FAR 52.227-11 is required for contracts for such work with small businesses and non-profit organizations.)

While these clauses are prescribed for use in research, experimental, and developmental contracts, they are being found in other type of contracts. It is sometimes difficult to determine whether a particular contract qualifies under these criteria.

### **Industry Concern**

In general, industry prefers not to have these clauses in its contracts because of the various rights, restrictions, and requirements that are treated later in this chapter. In addition, because the patent rights clauses do not account for a company's financial investment in creating the IP, the clauses could inhibit the company's ability to secure private funding from venture capitalists who view these clauses as an unnecessary risk.

### **Government Viewpoint**

The purposes of these clauses are to ensure that inventions developed under Government funding are properly utilized to benefit the public and to treat subcontractors fairly. The Government receives license rights to use the IP for Government purposes.

### **Solution**

Contracting officers should not use these clauses unless they are clearly applicable. Involvement of the acquisition team, including legal counsel, may be required to determine applicability. To determine whether the clauses are required, the emphasis should be placed on the nature of the work being done, not necessarily on the source of development funding (i.e., Government versus private), the "color of money" (e.g., research funds), or the phase of the system being acquired (e.g., engineering and manufacturing development). For example, contractors working on proposed new computer interfaces may be funded with research funds, but the nature of the work is not experimental, developmental, or research oriented. This is not to say that the Government might not acquire unlimited rights in the resulting technical data or computer software, but research is not expected and there-

fore the patent clause would be inapplicable. As another example, if the contract is for services that modify a commercial item or adapt a commercial technology to meet the Government's need, the contract need not include the patent clause. This is true even if the modification has never been done before, provided the modification is a "minor modification" or a modification customarily performed in the commercial marketplace.

The activity of modifying a commercial item for DoD use may not necessarily fall within the definition of "development work." The key to this judgment is whether the modification effort is routine and does not necessitate significant engineering or redesign effort. If so, it is a modification—not experimental or research—and therefore does not require the FAR clause. In contrast, major engineering efforts fall in the realm of "development work." Involving legal counsel is important if the distinction in these two categories becomes an issue.

## Issue 1-B: Previously Developed Intellectual Property

### **Clauses**

The patent, technical data, and computer software clauses are drafted to cover a broad range of contracting and technology-development scenarios. Accordingly, the standard rights categories established by these clauses may not always allocate rights in a manner that most effectively satisfies the needs of all parties. This problem is most evident when the contract work involves a significant amount of "background IP" (i.e., IP developed at private expense prior to, or outside, the Government contract), which must be modified to meet Government needs. Without certain negotiated agreements, this background IP may be significantly affected by the standard rights provided in the clauses.

### **Industry Concern**

Previously developed trade secrets may have to be divulged under the mandatory disclosure and filing requirements of the standard patent rights clauses. Similarly, when privately funded background IP is modified at Government expense, the standard technical data and software rights clauses treat the development as "mixed funding." This results in the Government receiving a broad GPR license that does not adequately account for the significant private investment made previously.

### **Government Viewpoint**

The Government historically has maintained the position that the Government acquires license rights in contract results obtained whenever the Government funds a portion of the development. The patent rights clauses are intended to reach only those inventions that are created under a Government contract. The noncommercial technical data and computer software clauses allocate rights based on which party funded the development of the technology. For commercial technical data,



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the Government receives a very restrictive license, and for commercial computer software, the Government typically receives only the standard commercial license rights.

### **Solution**

The Government needs to recognize that that a contractor's background IP is vital to that company's commercial success and business interests. Protecting these rights will encourage further commercial participation and support companies' efforts to obtain additional capital for further research investment.

To help identify and protect background IP, offerors and contracting officers must be firm in requiring a list of proprietary technologies up front in the proposal, including noncommercial data/software, commercial data/software, and if possible, background inventions and other relevant IP. While the source selection may be affected if the Government's acquisition plan includes future competitive phases (*e.g.*, production, procurement of spares, life-cycle support, or upgrade), the contracting officer and the offeror must have a full understanding of the scope of the IP or data discussions. In addition, during the post-award period, the contracting officer should permit the contractor to modify the listing reasonably.

DoD's way of handling a contractor's previously developed, copyrighted material, proprietary data, and trade secrets is through the application of restrictive legends on deliverable data. The contractor can protect delivered data through the assertion of limited/restricted rights by including the requisite legends. However, note that restrictive legends are permitted only if the data has been identified on the required listing of asserted restrictions.

The patent rights clauses grant the Government rights only if the invention is either conceived or first actually reduced to practice during contract performance. Thus, if the contractor can demonstrate that an invention falls outside of the relevant contract—or any other Federal contract—the Government will not acquire any patent rights. In addition, defining the research scope of work carefully and specifically will clarify the effort and make it easier to determine what IP was developed prior to, or outside, the scope of the contract work. See Issue Category 2, Patent Rights—Retention by Contractor, for additional discussion of how the disclosure and filing requirements impact background IP.

When background IP will be incorporated into technical data or computer software delivered under the contract, the critical first step is to determine whether the technology is commercial or noncommercial:

- ◆ For technical data pertaining to commercial items, the standard rights granted to the Government are very restrictive—similar to limited rights in noncommercial technical data. For commercial computer software, the Government receives only the standard commercial license. In each case, DoD must negotiate for any specialized needs. As stated earlier, commer-

cial technologies can be adapted to DoD's needs without losing their commercial status.

- ◆ The noncommercial technical data and computer software rights clauses allocate rights based on determining whose funding supported the effort to create the IP. The concepts of Government-funded, private-expense, or co-funded (or cost-shared) efforts are critical to the negotiation of these rights. The contractor should assert limited rights protection in technical data, and restricted rights protection for computer software, that pertain to technologies developed exclusively at private expense. The important issue here is whether the contractor—as opposed to the Government—paid for part of the development of the item, component, or process shown in the data. The current regulations at DFARS 252.227-7103(a)(7) provide: “‘developed exclusively at private expense’ means development was accomplished entirely with costs charged to indirect cost pools, costs not allocated to a Government contract, or any combination thereof.”

## Issue 1-C: Alternatives for Acquiring Commercial Research Services

### **Clauses and Procurement Method**

The Government is having difficulty in attracting truly commercial business to research Government problems, whether in research programs or in weapons systems development programs. This is largely due to the use of traditional IP clauses and procurement methods.

### **Industry Concern**

In the commercial R&D business, companies view the scientist's or engineer's time as a scarce resource. Given the options to use this resource to generate economic wealth (by retaining all of the IP rights) or to sell this resource for a fee (which often involves selling or sharing the resulting IP rights), most firms will select the first. This means many commercial companies may refuse to do business with the Government because they believe that they will be forced to give up their IP rights under a traditional Government contract.

### **Government Viewpoint**

Alternatives to traditional Government contracts are available. Other transaction authority is flexible and provides the Department the opportunity to streamline the acquisition process, facilitate the development of contractor strategic relationships, take advantage of innovative or commercial business practices, and attract companies that traditionally do not do business with the government. Because “other transactions” are not subject to the FAR and most procurement statutes, this method can be particularly attractive to new contractors that otherwise would be averse to Government contracting. FAR Part 12, Acquisition of Commercial

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Items, was created, based on the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act,<sup>1</sup> to promote commercial item buying and enhance the opportunities for attracting commercial industry to the Government marketplace. Applying the streamlined procedures of FAR Part 12 to the acquisition of commercial services—even research-related services—further those objectives. Additionally, recent legislative language provides incentives for using FAR Part 12 when buying performance-based services.<sup>2</sup>

### **Solution**

Use other transactions for prototype agreements (transactions other than procurement contracts, cooperative agreements, or grants) when acquiring commercial R&D services. For research-related services (e.g., testing or lab services that may have a commercial market), the acquisition team should investigate the use of FAR Part 12. The contracting officer acquires commercial services for a particular application or purpose, and the contractor receives IP rights to all other applications of that technology. The use of FAR Part 12 allows the contracting officer to negotiate clauses, including those associated with IP rights, that are consistent with demonstrated commercial practices. It should be noted that, under FAR Part 12, a fixed-price contract is required. Under such a research-related services contract, the structure would need to permit milestone-type achievements and payments, without placing undue risk on the contractor.

## **ISSUE CATEGORY 2: PATENT RIGHTS—RETENTION BY THE CONTRACTOR (FAR 52.227-11 AND -12)**

Regarding large, for-profit businesses, the only provisions of the Patent Rights—Retention by the Contractor (Long Form) clause that are statutory and cannot be waived or modified are the Government-purpose license and “march-in rights.”<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the contracting officer can obtain a FAR deviation modifying the FAR 52.227-12 patent rights clause for all other issues arising under this clause.

### **Issue 2-A: Conceived or First Actually Reduced to Practice**

#### **Clauses**

These clauses are applicable to subject inventions either conceived or first actually reduced to practice under the contract. “Conceived” refers to a mental act of developing the idea for a fully functional invention. For the purposes of Government contract law and proof in a court of law, the conception of the idea must be

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, Public Law 103-355.

<sup>2</sup> Fiscal Year 2001 Defense Authorization Act, Public Law 106-398 Section 821, 106th Cong., 2nd sess., H.R. 4205, 30 October 2000.

<sup>3</sup> 35 U.S.C. 210(c), Patent Rights in Inventions Made with Federal Assistance—Precedence of Chapter.

documented (e.g., making a drawing of the invention). “First actually reduced to practice” occurs when an invention has been embodied in some physical form, which is used to demonstrate its workability. Workability requires that the physical embodiment be tested, unless it is so simple that no tests are necessary. Workability may be tested in the laboratory in the intended environments. Yet, in general, the courts have not considered simulation to be “actual” reduction to practice.

### **Industry Concern**

Industry objects to this aspect of the clauses because companies may have conceived the invention outside of any Government contract. They may have invested heavily in background technology, including sophisticated computer simulations or modeling, and yet a potentially small Government contract could jeopardize their return merely because they might first “actually” or physically reduce the invention to practice under the contract. Further, a patent may already have been awarded based on constructive reduction to practice (perhaps through simulation) and still may be at risk because it may not have been actually reduced to practice until performance under the Government contract. As a result of this concern, industry may refuse the Government contract.

### **Government Viewpoint**

If the Government’s funding permitted the first actual reduction to practice, then the Government should not have to pay royalties for its use of the patent. However, the interpretation and application of the standard for actual reduction to practice must take into account the current best practices and technical realities concerning simulation and modeling.

### **Solution**

The parties should carefully craft the statement of work to preclude the actual reduction to practice of previously conceived inventions from occurring under, and being charged to, the Government contract. The contractor also should be sure to advise the Government of work conducted prior to the award of the contract and any pending patents or patents awarded based on constructive reduction to practice. The contracting officer could add a special provision to the contract that articulates the type of prior or continuing work that will be excluded from any future claims for IP rights.

It may be cost-prohibitive for the contractor to actually reduce the invention to practice at its own expense, opting instead for some type of simulation to prove workability of the invention. In fact, some of today’s most complex technological creations (e.g., aircraft and submarines) are designed, simulated, and tested almost entirely on computer. Computer-aided design, modeling, and manufacturing software is so advanced that complex systems can be “virtually” reduced to practice with such accuracy and reliability that they may qualify as having been actually

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reduced to practice. Under this circumstance, the contracting officer could include a special provision that actual reduction to practice could include simulation if the technology is sufficiently mature to reasonably ensure workability. While the courts historically have not supported simulation as evidence of workability, this does not preclude the parties from that agreement if the case is made.

## Issue 2-B: Disclosure and Filing Requirements

### Clauses

By statute, small businesses and non-profit businesses must, after the election of title, file a patent application within a reasonable time after the invention becomes known to the contractor personnel who are responsible for the administration of patent matters. By regulation, this same requirement applies to large, for-profit businesses. The clauses require this application to be filed within one year of title-election unless a certain event (i.e., prior publication, public use, or “on sale”) has occurred, in which case the application must be made within one year from that event. If the contractor, large or small, fails to meet this requirement, the Government may take title to the invention and file a patent application on its own behalf.<sup>4</sup>

### Industry Concern

Some issues in Government contracts regarding trade secrets are beginning to arise for several reasons:

- ◆ The Government is increasingly entering mixed-funding agreements, where a private party funds a portion of the work;
- ◆ The Government is no longer the biggest customer—or even a major customer—for most companies, who feel losing their trade secret rights—thus affecting their commercial business—is not worth the relatively small Federal Government revenue;
- ◆ Commercial companies may prefer to maintain proprietary information associated with an invention as a trade secret in lieu of filing a patent; and
- ◆ Disclosure of the subject invention potentially compromises the ability for a company to maintain certain trade secrets.

The time period to file a patent application after reporting an invention is considered by industry to be too short. Some companies do not patent any inventions, preferring instead to keep them as trade secrets. Trade secret protection often is used for process inventions and similar inventions where the use of the invention is not obvious. If a company cannot tell whether a potential infringer is using a

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<sup>4</sup> 35 U.S.C. 202 (c)3, Patent Rights in Inventions Made with Federal Assistance—Disposition of Rights.

patented invention (as in the case of process patents), it cannot enforce its rights under patent law. Therefore it may choose to maintain the invention as a trade secret.

In other cases, when filing a patent application, the contractor may be required to disclose background trade secrets of the technology due to the “best mode” requirement under U.S. patent law. The background information may be the contractor’s previously developed trade secrets, which would be destroyed by disclosing that information as part of the patent application. This concern is exacerbated by new laws permitting public disclosure of patent applications prior to patent issuance.

### **Government Viewpoint**

The time frames are established by regulation to discipline the process so that the commercialization of Government-funded inventions will take place and to ensure that patent protection is not prohibited due to a statutory bar.

### **Solution**

FAR 52.227-12(c)(4) allows the contractor to request an extension of time to file a patent application, which the agency may grant at its discretion, as long as the filing occurs prior to the end of the “statutory bar” period (i.e., one year after any publication, public use, or public sale). The contractor should take advantage of this opportunity. Pre-contract approval of a time extension also is possible. In the case where the company desires to maintain the invention as a trade secret, the contracting officer could extend the time required for the contractor to disclose the invention to Government. That extension could be based upon simply increasing the period of time or identifying the achievement of a specific event that allows the company to protect the trade secret long enough for business purposes.

Another approach that may be used is one similar to that followed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with respect to patentable biological materials, where the standard industry practice is to keep such inventions as a trade secret rather than to patent them. Under NIH procedures for handling non-election of title to patentable biological materials, the NIH agrees in advance that the contractor may keep the patentable subject invention a trade secret and the Government will not request title to the invention so long as the contractor meets certain agreed-upon terms and conditions. Similar to the NIH procedure, DoD may also agree in advance, in writing, that the contractor may keep any type of subject invention a trade secret and the Government will not request title to the invention so long as certain conditions, similar to the following, are met:

- ◆ The contractor will disclose the existence of the trade secret to the Government;
- ◆ The Government receives a nonexclusive license to practice the invention for appropriately limited Government (i.e., noncommercial) purposes;

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- ◆ The contractor, assignee, or exclusive licensee, will take effective steps, within a reasonable period of time, to achieve practical application of the invention; and
  - ◆ The contractor will agree that, if such steps are not taken, the Government will be allowed to license the invention.

## Issue 2-C: Subcontractor Title Retention

### **Clauses**

The Patent Rights clauses include subcontractor flow-down requirements that permit subcontractors to retain title to subject inventions made under subcontract, and establish a limited form of contract privity between the Government and subcontractor for matters relating to subject inventions.

### **Industry Concern**

In some cases, the prime contractor may have co-funded the subcontractor's developmental efforts and thus believes it should have a right to IP developed under the subcontract.

### **Government Viewpoint**

Defense policy is very clear that prime contractors should not use their leverage and bargaining power to gain rights in the IP of a subcontractor.

### **Solution**

An approach that has been used by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in appropriate cases is to obtain a FAR deviation and add a new subparagraph (g)(4) to the FAR 52.227-12 clause, Patent Rights—Retention by the Contractor, similar to the following:

“(g)(4) ...In recognition of the contractor's substantial contribution of funds, facilities and/or equipment to the work performed under this contract, the Contractor is authorized, subject to the rights of the Government set forth elsewhere in this clause, to:

(i) Acquire by negotiation and mutual agreement rights to a subcontractor's subject inventions as the contractor may deem necessary to obtaining and maintaining such private support; and

(ii) Request in the event of inability to reach agreement pursuant to paragraph (g)(4)(i) of this clause, that the Government invoke exceptional circumstances as necessary pursuant to 37 CFR 401.3(a)(2) if the prospective subcontractor is a small business firm or organization or nonprofit organization, or that a FAR deviation be issued if the subcontractor is a large, for-profit business concern.”

Furthermore, there is nothing to preclude a prime contractor from privately negotiating a separate license with the subcontractor for rights in the technology developed by the subcontractor.

Finally, a contractor could seek an exceptional-circumstance determination from the agency pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 202(a)(ii) for subcontractors that are small businesses or non-profit concerns, permitting the prime contractor to obtain title in subcontractor subject inventions under the subcontract. This might occur if the prime contractor were partially funding the subcontractor's efforts. Note, however, that exceptional-circumstances determinations are very difficult and time-consuming to obtain. For subcontractors that are large, for-profit businesses, a FAR waiver could also be requested, permitting the prime contractor to obtain rights in subcontractor inventions.

## Issue 2-D: United States Manufacturing Requirements

### **Clauses**

When the contractor retains title in a subject invention, under the Patent Rights clauses, the contractor is not permitted to grant *exclusive* license rights to use or sell products embodying the invention in the United States, unless the product is substantially manufactured in the United States.

### **Industry Concern**

As companies are becoming more and more global, in order to optimize cost-effectiveness it sometimes may be necessary for the contractor or a licensee of its product to manufacture abroad. Restrictions imposed by this clause would preclude such action and cause the loss of profit or royalty income to the contractor, unless the product is substantially manufactured in the United States—which may not be a cost-competitive alternative. Further, U.S. manufacturers may have expertise in manufacturing abroad.

### **Government Viewpoint**

The foundation of this requirement is rooted in Buy-American-type initiatives meant to promote U.S. industry. The requirement is limited to exclusive licenses and can be waived in appropriate circumstances.

### **Solution**

Contracting officers should emphasize that this clause applies only if the license to use or sell in the U.S. is exclusive. For example, a foreign company could be licensed to manufacture the product as long as the license was issued on a non-exclusive basis. Because the company controls who gets licensed and under what circumstances, as long as the option for a U.S. manufacturer exists, there would be no violation of the clause per se. Furthermore, the agency may waive this re-



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quirement if the owner of the patent has been unable, after reasonable efforts, to grant a license to a U.S. manufacturer, or if the patent owner can demonstrate that domestic manufacture is not commercially feasible under the circumstances. This waiver can be issued prior to entering into the contract or during contract performance, depending on the circumstances. It should be noted that the determination of “substantial” (with reference to substantial manufacture in the United States) is up to the agency’s discretion. Because some companies may be concerned about the interpretation of this term, a predetermination of the definition for the specific industry, with appropriate agency counsel coordination, may be appropriate.

This requirement is not a statutory requirement for large, for-profit businesses. Therefore, a deviation may be requested to exclude this language from the FAR 52.227-12 clause, thereby rendering the U.S. manufacturing requirements moot.

## Issue 2-E: Compulsory Licensing (“March-In Rights”)

### **Clauses**

When a contractor has acquired title to an invention and has not made reasonable progress in bringing it to the commercial market, the agency has the right to require the contractor to grant licenses to other applicants (e.g., potential manufacturers) under certain enumerated circumstances.<sup>5</sup> This compulsory licensing right of the Government is often referred to as “march-in rights.” These clauses implement a major thrust of the Bayh-Dole Act, which is to ensure Government-funded research reaches the public.

### **Industry Concern**

In spite of the fact that the Government has never taken such an action, this compulsory licensing right scares many commercial firms away from Government research business.

If invoked, compulsory-licensing rights could have serious financial consequences for the contractor. A contractor may have made substantial investment in the invention. Taking away those rights will create a liability for that contractor if the contractor is not able to achieve its return on investment. If the Government takes action to license the invention to a competitor, it will hurt the contractor’s profits and the company will not be able to enjoy the exclusivity of the patent. Furthermore, the mere potential of Government compulsory licensing rights can scare off financial investment bankers, thereby making it more difficult for companies to obtain capital funding.

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<sup>5</sup> 35 U.S.C. 203, Patent Rights in Inventions Made with Federal Assistance—March-In Rights; FAR 27.302(f), Patent Rights under Government Contracts—Policy.

### **Government Viewpoint**

If the contractor has not taken effective steps to achieve a practical application of the subject invention or to meet public-use requirements specified by Federal regulations, the Government must assert this right to accomplish the objective of making Government-funded technology available to the public.

### **Solution**

The contracting officer should emphasize to the contractor that these rights have never been exercised by DoD, and that this extreme action is authorized *only* after a determination that specific criteria are met, and *only* after providing the contractor with written notice and an opportunity to comment. Ultimately, the likelihood of this action ever being taken is very remote. The contracting officer should also make the contractor aware that a compulsory license can be disputed and an appeal made in accordance with FAR 27.304-1(g). A potential solution to this issue is to negotiate a contract provision whereby the Government would agree not to invoke compulsory licensing rights until a stated number of years (e.g., five or ten) have passed or until a specific event has occurred. This action would be considered a FAR deviation, and therefore must be approved by the head of the contracting activity.

As an additional note, it can be helpful for contracting officers and others to refrain from using the term “march-in rights,” as the phrase itself sounds threatening by invoking the image of a harsh, military-type action. This image can be intimidating to the commercial firms with which DoD would like to do business.

## **ISSUE CATEGORY 3: RIGHTS IN TECHNICAL DATA— NONCOMMERCIAL ITEMS (DFARS 252.227-7013) AND RIGHTS IN NONCOMMERCIAL COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND NONCOMMERCIAL SOFTWARE DOCUMENTATION (DFARS 252.227-7014)**

### **Issue 3-A: Government-Wide Licensing**

#### **Clauses**

The DFARS 252.227-7013 clause (the 7013 clause) and DFARS 252.227-7014 clause (the 7014 clause) require the contractor to grant to *the Government*, in its entirety, various license rights.

#### **Industry Concern**

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The rights conferred to “*the Government*” are too broad and impossible to monitor. They assert that information is poorly managed and could be transmitted to any Federal agency for any reason, without apparent control of proprietary business information. Because the Government relies heavily on support contractors and consultants, there is additional concern that the data will end up in the hands of competitors.

### **Government Viewpoint**

One agency does not want to hamper another from using information for which the public has paid. Even though the license is Government-wide, the authorized uses of the data are significantly restricted. For example, limited rights technical data cannot be used to manufacture additional quantities of the item, and restricted rights computer software can be used only on one computer at a time and cannot be transferred to other agencies unless the transferring agency destroys its copy.

### **Solution**

The contracting officer should carefully consider who else in the Government really needs the data and should negotiate a restricted distribution of that data. For example, data may be limited to a particular program or agency and provided on a need-to-know basis. Further, the contract could stipulate that the company’s approval is required prior to submission to another Government agency. In addition, the Government must implement appropriate safeguarding measures to ensure that the Government’s use of the delivered data is in strict compliance with the contractual restrictions.

## **Issue 3-B: Government Liability for Unauthorized Uses by Third Parties**

### **Clauses**

Under the 7013 and 7014 clauses, the contractor agrees to release the Government from any liability for the unauthorized disclosure of technical data by a third party if the Government properly released the technical data to that third party.

### **Industry Concern**

A contractor may be reluctant to trust the Government to take adequate safeguards to protect the technical data that may be released to a third party, even though the Government is required to obtain a non-disclosure agreement from the party receiving the data. Moreover, a contractor may not have confidence that all Government employees will adequately protect confidential or proprietary information from disclosure.

### **Government Viewpoint**

The Government does not want to get into the middle of a dispute between the data owner and the party that violates protections of that data. This provision is intended to provide the contractor—as the most interested party—with a more direct remedy against the party that engaged in the unauthorized conduct.

### **Solution**

First, the contracting officer should consider a key fundamental concept—take possession of only that data which is absolutely necessary. This may alleviate the requirement for non-disclosure agreements entirely. Perhaps just the ability to re-view the data at the contractor’s site is necessary.

If data is required, the Government could request that the data owner provide the data to the third party and obtain the appropriate non-disclosure agreements at that time. Some Government officials may not support this approach because of the potential that additional terms and conditions imposed by the IP owner on the third party will result in an unnecessary associated time delay or expense that will impact the performance of Government contracts.

Alternatively, the Government could notify the data owner before the data is being released and provide copies of the nondisclosure agreements to the data owner. The contractor should then seek the execution of nondisclosure agreements directly with the third-party recipient(s) of the data from the Government prior to the data’s release. This way the data owner has a direct cause of action with the recipient(s).

Finally, another potential remedy to concerns about the treatment of contractor IP would be to establish management control systems to protect this information, similar to those used in formal source selections for the protection of proprietary proposal information. While this might be administratively burdensome to the Government, it may give the contractor increased faith that its proprietary data will be properly handled.

## **Issue 3-C: Specifically Negotiated License Rights<sup>6</sup>**

### **Clauses**

The 7013 and 7014 clauses permit the contracting officer to negotiate lesser rights than unlimited rights or GPR, as the parties consider appropriate, but no less than limited/restricted rights.

### **Industry Concern**

Industry believes that contracting officers are acquiring unlimited rights in technical data when they are not needed and are refusing to negotiate when the Government’s actual needs are for less than unlimited rights. This may be happening

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<sup>6</sup> Also referred to as “special license rights.”

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because of the historical need for technical data to provide the ability to conduct competitive procurements of items or spare parts. Furthermore, even though the Government may have financial involvement, industry may have invested in the technology for decades and may refuse to provide any rights to technical data that include trade secrets. Another problem exists with the lack of specificity of legends under special license rights, where the contract is referenced but the specific license agreement is not identified. Later, it may be administratively difficult to protect the company's interests, when the players have changed and the contract is not readily available.

### **Government Viewpoint**

It is DoD's policy to obtain only the minimum rights necessary. The standard provisions are a good starting place for negotiations, and it is incumbent on the contractor to inform the Government when it would like to deviate from the standard provisions. In order to begin such negotiations, it is necessary for the contractor to explicitly state what data it will deliver under the contract, and what rights it will deliver with the data.

### **Solution**

As a preliminary matter, the parties should first confirm that the technical data or computer software at issue is related to noncommercial items or services. If the items or services are commercial, then the rights in the associated technical data are covered by the DFARS 252.227-7015 clause, and DoD policy is to accept the license customarily offered to the public for commercial computer software.

The Government and contractors should be encouraged to discuss data deliverables and rights early in the procurement cycle. Prior to 1995, less flexibility existed in the data rights clauses, and therefore, the Government often obtained the same rights in data no matter what the data was or what was actually needed by the Government. Today, however, contracting officers are free to negotiate special license rights for any developed data to make sure that the Government only acquires rights in the data that it needs.

Contracting officers can negotiate a contract clause under the specifically negotiated license rights arena that addresses the real needs of the Government. Such a clause might address

- ◆ escrowing, with third parties, critical technical data, computer source code, designs, and so on, whereby Government access would be limited to actual contingency or emergency circumstances;
- ◆ establishing a deferred right to acquire technical data under specific special circumstances;
- ◆ requiring advance notice of a change in the firm's or product's circumstances that might cause acquisition or logistic support problems;

- ◆ establishing the right to a “lifetime” (or until the next technology insertion occurs) buy if a product or technology is to be discontinued or the company is going out of business;
- ◆ limiting the use of the data to a particular component of any agency and/or to a particular program (e.g., DoD-purpose rights, service-purpose rights, agency-purpose rights, or program-purpose rights), and/or to a particular term of years;
- ◆ limiting the scope of the license to performing specified tasks or to making disclosures to specified kinds of recipients;
- ◆ agreeing to a separate services contract to provide technical assistance from the developer’s engineers, if needed; and
- ◆ extending the time limit when GPR convert to unlimited rights.

Note that, in all cases, the Government is not permitted to accept less than limited rights in technical data nor less than restricted rights in computer software (however, less than restricted rights in computer software may be accepted if a waiver is obtained).

As discussed earlier, contracting officers should be firm in requiring a list in all proposals that clearly identifies the data that is proposed to be delivered and the associated rights offered to the Government for that data. With a clear list, the contracting officer and the offeror will have a full understanding of the areas in which IP or data discussions must take place. Because the terms of 7013 and 7014 allow flexibility during and after contract performance, contracting officers should be open to modifying the license terms when necessary.

## Issue 3-D: Marking Requirements

### **Clauses**

Under paragraph (f)(4), Special License Rights Markings, the 7013 and 7014 clauses provide a legend to be used for specifically negotiated licenses.

### **Industry Concern**

The essential terms of the license are not included within the mandatory Special License Rights legend format. In addition, locating the official license in contract files that are years old, as well as personnel turnover, can make it difficult to be sure that the actual license will be adhered to.

### **Government Viewpoint**

The Government wants to be fair in handling and protecting industry IP by adhering to appropriate legends on data. It is important that the universe of potential

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legends are restricted to a manageable number, so that DoD can effectively train its personnel regarding the restrictions associated with the well-established legends. In addition the Special License Rights legend provides for the insertion of appropriate license-identifying information. Furthermore, efforts are underway to ensure that all contract-related documents are readily available (e.g., on DoD-hosted Internet sites).

### **Solution**

The contracting officer should, if feasible, include within the Special License Rights legend itself, in the space provided for the license identifier, the actual terms of the agreement<sup>7</sup> as in the following example:

<b>Special License Rights</b>
<b>The Government’s rights to use, modify, reproduce, release, perform, display, or disclose these data are restricted by Contract No. <u>XXX</u>, License No. <u>YYY (This data is delivered with GPR limited to the Mark VI ammunition program)</u>. Any reproduction of technical data or portions thereof marked with this legend must also reproduce the markings.</b>

In doing so, the contractor must ensure that the descriptive language accurately represents the restrictions on the Government’s uses. In all cases, the specifically negotiated license agreement must be incorporated into the contract in full text (e.g., by attachment), and the terms of that license (vice any paraphrasing used in the restrictive marking) will determine the Government’s legal rights to use the delivered data. Furthermore, electronic contracting and digital storage will enable easier access and retrieval of the license.

## **Issue 3-E: Removal of Unjustified or Nonconforming Markings**

### **Clauses**

The 7013 and 7014 clauses—in paragraph (h), Removal of Unjustified and Nonconforming Markings—establish procedures and rights with respect to the removal of nonconforming markings and unjustified markings. A “nonconforming marking” is one that does not comply with the form or content requirements specified in the 7013 and/or 7014 clauses (e.g., the generic legend “proprietary”). An “unjustified marking” is one that does not accurately depict the Government’s rights in the marked data (e.g., using a limited rights legend on GPR data).

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<sup>7</sup> Copies of license agreements also must be incorporated into the contract and included in official contract files.

In some acquisitions, an IP issue may present itself for the first time when the Government is reviewing a deliverable for acceptance and discovers a restrictive legend that appears to be defective or inappropriate in some manner.

A “nonconforming” legend is one that does not comply with the form or substance required by the applicable DFARS marking requirements. The contracting officer should notify the contractor of any such nonconformities, which the contractor must then correct at its own expense. If the contractor fails to correct the marking within 60 days of receiving notice of the nonconformity, the Government may correct the marking at the contractor’s expense.

An “unjustified” marking is one that does not accurately characterize the restrictions that apply to a particular deliverable. For example, if a restricted rights legend is placed on software for which the Government is entitled to receive GPR, that legend is unjustified (even if it conforms to the format and content for restricted rights legends). The procedures for reviewing and challenging unjustified legends are provided in DFARS 252.227-7019 for noncommercial computer software, and DFARS 252.227-7037.<sup>8</sup> During the challenge process, the Government must treat the disputed data as if it were subject to the rights category asserted by the contractor.

### **Industry Concern**

Some in industry have reported that Government officials have inappropriately removed proprietary markings and legends.

### **Government Viewpoint**

The Government needs the right to remove and/or correct nonconforming markings so that the delivery of data complies with the contract terms. Part of this responsibility involves correctly following the clause, which provides detailed procedures designed to ensure that the contractor’s proprietary interests are balanced with the Government’s need to engage in authorized uses of the data.

### **Solution**

The acquisition team should be mindful of any action that could jeopardize the IP rights of the developer. They should not remove legends without following the procedures of the clause, so as not to incur legal and/or criminal liability. In keeping with the core IP principles (detailed in Chapter 1), the contracting parties should identify all data to be delivered and their respective data rights in the initial contract, thereby eliminating post-contract-award disputes.

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<sup>8</sup> Based on 10 U.S.C. 2321. Note, for technical data pertaining to commercial items, there is a mandatory presumption that the commercial item was developed exclusively at private expense; see DFARS 227.7102 and 252.227-7037(b), which implements 10 U.S.C. §§ 2320(b)(1) and 2321(f).



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## Issue 3-F: Data with Omitted Markings

### **Clauses**

The 7013 and 7014 clauses—in paragraph (f)—include the clear requirement for industry to include appropriate legends on data that qualify for such marking. In addition, the DFARS provides guidance for a contracting officer to approve a contractor's request for the reinstatement of inadvertently omitted markings. The request must be made within six months of delivery.

### **Industry Concern**

Some in industry express concern that the six months may be too short a period for requesting the reinstatement of legitimate markings, particularly since the penalty for the delay is automatic conversion to unlimited rights.

### **Government Viewpoint**

Since the importance of marking data is so critical to a company's economic value, great care should be taken to ensure their data is properly marked. Similarly, business-to-business proprietary marking is indeed required for the enforcement of rights and remedies in the commercial sector. It is fundamental to trade-secret law that the trade-secret owner should take reasonable steps to protect the trade secret. Doing business with the Government should be no different.

### **Solution**

Since the marking of Government data is unique in form and substance to that typically used in the commercial world, it is possible that markings may be incorrect or missing. Contracting officers are free to extend this six-month period, but they are advised to do so under appropriate circumstances.

The contractor is required to identify, prior to award, all asserted restrictions on data it intends to deliver to the Government and to keep that list updated after award. Before making any delivery of technical data or computer software, the contractor should review these lists to ensure that markings on the data are consistent with the assertions in the list. Likewise, upon receipt of the deliverable, the Government should also compare lists with the markings on the data. Any discrepancies should be raised immediately.

## Issue 3-G: Copyrights

### **Clauses**

The third-party copyrighted data provision of the 7013 and 7014 clauses— in paragraph (d)—provides that data delivered under the contract must include appropriate licenses for copyrighted material.

### **Industry Concern**

Contracting officers sometimes require unlimited rights to copyrighted material for data developed exclusively at Government expense. This gives the Government the right to disclose the data to anyone, including the contractor’s competitors.

### **Government Viewpoint**

Historically, when the Government pays for the entire development cost, it asserts unlimited rights in everything—even copyrighted material.

### **Solution**

Only in the rarest of cases should the Government demand—over the IP owner’s objection—more than GPR to copyrighted material, even if the material was developed entirely at Government expense.

There is a difference between providing a description of what has been done, and documenting the analyses and creative intuitive thought processes arriving at new theories/hypotheses. In copyrights, the Government owns the deliverable but not the creative work (similarly, buying a book at a bookstore does not grant the book owner the copyright in the book). The contracting officer should use the specifically negotiated license rights to reduce the rights in copyrighted material to take GPR only.

## Issue 3-H: Government Purpose Rights

### **Clauses**

The 7013 and 7014 clauses provide that, after a five-year period (unless otherwise negotiated), GPR “convert” to unlimited rights.

### **Industry Concern**

The Government should allow industry to recoup its investment through the commercialization of data beyond a five-year period.

### **Government Viewpoint**

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Historically, the Government has wanted to limit the Government-purpose license period to support its life-cycle needs.

### **Solution**

The contracting officer needs to be flexible by considering industry's investment in mixed-funding data. A contracting officer can allow a contractor to recoup its investment simply by allowing a time period longer than five years for the conversion of GPR to unlimited rights. This may be done at the time the contract is entered or during contract performance. The appropriate time period should be what is necessary to provide incentive for the contractor to commercialize the items, components, or processes. For negotiations of different types of license rights, contracting officers should consider using the contractor's customary commercial license, provided it grants the Government at least limited/restricted rights.

## **ISSUE CATEGORY 4: TECHNICAL DATA— COMMERCIAL ITEMS (DFARS 252.227-7015)**

### **Issue 4-A: Emergency Repair and Overhaul**

#### **Clause**

Under the Technical Data clause for commercial items,<sup>9</sup> the Government may release, disclose, or authorize the use of technical data for the emergency repair or overhaul of commercial items. In this context, the clause does not treat commercial software.

#### **Industry Concern**

Companies are concerned that their trade secrets embedded in technical data may be released to competitors under the rubric of an emergency. They are also concerned that the term "emergency" is ill-defined, such that almost any situation could be justified as an emergency, as it is dependent on the judgment of the involved Government official. Note that this issue is also associated with DFARS 252.227-7013 and the DFARS 252.227-7014 clauses.

#### **Government Viewpoint**

The Government needs to move immediately to make repairs in critical situations where, for example, an aircraft, submarine, or ship becomes immobile. In addition, these emergency procedures include a number of requirements that are designed to ensure that this use will not jeopardize the contractor's proprietary

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<sup>9</sup> DFARS 252.227-7015(b)2(ii), Technical Data—Commercial Items.

interests (e.g., the recipient of the data must immediately destroy its copies of the data, and the contractor-owner must be notified).

**Solution**

The Government could request that the contractor propose an alternative for accommodating emergency repair and overhaul so that disclosure of data to third parties need not be required. If the contractor has a worldwide network of support (which many do), it may be that the contractor can provide the support needed in the time of an emergency, without disclosing data to another entity. It also can be helpful to negotiate a definition of the kind of situations that fall under the category of “emergency,” thereby narrowing the scope of the exception.

**Issue 4-B: Subcontractor Flow-Down**

**Clause**

Prime contracts that include the DFARS 252.227-7013 clause for the purposes of the prime’s noncommercial development of noncommercial technical data often do not include the DFARS 252.227-7015 clause, which covers technical data on commercial items.

**Industry Concern**

Because the prime contract does not include the DFARS 252.227-7015 clause, contractors believe they do not have the authority to flow the clause down to the subcontract.

**Government Viewpoint**

Typically, prime contracts are negotiated considering only the development of the major item and may not include this clause.

**Solution**

Because of the new emphasis on trying to insert commercial technology at all contracting echelons, it is now necessary for contracting officers to include both clauses (DFARS 252.227-7013 and DFARS 252.227-7015) in prime contracts for development, even if the prime contract item does not appear, on the surface, to be a commercial item. Further, prime contractors should ensure that DFARS 252.227-7015, which is not a required flow-down clause, is appropriately utilized in their subcontracts.

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## ISSUE CATEGORY 5: ROYALTY INFORMATION (FAR 52.227-6)

### Issue 5-A: Copies of Current Licenses

#### **Clause**

Under the solicitation provisions for royalty information,<sup>10</sup> the contracting officer may request copies of license agreements that the contractor has signed with other firms.

#### **Industry Concern**

License agreements contain confidential terms and conditions and other business information that a firm would prefer not to disclose. Sometimes the mere existence of the license agreement is confidential.

#### **Government Viewpoint**

The Government is interested in knowing whether another agency has licensed the technology so that the Government does not pay a royalty for a patent to which it already has a royalty-free license. Also, for pricing analysis purposes, the Government may be interested in knowing the royalty rate.

#### **Solution**

The use of this clause is at the discretion of the contracting officer; hence, if it poses a significant problem, it can be removed. Alternatively, a contractor can redact the sensitive information in the license agreement before submitting a copy of the license agreement to the contracting officer.

## ISSUE CATEGORY 6: DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION (DFARS 252.204-7000)

### Issue 6-A: Information Disclosure Constraints

#### **Clause**

The contractor is precluded from releasing, to anyone outside the contractor's organization, any unclassified information (regardless of medium) pertaining to any part of the contract or any program related to the contract, without the prior approval of the contracting officer.

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<sup>10</sup> FAR 52.227-6, Royalty Information.

### **Industry Concern**

This clause effectively prohibits a contractor's commercialization of technology without the Government's consent. The contractor is unable to provide information to a licensee or a subcontractor, even for contract performance requirements. Companies may feel that this clause is too broad and unduly restricts their ability to publish scientific results.

### **Government Viewpoint**

The Government does not want the contractor to make public releases about the substance of a Government contract prior to the Government making any appropriate announcements, if the information has been determined to be sensitive and inappropriate for release to the public.

### **Solution**

This clause, if used at all, should be limited to information specifically contained in contract deliverables that were developed under the contract. In contracts in which the clause is used, a special provision should be added permitting the contractor to license its own technology to third parties, or provide it to subcontractors for the performance of the contract, without Government consent.

## **ISSUE CATEGORY 7: DEFERRED DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL DATA OR COMPUTER SOFTWARE (DFARS 252.227-7026), DEFERRED ORDERING OF TECHNICAL DATA OR COMPUTER SOFTWARE (DFARS 252.227-7027), AND ADDITIONAL DATA REQUIREMENTS (FAR 52.227-16)**

### **Issue 7-A: Deferred Ordering and Deferred Delivery**

#### **Clauses**

These clauses provide for the deferred delivery and/or ordering of data generated under a contract.

#### **Industry Concern**

The open-ended right to order data at will causes industry a great deal of concern. In addition, how the Government interprets what data is "generated" under the contract leaves some fearful that proprietary information will be swept into the action. These clauses also require companies to warehouse all contract-related data for several years after acceptance of the contract deliverables.

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## **Government Viewpoint**

The Government has historically desired the ability to obtain any and all data developed and paid for by the Government, for years after contract completion. This desire was to ensure that the Government had adequate data and rights to assist in procurements.

## **Solution**

The Government should include these clauses with caution, since they could subject the contractor to providing data later that may reveal trade secrets. The Government need not include the Deferred Ordering Clause at all. Even if the Government believes there is a possibility it may need access to contract-related data, the Government does not necessarily need to be assured of the data delivery. Instead, it might need only to be assured of its access to review the data at the contractor's facility.

Alternatively, the Government and industry may negotiate, prior to contract award, a special provision that states the Deferred Ordering Clause does not apply to certain types of data and software. This alternative requires the parties to consider what data they might want to order at a later date.

Regarding the use of deferred delivery, the parties should agree up front as to which specific data may be required.

# Appendix A

## USD(AT&L) Policy Letters

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

SEP - 5 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Training on Intellectual Property

Intellectual property rights (in the form of patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets) are fundamental to capitalist markets, as they protect firms' creative assets from competitive theft. Intellectual property is the lifeblood of world-class commercial companies engaged in leading-edge technologies.

Today, the technologies that shape the economy are largely funded by commercial industry. This represents a significant shift from previous decades, where the Government funded a greater share of research and, in some cases, conducted the research within Government facilities. Many of the procurement methods culturally imbedded in the acquisition and legal communities to accommodate past policy objectives are now obsolete.

The Department of Defense must now strive to create an environment where industry is willing to share commercially generated research with Defense communities so that weapons systems, including both development/production and sustainment, can keep pace with technology. Very few aspects of the current intellectual property laws and regulations preclude us from applying them in a way that attracts commercial industry into Defense markets. The application of intellectual property regulations, principally through contract clauses, must be flexible (i.e., negotiated) to meet the intent of DoD objectives: defining requirements in terms of performance or outcomes and attracting commercial firms to the government marketplace to meet those needs. Unfortunately, DoD's usual applications of these statutes and regulations do not adequately reflect the flexibility inherent in, and intended by, those statutes and regulations.

We must find ways of acquiring research services from the broadest possible scope of industry so the Department can leverage industry's advances and ultimately acquire the best commercial products and technology for insertion in Defense systems. Where industry has performed a substantial amount of research and development (sometimes over decades), we must create contract relationships in commercially friendly terms. Because the intellectual property rights of these companies represent their lifeline to future success, we must make every effort to abide by their protection and secrecy concerns.

To address these concerns, a layman's guide for the acquisition workforce, and training courses, if necessary, are needed to make this complex field more approachable for the acquisition workforce. I therefore direct the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform) to develop an intellectual property guide for training purposes throughout the DoD, as well as for desktop use. Participation by commercial and defense industry associations, as well as the component acquisition and legal communities, in the development of this guidance is vital to identify pacing issues and business alternatives. In the meantime, acquisition personnel and legal counsel should work closely together to tailor, and if necessary waive, requirements that place upon commercial industry intellectual property rights that are anathema to smart and reasonable business practices.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. S. Gansler".

J. S. Gansler





THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

JAN -5 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SERVICE ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ACQUISITION  
REFORM)  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE PROCUREMENT

Subject: Reform of Intellectual Property Rights of Contractors

On September 5, 2000, I directed the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Reform) (DUSD(AR)) to develop a layman's guide on the treatment of intellectual property for training purposes throughout the DoD. The goal of this effort is to make this complex field more understandable for the acquisition workforce to negotiate intellectual property terms and conditions that will attract commercial entities to meet defense needs. I also directed acquisition personnel and legal counsel work closely together to tailor, and if necessary waive, requirements that place upon commercial industry requirements that are anathema to smart, and reasonable business practices.

DUSD(AR) convened a Rapid Improvement Team (RIT) to identify issues thwarting commercial industry involvement at the prime and sub-contractor level. This effort highlighted four immediate policy areas the acquisition community should be emphasizing now within existing regulations:

- emphasize use of specifically negotiated license rights;
- exercise of flexibility when negotiating patent rights;
- use of performance-based acquisition strategies that may obviate the need for data and/or rights; and,
- acquire only data and/or rights to data truly needed for a given acquisition.

The Department identified a number of other findings requiring action. I therefore direct the following actions be taken to improve the understanding and treatment of industry's intellectual property rights:

- DUSD(AR) establish an IP Working Group with the components and appropriate industry advisors. This group will develop a strategy to:
  - Evaluate possibilities for patent clause deviations enabling contracting officer flexibility in R&D contracts.
  - Explore DoD current practices with unsolicited proposals, non-disclosure agreements and intra-governmental distribution of information.
  - Revise DFARS Part 227.
- DUSD(AR) publish the IP guide, being developed as a collaborative effort, by March 2001.
- DUSD(AR) develop a training approach including an aggressive re-education campaign with the Defense Systems Management College and alternative strategies to meet government needs early in the acquisition planning stage.



Intellectual property rights are fundamental to commercial firms, since their intellectual and creative assets are their most valued commodities. Intellectual property is the lifeblood of world-class commercial companies engaged in leading-edge technologies. Working to improve the treatment of intellectual property rights must be a Department priority to ensure our ability to access the very best technologies for our future weapons systems, business processes and more.



**Dave Oliver**



## Appendix B

# IP Basics—Supplemental Materials

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The following information supplements the discussion in Chapter 2.

## TRADE SECRETS

Trade secrets can protect any original thought or work product covered by the other forms of IP. They protect any knowledge that, for economic reasons, is either kept secret or requires nondisclosure by any third party. A trade secret may be thought of as “know-how”—which may include business or technical knowledge—that is kept secret to gain an advantage over competitors. Some examples of trade secrets may be special customer lists, sources of scarce materials, secret processes, formulas, techniques, advertising ploys, and unique business plans. Unlike other forms of IP, there are simply no standards to meet for trade secrets, as long as the trade secret provides some value and remains a secret. Trade secrets last only as long as the information is kept secret. As a result, as long as the knowledge or information is kept secret, trade secrets may be protected eternally against disclosure by all who have received such secrets in confidence and all who would have obtained the secrets by theft. For example, the formula of Coca-Cola™ (originally developed in the late 1800s) is considered a trade secret, even though many copies of the beverage have been developed by others and are available on the market.

Trade secret protection is established by state laws. A majority of states have adopted the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (UTSA). The UTSA defines a “trade secret” as follows:

“Trade secret” means information, including, but not limited to, technical or non-technical data, a formula, pattern, compilation, program device, method, technique, drawing or process, financial data, or list of actual or potential customers that: (i) is sufficiently secret to derive economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use, and (ii) is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.<sup>1</sup>

The disadvantage of trade secrets is that no protection exists against discovery or use by fair means (i.e., accidental disclosure, independent invention, and reverse engineering). Many important inventions, such as lasers and airplanes, were developed simultaneously by different persons. In such cases, unlike patents, trade

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the Uniform Trade Secrets Act (P.L. 1987, c. 143), a compilation of state laws, which has been adopted in 36 states and the District of Columbia.

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secret protection would not enable the first inventor to preclude the second or any subsequent inventors from exploiting the invention.

The owner of a trade secret must take measures to guard the secrecy of the information, as it remains a secret only as long as it is not revealed without restriction. Although the information must be kept secret in order to retain trade secret protection, sharing the trade secret is possible as long as the owner communicates it to others under a pledge of secrecy. Third parties receiving trade secrets under an obligation of confidentiality (e.g., a nondisclosure agreement) also are held responsible for their protection by state trade secret laws.

Federal statutes do not establish any proprietary interest in trade secrets. Trade secret protection is not provided in the Constitution, nor has Congress—under other enumerated powers, such as the commerce clause—sought to provide broad protection for the owners of trade secrets. However, there are exceptions where Federal statutes do address the treatment of trade secrets. For example, under the Trade Secrets Act,<sup>2</sup> it is a crime for Federal employees to release or disclose the trade secrets of a private party without that party’s permission. Further, the Economic Espionage Act<sup>3</sup> makes trade secret theft illegal, and the Freedom of Information Act<sup>4</sup> expressly excludes trade secrets from its coverage of records that are to be released under its provisions.

Because a trade secret is valuable property, its theft is a criminal offense under both Federal and state laws. However, these criminal cases are prosecuted very selectively. Injunctive relief, the only truly effective remedy for a trade secret owner, is available to prevent the wrongful party from disclosing or using the information. The owner also may receive damages for actual loss and damages for twice the amount of actual damage in cases of willful or malicious appropriation.

## COPYRIGHTS

Copyright protection derives from Article 1, Section 8, clause 8 of the U.S. Constitution, wherein Congress is given the power to pass laws that: “promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.” The current version of the copyright law was passed in 1976 and is contained in Title 17 of the U.S. Code.<sup>5</sup>

A “copyright” allows authors to exclude others from copying, performing, displaying, or distributing their expressions of original thought or works of authorship. Works of authorship include

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<sup>2</sup> 18 U.S.C. 1905, Disclosure of Confidential Information Generally.

<sup>3</sup> 18 U.S.C. 1831-1839, Economic Espionage and following.

<sup>4</sup> 5 U.S.C. 552, Public Information; Agency Rules, Opinions, Orders, Records, and Proceedings.

<sup>5</sup> 17 U.S.C. 102(a), Subject Matter of Copyright: In General.

- ◆ literary works;
- ◆ musical works;
- ◆ dramatic works;
- ◆ pantomimes and choreographic works;
- ◆ pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works;
- ◆ sound recordings;
- ◆ motion pictures and other audiovisual works;
- ◆ architectural works; and
- ◆ computer programs.

There are certain prerequisites for works to be copyrightable. First, the work must be original. This does not mean that the work must be novel or unique, but that the work must originate with the author. (For example, the Supreme Court has held that mere listings of names in a telephone book do not rise to a sufficient level of originality to be afforded copyright protection.<sup>6</sup>) Also, the work must be fixed in some tangible medium of expression (e.g., printed, recorded, or sculpted) that allows it to be communicated for more than a transitory period.

The purpose of copyright protection is to reward an author with exclusive rights in exchange for benefiting the public with disclosure of the work. Presently, copyrights are protected for the life of the author plus 70 years and may be registered in the Library of Congress. If the work belongs to an employer of the author, or has been commissioned under a “work made for hire” contract agreement, the copyright lasts 95 years from the date of first publication or 120 years from the work’s creation—whichever is earlier. After the expiration of this period, the copyright is not renewable and the work falls into the public domain.

By U.S. statute, copyright protection is not available for any work of the U.S. Government.<sup>7</sup> A “work of the U.S. Government” is a work prepared by an officer or employee of the Government as part of that person’s official duties.<sup>8</sup> As a matter of public policy, works that are normal products of the Government (e.g., judicial opinions, administrative rulings, and legislative statutes) or prepared by Government employees in the course of their official duties, may not be copyrighted.

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<sup>6</sup> *Feist Publications, Inc. v. Rural Telephone Service Co., Inc.*, 499 U.S. 340, 111 S. Ct. 1282 (1991).

<sup>7</sup> 17 U.S.C. 105.

<sup>8</sup> Nash, Ralph C. & Rawicz, Leonard (1999). *Computer Software, Information, and Contractor Remedies*. George Washington University.

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In contrast, the Government is not precluded from receiving and holding copyrights transferred to it by assignment, bequest, or otherwise. For example, software developed under a Government contract may be copyrighted and transferred or licensed to the Government by an assignment. In this case, the author copyrights the material and may assign all ownership rights or grant licenses to the Government.

Copyright protection is automatic once a work is put in a tangible medium (e.g., written down or stored on magnetic or optical media). Prior laws required registration and notice of copyright on works in order to have copyright protection. Currently, copyright law protects publicly distributed works without a notice, but a notice will provide the copyright owner with the advantage of invalidating any claim of “innocent infringement.” In order to establish a cause of action for an infringement claim, authors must register their copyrighted works by depositing copies of the work in the Library of Congress.

Once the author or owner has a copyright, he or she has the exclusive right to produce and distribute copies, publicly display or perform the work, or prepare a derivative work. In the event of infringement, the author or owner has many options. He or she may institute suit in district court for an injunction and for actual damages—including profit—or for statutory damages.

## TRADEMARKS

A “trademark” is defined as a word, phrase, logo, or other graphic symbol used by a manufacturer or merchant to distinguish its line of products from the products of others. Similarly, a “service mark” distinguishes a provider’s services from similar services provided by others. Trademarks and service marks are protected under the Lanham Trade-Mark Act<sup>9</sup> and protected under local state laws. The two basic purposes of the Lanham Act are (1) to eliminate deception and unfair competition in the marketing of goods and services, and (2) to provide a means for the owner of a mark to be protected against the use of a confusingly similar mark by others.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) registers trademarks and service marks. Such a registration may be renewed every 10 years as long as the registrant is still using the mark. Many marks currently in the marketplace are more than one hundred years old.

In the Government contracting process, the Government has not traditionally asserted any rights to the names and logos associated with the products it has made for itself. On occasion, however, Government agencies and patriotic societies have sought and obtained their own trademarks. Examples are “Smokey the Bear,” “Give a Hoot, Don’t Pollute,” “PX,” “FDIC,” “4-H Club,” “Red Cross,”

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<sup>9</sup> 15 U.S.C. 1051.

“VFW,” “Pentagram News,” “AAFES,” “Tomahawk,” “ZIP Code,” “First Class Mail,” and “Mr. Zip.”<sup>10</sup>

## PATENTS

Patent categories include

- ◆ utility patents (also known as patents for inventions), which are the most common type of patent;<sup>11</sup>
- ◆ design patents, which cover new, original, and ornamental designs for articles of manufacture;<sup>12</sup> and
- ◆ plant patents, which cover asexually reproduced new varieties of plants.<sup>13</sup>

### Utility Patents

Utility patents are the type most typically awarded as a result of research funded by the Government. A utility patent grants the statutory right to exclude others from the making, using, selling (or offering to sell), or importing into the U.S. of a patented invention during a specified time. Like copyrights, the Constitution provides for such protection in Article 1, section 8. Currently, the statutory provisions for U.S. patent law are found exclusively in Title 35 of the U.S. Code.

A utility patent is obtained by filing a patent application with the PTO. Patents are granted for a period of 20 years from the filing date. When the patent term expires, the patented invention enters the public domain and is available for anyone’s use without the payment of royalties to the owner of the now-expired patent. A patent does not necessarily allow the patentee to use the invention, because it might be the result of an improvement to an existing patented invention owned by another person. This may happen when different companies hold different patents in a particular technology area. In this situation, companies often enter into cross-licensing agreements to allow for the use of one another’s patent.

There are four basic categories of utility patents:

1. Processes (e.g., methods of doing business and computer programs),
2. Machines,
3. Articles of manufacture, and

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<sup>10</sup> Garvert, William (1979). Government Trademarks. *Journal of Law and Technology*, 20 *Idea*, pp. 335-354.

<sup>11</sup> See 35 U.S.C. 101, Inventions Patentable.

<sup>12</sup> See 35 U.S.C. 171-173, Patents for Designs, Right of Priority, and Term of Design Patent.

<sup>13</sup> See 35 U.S.C. 161-163, Patents for Plants; Description, Claim, and Grant.



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#### 4. Compositions of matter.<sup>14</sup>

When an invention falls into one of these categories, it can be patented provided it is new, useful, and non-obvious. Laws of nature, physical phenomena, and abstract ideas cannot be patented, although the application of a law of nature or mathematical formula to a known structure or process may be patentable. A mathematical algorithm (i.e., a procedure for solving a mathematical problem) or a mathematical formula is considered similar to a law of nature and cannot be patented. Based on this similarity, patenting many computer software items is complex because some computer programs may be nothing more than mathematical algorithms. However, this area of law is in flux and legal counsel guidance is therefore particularly needed on such matters.

## TECHNICAL DATA AND COMPUTER SOFTWARE

### Technical Data

In general, the Government acquires “certain license rights” in technical data developed with Government funds or delivered to the Government under a contract. Usually, these rights are specified in the contracting clauses and regulations as being characteristic of one kind of license or another, such as the “unlimited rights” license, “limited rights” license, or “Government purpose rights” license. Those rights can be said to differ from one another according to whom the licensed data may be given, and to what purposes, or uses, the licensed data may be put. They may include permission to use, reproduce, disclose, modify, adapt, or disseminate the technical data. The Government’s unlimited ability to perform these tasks could imperil a company’s investment in their IP, including trade secrets, thereby affecting the company’s place in the market.

Contracting officers should understand the definitions of terms that arise as part of the acquisition strategy and negotiation process. Per the DFARS definition, the term “technical data” means recorded information of a scientific or technical nature (including computer software documentation).<sup>15</sup> However, “technical data” does not include the computer software itself. It does include every kind of written data describing or documenting a product, method, process or service (e.g., a drawing) but does not include oral communications.

It should be noted that there are some inconsistencies between the FAR and DFARS regarding the treatment of data. An example of such an inconsistency is that under the FAR,<sup>16</sup> computer software manuals are included within the definition of “computer software” and are not considered technical data; however, in the DFARS, documents and other data related to computer software, such as training and instruction manuals, are considered technical data. Because computer

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<sup>14</sup> See 35 U.S.C. 101, Inventions Patentable.

<sup>15</sup> DFARS 252.227-7013(a)(14), Technical Data.

<sup>16</sup> FAR 52.227-14(a), Rights in Data—General.

software is governed by its own part of the regulation in both the FAR and DFARS, it is important to remember this distinction between the definitions.

## Computer Software

The rapid development and proliferation of computer software, combined with the fact that the law is traditionally slow to keep up with technological advances, has made the protection of computer software as IP a challenging problem. When case law rendered mathematical algorithms unpatentable, protecting software via patents was initially restrained. However, subsequent case law has opened the way to protect software by patent if a practical application can be shown. Again, because of the flux in this area, legal counsel advice is especially needed.

With an amendment in 1980, the copyright laws have since provided for copyright protection of computer software as a “literary work.” Copyright protection has been upheld for source code, object code, system software, and application software, whether the copy is fixed on a hard drive or on a floppy disk. While the basic protection is there, the complexities of computer software have brought about numerous problems with the interpretation of the basic language of the copyright statute and of the way in which the statutory language applies to the unique aspects of software. One major challenge for companies lies in the concept of reverse engineering. Federal courts have held that the reverse engineering of object code to discover the source code and program design is a fair use of software and does not violate the copyright.

While computer software is eligible for trade secret protection, a company cannot rely on this protection unless it maintains adequate confidential relationships and establishes satisfactory contractual restrictions upon release. Nevertheless, many software companies maintain trade secret protection on the source code, specification, and design of the software and rely on copyright protection for the other aspects of software.

Most software is protected by contractual means through granting a license for another party to use, copy, release, and/or distribute the software. The owner of the software, in effect, leases it to the user with certain understandings regarding the extent of use. For example, use might be limited to a specific machine or facility, or copying might be restricted. The license might also include language that precludes reverse engineering or decompiling so that the licensee cannot utilize the embedded ideas or trade secrets. In practice, most software owners use some combination of contractual protections.



# Appendix C

## Federal Acquisition Regulation Clause Summary

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FAR Part 27 prescribes policies, procedures, and contract clauses pertaining to patents, data, and copyrights; and DFARS Part 227 prescribes related coverage applicable to the Defense Department. These clauses are long and complex. For ease of reference, a summary analysis of all IP-related FAR clauses is provided below. The same is provided for DFARS clauses in Appendix D. These analyses include statutory and regulatory references, principal clause objective, clause applicability, and basic clause requirements.

### FAR CLAUSE MATRIX

#### FAR 52.227-1: Authorization and Consent

Statutory Reference	28 U.S.C. 1498 (a)
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.201-2(a)
Principal Objective	To extend the Government's limited waiver of sovereign immunity for U.S. patent infringement to its contractors.
Applicability	All contracts except contracts for commercial items or when performance and delivery will be made outside the United States.
Requirements	The clause authorizes the contractor to use patented inventions in performing a contract without independent exposure to patent infringement from third parties. The Government authorizes and consents to all use and manufacture, for performance of a contract or any subcontract, of any invention covered by a U.S. patent embodying the product, the delivery of which is accepted by the Government under the contract.

## FAR 52.227-2: Notice and Assistance Regarding Patent and Copyright Infringement

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.202-2
Principal Objective	To notify the Government of a patent infringement lawsuit that the Government must defend.
Applicability	Supply, service, or research and development contracts above the simplified acquisition procedures threshold except when performance and delivery will be made outside the United States.
Requirements	The contractor promptly notifies the contracting officer upon notice or claim of patent or copyright infringement based on the performance of the contract.

## FAR 52.227-3: Patent Indemnity

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.203-1(b), 27.203-2(a), or 27.203-4(a)(2) as applicable
Principal Objective	Ensures that the Government purchases items that otherwise incorporate commercially available components, free and clear of any patent claims or liability.
Applicability	All contracts except those for research and development (using Alternate I of FAR 52.227-1), supplies or services not previously sold in the commercial marketplace, work to be performed outside the United States, contracts using simplified acquisition procedures, or architect-engineer work.
Requirements	The contractor must indemnify the Government against liability, including costs, for infringement of any U.S. patent arising out of the manufacture or delivery of supplies or performance of services under a contract.

## FAR 52.227-4: Patent Indemnity—Construction Contracts

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.203-5
Principal Objective	Ensures that the Government is not exposed to any patent infringement claims or liability under construction contracts (consistent language with 52.227-3).
Applicability	Fixed-price contracts for construction, dismantling, demolition, or removal of improvements.
Requirements	The contractor agrees to indemnify the Government against liability, including costs and expenses, for infringement of any U.S. patent.

## FAR 52.227-5: Waiver of Indemnity

Statutory Reference	28 U.S.C. 1498(a)
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.203-6
Principal Objective	To waive indemnification by the contractor and authorize the use and manufacture, solely in performing a contract, of any invention covered by a U.S. patent identified in the contract.
Applicability	Contracts for which a written approval from the agency head or designee is obtained. Must be in the Government's interest and must be solely for performance of the contract.
Requirements	The Government authorizes the contractor to use and manufacture, solely in performing the contract, any invention covered by the U.S. patents identified herein; and waives indemnification by the contractor with respect to such patents.

## FAR 52.227-6: Royalty Information

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.204-2
Principal Objective	To obtain royalty payment information in proposals in order to conduct cost/price analysis, ensure the royalty is proper, and ensure the Government is not paying a royalty to which it otherwise has a license.
Applicability	Negotiated contracts.
Requirements	Requires the offeror to disclose, as part of its proposal, the amount of royalty paid, patent numbers, and a brief description of the component on which a royalty is paid. Also, if requested by the contracting officer before the execution of the contract, the offeror shall furnish a copy of the current license agreement and an identification of applicable claims of specific patents.

## FAR 52.227-7: Patent—Notice of Government Licensee

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.204-3(c)
Principal Objective	To advise offerors, through the solicitation, when the Government intends to pay a patent royalty for items to be procured under the contract.
Applicability	Contracts for which the Government has agreed to pay a patent royalty.
Requirements	Sets forth the patent information, royalty rate, and owner and licensee information.

## FAR 52.227-9: Refund of Royalties

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.206-2
Principal Objective	To ensure that the Government does not overpay royalties.
Applicability	Negotiated fixed-price contracts for which the contracting officer believes it is questionable whether substantial amounts of royalties will have to be paid.
Requirements	Establishes requirements for royalty payments to ensure they are properly chargeable.

## FAR 52.227-10: Filing of Patent Applications—Classified Subject Matter

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.207-2
Principal Objective	To prevent classified information from entering the public domain.
Applicability	Contracts that may result in a patent application containing classified subject matter.
Requirements	The contracting officer must approve the filing of a U.S. patent application that includes disclosure of any contract subject matter classified as “confidential” or higher.

## FAR 52.227-11: Patent Rights—Retention by the Contractor (Short Form)

Statutory Reference	35 U.S.C. 202-204 and 37 C.F.R. 401
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.303 (a)
Principal Objective	To ensure that inventions developed by small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, with federal funding, are utilized for the public benefit.
Applicability	Contracts for experimental, developmental, or research work with small businesses and nonprofit organizations.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The contractor must disclose an invention within two months after the inventor identifies it in writing to contractor personnel responsible for patent matters.</li> <li>◆ Where the Government obtains the title and the contractor has a nonexclusive domestic license, the license may be revoked or modified by the Government to the extent necessary to achieve expeditious practical application.</li> <li>◆ For inventions where the contractor acquires title, the Government has the right to require the contractor to grant a nonexclusive, partially exclusive, or exclusive license to</li> </ul>

	<p>a responsible applicant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The contractor flows down the same rights to the subcontractor and will not, as part of the consideration for awarding the subcontract, obtain rights in the subcontractor's subject inventions.</li> <li>◆ The contractor agrees that it will grant exclusive rights to subject inventions in the United States only to those manufacturing substantially in the United States.</li> </ul>
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## FAR 52.227-12: Patent Rights—Retention by the Contractor (Long Form)

Statutory Reference	35 U.S.C. Sec. 202, 204, and 210(c), Presidential Memorandum 2/18/83, and Executive Order 12591
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.302(f), 27.302(g), 27.303(b), 27.303(d)(1)(ii), and 27.304-1(g)
Principal Objective	To ensure that inventions developed with funding from DoD, the Department of Energy, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by large, for-profit businesses are utilized for the public benefit.
Applicability	The contractor is other than a small business firm or nonprofit organization and the effort is for experimental, research, or developmental work.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The contractor must disclose inventions within two months after the inventor discloses in writing to contractor personnel, or within six months after the contractor becomes aware that an invention has been made, whichever is earlier.</li> <li>◆ Where the Government obtains the title and the contractor has a nonexclusive domestic license, the license may be revoked or modified by the Government to the extent necessary to achieve an expeditious practical application.</li> <li>◆ The contractor will flow down the same rights to the subcontractor and will not, as part of the consideration for awarding the subcontract, obtain rights in the subcontractor's subject inventions.</li> <li>◆ The contractor agrees that it will grant exclusive rights to subject inventions in the United States only to those manufacturing substantially in the United States.</li> <li>◆ If the contractor has not commercialized a subject invention within a reasonable time, the Government has the right to require the contractor to grant a nonexclusive, partially exclusive, or exclusive license to a responsible applicant. If the contractor refuses such a request, the Government has the right to grant such a license itself.</li> </ul>



**FAR 52.227-12: Patent Rights—Retention by the Contractor  
(Alternate I)**

Statutory Reference	35 U.S.C. 202(c)(4)
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.303(b)(2)
Principal Objective	To honor U.S. treaties and agreements with foreign governments and international organizations.
Applicability	The contractor is other than a small business firm or nonprofit organization and the effort is for experimental, research, or developmental work.
Requirements	The Government has the right to sublicense foreign governments, their nationals, and international organizations pursuant to specifically identified treaties or international agreements.

**FAR 52.227-12: Patent Rights—Retention by the Contractor  
(Alternate II)**

Statutory Reference	35 U.S.C. 202 (c)(4)
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.303(b)(2)
Principal Objective	To honor U.S. treaties and agreements with foreign governments and international organizations.
Applicability	Long-term contracts where the contractor is other than a small business firm or nonprofit organization and the effort is for experimental, research, or developmental work.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The Government has the right to unilaterally amend the contract to identify specific treaties and international agreements entered into after the effective date of the contract to effectuate the granting of licenses and other rights to relevant organizations.</li> <li>◆ The contracting officer has the discretion to modify the clauses in FAR 52.227-11, 52.227-12, and 52.227-13 to make it clear that the rights granted to the foreign government or international organization may be additional rights beyond a license or sublicense if so required by the applicable treaty or international agreement.</li> </ul>

## FAR 52.227-13: Patent Rights—Acquisition by the Government

Statutory Reference	41 U.S.C. 418a (d) and 35 U.S.C. 202(a)(i)
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.303(c) FAR 27.302(i)2
Principal Objective	To provide for contracts to be performed outside the United States by large, for-profit companies.
Applicability	The contractor is foreign and the effort is for experimental, research, or developmental work.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The contractor agrees to assign to the Government the entire right, title, and interest to each subject invention.</li> <li>◆ The contractor's domestic license may be revoked or modified to the extent necessary to achieve an expeditious practical application of the subject invention.</li> </ul>

## FAR 52.227-14: Rights in Data

Statutory Reference	41 U.S.C. 418 (a)
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.409(a), 27.302(i)1, 27.303(c), and 52.227-13
Principal Objective	For the Government to have unlimited data rights to data first produced under a contract.
Applicability	Not applicable to DoD. (See FAR 27.400).
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Sets forth rights in data for contracts where data will be produced, furnished, or acquired (with some notable exceptions).</li> <li>◆ For data other than software, the contractor grants to the Government, and others acting on its behalf, a paid-up, nonexclusive, irrevocable worldwide license in the copyrighted data to reproduce, prepare derivative works, distribute copies to the public, and perform and display publicly.</li> </ul>

## FAR 52.227-15: Representation of Limited Rights Data and Restricted Computer Software

Statutory Reference	41 U.S.C. 418a (d) (5)
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.409(g)
Principal Objective	When limited-rights data or restricted computer software are likely to be used, the insertion of this clause into the solicitation will generate a response from the contractor that will help the contracting officer use an appropriate data rights clause in the award.
Applicability	Applies to civilian agency solicitations that include the clause FAR 52.227-14, Rights in Data. Not applicable to DoD. (See FAR 27.400).

Requirements	Establishes the requirement for contractors to assert limited- or restricted-rights data that may be included in the contract data to be delivered.
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## FAR 52.227-16: Additional Data Requirements

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.409(h)
Principal Objective	Enable the Government access to data generated under the contract but not established at the outset of the contract.
Applicability	Applies to civilian agency contracts involving experimental, developmental, research, or demonstration work. Not applicable to DoD. (See FAR 27.400).
Requirements	The contracting officer may, at any time during contract performance or within a period of three years after acceptance of all items to be delivered under the contract, order any data first produced or specifically used in the performance of the contract.

## FAR 52.227-17: Rights in Data—Special Works

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.409(i)
Principal Objective	Establish unlimited Government rights to copyrighted material and indemnification under the contract.
Applicability	Applies to civilian agency contracts and solicitations primarily for the production or compilation of data for the Government's internal use. Not applicable to DoD. (See FAR 27.400).
Requirements	The Government shall have unlimited rights in the data delivered under the contract and in all data first produced in the performance of the contract, and the contractor will indemnify the Government against liabilities for infringement of trade secrets and copyrights.

### FAR 52.227-18: Rights in Data—Existing Works

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.409(j)
Principal Objective	Acquire worldwide nonexclusive license to reproduce subject matter being acquired.
Applicability	Applies to civilian agency solicitations and contracts exclusively for the acquisition of existing audiovisual and similar works. Not applicable to DoD. (See FAR 27.400).
Requirements	The contractor grants to the Government a paid-up, nonexclusive, irrevocable, worldwide license to reproduce the works, prepare derivative works, and perform and display them publicly.

### FAR 52.227-19: Commercial Computer Software—Restricted Rights

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27. 409(k)
Principal Objective	To ensure that the contract contains terms to obtain sufficient rights for the Government to fulfill the need for which the software is being acquired.
Applicability	Applies to civilian agency acquisitions of existing computer software. Not applicable to DoD. (See FAR 27.400).
Requirements	The Government shall have the right to use, duplicate, or disclose any restricted computer software delivered under the contract.

### FAR 52.227- 20: Rights in Data—SBIR Program

Statutory Reference	15 U.S.C. 638, SBIR Reg. at 37 C.F.R. 401
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.409(l)
Principal Objective	Establishes Government and contractor rights under Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program contracts.
Applicability	Applies to civilian agency contracts awarded under the SBIR program. Not applicable to DoD. (See FAR 27.400).
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The Government shall have unlimited rights in the data except where the small business has retained the rights and given a notice accordingly.</li> <li>◆ The contractor shall have the right to protect data delivered and establish claims to copyrighted material in accordance with the clause procedures.</li> </ul>

## FAR 52.227-21: Technical Data Declaration, Revision, and Withholding of Payment—Major Systems

Statutory Reference	41 U.S.C. 418 (a)(d) 7,8, 9 and 41 U.S.C. 403 (a) (9) (10)
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.409(q)
Principal Objective	To ensure quality of delivered technical data under a contract.
Applicability	Applies to civilian agency contracts for major system acquisitions. The technical data to which the clause applies must be specified in the contract. Not applicable to DoD. (See FAR 27.400).
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The contractor must make a declaration that the technical data delivered under the contract is complete and accurate and complies with the requirements of the contract.</li> <li>◆ The Government has the right to withhold payment until data requirements are properly satisfied.</li> </ul>

## FAR 52.227-22: Major System—Minimum Rights

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.409(r)
Principal Objective	Establishes unlimited rights to all data under the contract.
Applicability	Applies to civilian agency contracts for major systems for civilian agencies except NASA and U.S. Coast Guard. Not applicable to DoD. (See FAR 27.400).
Requirements	The Government shall have unlimited rights in any technical data, other than computer software, developed in the performance of this contract.

## FAR 52.227-23: Rights to Proposal Data (Technical)

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.409(s)
Principal Objective	Establishes unlimited rights to proposal data.
Applicability	Applies to civilian agency acquisitions in which the contracting officer desires to acquire unlimited rights in technical data contained in a successful proposal upon which a contract award is based. Not applicable to DoD. (See FAR 27.400).
Requirements	As a condition to the award of the contract, the Government shall have unlimited rights in and to the technical data contained in the proposal upon which the contract is based, except for those pages marked by the offeror as proprietary.

# Appendix D

## Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement

### Clause Summary

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DFARS Part 227 prescribes Defense-related policies, procedures, and contract clauses pertaining to patents, data, and copyrights; and Part 252 presents Defense-related clauses. These clauses are long and complex. For ease of reference, a summary analysis of all IP-related DFARS clauses is provided below. Each clause's analysis includes statutory and regulatory references, principal clause objective, clause applicability, and basic clause requirements.

### DFARS CLAUSE MATRIX

#### DFARS 252.227-7000: Non-Estoppel

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-1
Principal Objective	Provides the right to challenge the validity of patents and patent applications licensed under a contract.
Applicability	Patent release and settlement agreements, license agreements, and assignments executed by the Government, when it acquires rights.
Requirements	The Government reserves the right to contest, at any time, the enforceability, validity, scope of, or title to any patent or patent application without waiving or forfeiting any rights under the contract.

#### DFARS 252.227-7001: Release of Past Infringement

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-2(a)
Principal Objective	Releases Government from any patent infringement liability of inventions identified in a contract.
Applicability	Patent release and settlement agreements, license agreements, and assignments, executed by the Government, under which the Government acquires rights.
Requirements	The contractor releases the Government from any claims for the manufacture or use by the Government, prior to the contract's effective date, of any inventions covered by a patent and identified in a contract.

## DFARS 252.227-7002: Readjustment of Payments

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-2(b)
Principal Objective	To ensure that the Government does not overpay royalties.
Applicability	Contracts providing for a payment of running royalty.
Requirements	The contractor will give the Government the same royalty rates given to other licensees of the patent.

## DFARS 252.227-7003: Termination

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-2(c)
Principal Objective	To preserve the Government's right to terminate a license agreement.
Applicability	Contracts providing for the payment of running royalty.
Requirements	The Government reserves the right to terminate a license by giving the contractor 30 days' notice in writing.

## DFARS 252.227-7004: License Grant

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-3(a)
Principal Objective	To ensure the acquisition of a patent license agreement.
Applicability	Patent release and settlement agreements, as well as license agreements that do not provide for royalty payment.
Requirements	The contractor grants the Government an irrevocable, nonexclusive, nontransferable, paid-up, Government-purpose license under the designated patents.

## DFARS 252.227-7005: License Term

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-3(b)
Principal Objective	To ensure the Government's right to terminate a license agreement.
Applicability	Patent release and settlement agreements, and license agreements not providing for royalty payment by the Government.
Requirements	Depending on which Alternate is used (I or II), the Government defines the term of the license.

### DFARS 252.227-7006: License Grant Running Royalty

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-4(a)
Principal Objective	To define the patent license grant.
Applicability	Patent release and settlement agreements, and license agreements, when the clause is desired to cover the subject matter thereof and the contract provides for royalty payment.
Requirements	The contractor grants the Government an irrevocable, nonexclusive, nontransferable license under the designated patents.

### DFARS 252.227-7007: License Term—Running Royalty

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-4(b)
Principal Objective	To define the term of the patent license.
Applicability	Patent release and settlement agreements, and license agreements, when the clause is desired to cover the subject matter thereof and the contract provides for royalty payment.
Requirements	The license granted shall remain in full force and effect for the full term of the patent unless terminated sooner.

### DFARS 252.227-7008: Computation of Royalties

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-4(c)
Principal Objective	To specify the royalty rate of a license.
Applicability	Patent release and settlement agreements, and license agreements, when the clause is desired to cover the subject matter thereof and the contract provides for royalty payment.
Requirements	Establishes the royalty rate.



## DFARS 252.227-7009: Reporting and Payment of Royalties

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-4(d)
Principal Objective	To report the royalty amount owed by the Government.
Applicability	Patent release and settlement agreements, and license agreements when the clause is desired to cover the subject matter and the contract provides for royalty payment.
Requirements	The procuring office shall report to the contractor the amount of royalties accrued and arrange for payment to the contractor.

## DFARS 252.227-7010: License to Other Government Agencies

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7009-4(e)
Principal Objective	To provide similar license terms to other Government agencies.
Applicability	When it is intended that a license be made available to other Government agencies on the same terms and conditions that appear in the contract license agreement.
Requirements	The contractor agrees to grant, to other Government agencies, license under the same terms and conditions that appear in the contract license agreement.

## DFARS 252.227-7011: Assignments

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7010
Principal Objective	To provide for patent assignments.
Applicability	Contracts assigning patent rights to the Government.
Requirements	The Government identifies the detailed information of the patent to be conveyed.

## DFARS 252.227-7012: Patent License and Release Contract

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227-7012
Principal Objective	To provide a format for inserting various patent license and release clauses as prescribed in the FAR and DFARS.
Applicability	For contracts of release, license, or assignment.
Requirements	The clause details the language to be used in a contract.

## DFARS 252.227-7013: Rights in Technical Data—Non-commercial Items

Statutory Reference	10 U.S.C. 2320, EO 12591, 15 U.S.C. 638 for Alt II
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7103-6(a)
Principal Objective	To set forth respective rights to technical data delivered under a contract.
Applicability	All contracts for noncommercial items under which technical data are to be delivered, except when the only deliverable items are computer software or computer software documentation.
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Defines unlimited rights, limited rights, Government-purpose rights, specifically negotiated license rights, and prior Government rights.</li> <li>◆ The contractor is required to provide a certified list of all asserted rights and restrictions in the furnished technical data.</li> <li>◆ (b) (6) The contractor agrees to release the Government from liability for release or disclosure of technical data.</li> <li>◆ (k)(4) The contractor and higher-tier subcontractors or suppliers shall not use their power to award subcontracts as economic leverage to obtain rights in technical data from their subcontractors or suppliers.</li> </ul>

## DFARS 252.227-7014: Rights in Noncommercial Computer Software and Noncommercial Computer Software Documentation

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7203-6(a)(1)
Principal Objective	To set forth respective rights to computer software and computer software documentation delivered under the contract.
Applicability	Contracts for noncommercial computer software or computer documentation, except technical data.
Requirements	<p>Defines unlimited rights, restricted rights, Government-purpose rights, specifically negotiated license rights, and prior Government rights.</p> <p>Contractor is required to provide a certified list of all asserted rights and restrictions in the furnished software.</p>

## DFARS 252.227-7015: Technical Data—Commercial Items

Statutory Reference	10 U.S.C. 2320, EO 12591
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7102-3 Contract Clause
Principal Objective	To define the Government’s rights in technical data related to commercial items.
Applicability	All solicitations and contracts involving commercial items where technical data is being acquired and for prime contracts where the subcontracts may require this clause in lieu of DFARS 252.227-7013.
Requirements	Defines the terms of the license for technical data, as well as restrictions placed on the Government.

## DFARS 252.227-7016: Rights in Bid or Proposal Information

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7103-6(e)(1), 227.7104(e)(1), or 227.7203-6(b)
Principal Objective	To allow the Government to use the information submitted in bids or proposals.
Applicability	Solicitations and contracts under which the successful offeror will be required to deliver technical data to the Government.
Requirements	Defines the Government’s rights prior to, and subsequent to, contract award.

## DFARS 252.227-7017: Identification and Assertion of Use, Release, or Disclosure Restriction

Statutory Reference	10 U.S.C. 2320
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.227.7103-3(b), 227.7104(e)(2), or 227.7203-3(a)
Principal Objective	To identify the nature of data to be delivered with other than “unlimited rights.”
Applicability	All solicitations that include the clause DFARS 252.227-7013 or 7014.
Requirements	The contractor must identify all data (technical and computer software) that will be delivered with less than unlimited rights.

## DFARS 252.227-7018: Rights in Noncommercial Technical Data and Computer Software—SBIR Program

Statutory Reference	15 U.S.C. 638
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.227.7104(a) License Rights
Principal Objective	To identify the scope of data rights to be delivered under the Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program.
Applicability	Research contracts under the SBIR Program.
Requirements	Identifies the Government's rights in the data developed under all phases of SBIR programs.

## DFARS 227.7019: Validation of Asserted Restrictions—Computer Software

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.227.7104(e)(3) or 227.7203-6(c)
Principal Objective	To evaluate the contractor's asserted restrictions.
Applicability	Small Business Innovative Research solicitations and contracts.
Requirements	The clause identifies requirements for the Government's need to have information and the Government's right to challenge asserted restrictions.

## DFARS 252.227-7020: Rights in Special Works

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7105-3, 227.7106(a), or 227.72005(a)
Principal Objective	To ensure that the Government has an assignment or at least license rights to copyrighted works commissioned by the Government.
Applicability	Solicitations and contracts under which the Government has specific need to control the distribution of works first produced, created, or generated during contract performance.
Requirements	The clause spells out the Government's rights.

### DFARS 252.227-7021: Rights in Data—Existing Works

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7105-2(a), Acquisition of existing works without modification
Principal Objective	To provide necessary license rights to the Government for existing copyrighted works.
Applicability	Existing works.
Requirements	The clause defines “works” and the Government’s rights to a nonexclusive license.

### DFARS 252.227-7022: Government Rights (Unlimited)

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7107-1(a)
Principal Objective	To define the scope of the Government’s unlimited rights.
Applicability	Architectural designs and construction contracts.
Requirements	The Government shall have unlimited rights in all drawings, designs, and specifications, and retains a paid-up license.

### DFARS 252.227-7023: Drawings and Other Data to Become Property of the Government

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7107-1(b)
Principal Objective	To define the Government’s rights in drawings and other data.
Applicability	Contracts involving architect-engineer services.
Requirements	All designs, drawings, and specifications developed under the contract become the sole property of the Government.

### DFARS 252.227-7024: Notice and Approval of Restricted Design

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7107-3
Principal Objective	To preserve the Government’s rights in restricted designs.
Applicability	Architectural and construction contracts.
Requirements	Where the contractor’s designs require products and materials that can be obtained only from a sole source, the contracting officer’s approval is required.

### DFARS 252.227-7025: Limitation on the Use or Disclosure of Government-Furnished Information Marked with Restrictive Legends

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7103-6(c), 227.7104(f)(1), or 227.7203-6(d)
Principal Objective	To limit the contractor's use of Government-furnished information.
Applicability	Solicitations where the Government furnishes information to the contractor.
Requirements	Where Government-furnished information marked with legends is misused or misappropriated, the contractor will indemnify the Government, as the information may be proprietary to another contractor.

### DFARS 252.227-7026: Deferred Delivery of Technical Data or Computer Software

Statutory Reference	10 U.S.C. 2320 (b) (2)
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7103-8(a)
Principal Objective	To protect the Government's interest in deferring the delivery of technical data or computer software.
Applicability	Contracts where necessary or applicable.
Requirements	The Government has the right to defer the delivery of technical data or computer software for up to two years after the acceptance of all other items.

### DFARS 252.227-7027: Deferred Ordering of Technical Data or Computer Software

Statutory Reference	10 U.S.C. 2320 (b) (2)
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7103-8(b)
Principal Objective	To give the Government time to determine whether it needs technical data or computer software under a contract.
Applicability	Solicitations when various technical data and computer software requirements cannot be specifically identified, but there is a potential need for technical data and computer software generated under the contract.
Requirements	The Government may order any technical data or computer software generated under the performance of a contract. Such order may be made within three years after the acceptance of all items.

## DFARS 252.227-7028: Technical Data or Computer Software Previously Delivered to the Government

Statutory Reference	10 U.S.C. 2320(b)(1)
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7103-6(d), 227.7104(f)(2) or 227.7203-6(e)
Principal Objective	To identify all technical data and computer software that previously have been delivered to the Government, but that the contractor intends to deliver with less than unlimited rights.
Applicability	Solicitations for which the resulting contract will require the contractor to deliver technical data and computer software that were or are deliverable under another Government contract.
Requirements	Offerors must identify any technical data and computer software specified in the solicitation as deliverable technical data and computer software items that are the same or substantially the same as technical data and computer software items the offeror has delivered or is obligated to deliver, either as a contractor or subcontractor, under any other Federal agency contract.

## DFARS 252.227-7030: Technical Data—Withholding of Payment

Statutory Reference	10 U.S.C. 2320(b)(9), 41 U.S.C. 418a(d)(9)
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7103-6(e)(2) or 227.7104(e)(4)
Principal Objective	To have leverage in enforcing the contract.
Applicability	Solicitations and contracts that include the clause DFARS 252.227-7013, Right in Technical Data—Noncommercial Items.
Requirements	If technical data delivered under the contract is not delivered on time or is deficient, the contracting officer may withhold 10 percent of the contract price until the Government accepts such data.

## DFARS 252.227-7032: Rights in Technical Data and Computer Software (Foreign)

Statutory Reference	10 U.S.C. 2320 (b) (1)
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7103-17
Principal Objective	For the furtherance of mutual defense of the U.S. Government and the other governments.
Applicability	Contracts with foreign contractors to be performed overseas (except Canadian purchases).
Requirements	The U.S. Government may duplicate, use, or disclose all technical data and computer software, under the contract, to other governments.

## DFARS 252.227-7033: Rights in Shop Drawings

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7107-1(c)
Principal Objective	The Government may acquire exclusive control of the data pertaining to the design if the Government does not want the construction to be duplicated for any special reasons.
Applicability	Solicitations and contracts calling for the delivery of shop drawings. The clause is to be included in all subcontracts at any tier.
Requirements	The Government shall obtain unlimited rights in shop drawings for construction.

## DFARS 252.227-7034: Patents—Subcontracts

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.304-4
Principal Objective	To have all parties involved in developing research, comply with the requirements of FAR 52.227-12.
Applicability	Solicitations and contracts pertaining to experimental, developmental, or research work by small business or domestic nonprofit organizations whose contract contains FAR 52.227.11.
Requirements	The contractor shall include FAR 52.227-12 in subcontracts to be performed by other than a small business or nonprofit organization.

## DFARS 252.227-7036: Declaration of Technical Data Conformity

Statutory Reference	10 U.S.C. 2321 (b) (7)
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7103-6(e)(3) or 227.7104(e)(5)
Principal Objective	Ensure the contractor's accountability for data delivered.
Applicability	All solicitations and contracts (for noncommercial items), and when the successful offeror will be required to deliver technical data.
Requirements	The contractor provides a declaration that the technical data delivered is accurate and complies with the requirements of the contract.



## DFARS 252.227-7037: Validation of Restrictive Markings on Technical Data

Statutory Reference	10 U.S.C. 2321, 10 U.S.C. 2320 (b) (1)
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 227.7102-3(c), 227.7103-6(e)(4), 227.7104(e)(6) or 227.7203-6(f)
Principal Objective	To protect the Government's right to challenge the validity of restrictions marked on technical data packages.
Applicability	All solicitation and contracts.
Requirements	The contractor and subcontractor are responsible for maintaining records to justify the validity of markings that impose restrictions on the Government and others to use, duplicate, or disclose delivered technical data.

## DFARS 252.227-7039: Patents—Reporting of Subject Inventions

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	FAR 27.304-1(e), DFARS 227.303(a)
Principal Objective	To keep track of, and preserve the Government's rights in, inventions developed under the contract.
Applicability	Solicitations and contracts containing the clause FAR 52.227-11.
Requirements	The contractor shall furnish interim reports every 12 months, as well as a final report within 3 months after completion of the contract, as to whether any inventions were developed under the contract. The reports must provide all information regarding the contractor's patent application.

## DFARS 252.204-7000: Disclosure of Information

Statutory Reference	None
Regulatory Reference	DFARS 204.404-70(a)
Principal Objective	To prevent the release of unclassified, but sensitive, information to the public.
Applicability	Solicitations and contracts when the contractor will have access to or generate unclassified information that may be sensitive and inappropriate for release to the public.
Requirements	The contractor and subcontractor shall not release, to anyone outside their organization, any unclassified information pertaining to any part of the contract, unless the contracting officer has given prior approval.

# Appendix E

## History

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Our founding fathers, recognizing the need for IP protection, created the following statement in the Constitution:

“The Congress shall have power...to promote the Progress of Science and Useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Rights to their respective Writings and Discoveries.”<sup>1</sup>

Congress has used this broad authority to enact patent laws, codified in Title 35 of the U.S. Code, and copyright laws, codified in Title 17 of the U.S. Code. Legislative and judicial changes also permit trademark protection. The states have instituted additional measures by allowing the protection of trade secrets through state criminal, contract, or tort law.

Prior to 1980, various statutes and regulations concerning patents established the Government’s right to take title to Federally funded patents and freely distribute the information to the general public. This position has its foundation in the belief that the Government’s funds (i.e., taxpayers’ funds) were being used to conduct the research; therefore, the results should be made available to the public (i.e., the taxpayers). While the Government took title to the patent, it provided the contractor who conducted the research a nonexclusive license. The patent that resulted from these sponsored projects was typically freely published or provided to any person who requested access to it.

This free and open access policy to patents presented many problems for contractors. Envisioning commercial applications, inventors of new technology wanted to keep for themselves any economic benefits resulting from their research. Commercial companies depend heavily on the proper protection of their research to recoup any prior investments. The thought that the Government could distribute their research results to whomever might ask for them became extremely unattractive to many contractors, universities, and research centers. As a result, technologies that were potentially commercially viable were never fully available to the Government.

In response to this situation, Congress passed the Bayh-Dole Act<sup>2</sup> in 1980. Focused on promoting the development of Government-sponsored inventions into commercial products, the Act allowed small businesses and nonprofit organizations to retain title to the inventions they developed while working on a Government-sponsored program, apply for and receive patents on those inventions, and

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 8.

<sup>2</sup> Act of Dec. 12, 1980, Public Law No. 96-517, 94 Stat. 3015-28, codified at 35 U.S.C. §200-211; §301-307 (1994).

pursue options to commercialize the discoveries.<sup>3</sup> The Commerce Department was designated as the cognizant party responsible for the implementation of the Bayh-Dole Act throughout the Government.

In 1983, President Reagan significantly broadened the scope of the Act when he issued a memorandum requiring the application of the Act's provisions to contractual arrangements with any contractor, regardless of status.<sup>4</sup> By doing this, President Reagan was hoping to attract more for-profit entities into the Government research and development (R&D) arena with the incentives that they would be able to retain title to the inventions they might develop and could exploit this IP in their commercial products and sales.

The Bayh-Dole Act and the related executive order called for the identification, protection, and use of IP developed or modified in R&D contractual arrangements. These arrangements resulted in IP that could be worth millions of dollars in future revenue, in the same or similar applications, to the contractor who invented and developed it. Because contractors may have previously invested millions of dollars in their IP, they depend heavily on their retention of exclusivity to recoup those prior investments in the future.

As industry takes the lead in technology and the Government needs to collaborate with industry on research projects, some of the provisions of the Bayh-Dole Act get in the way. For example, under certain circumstances, the Act permits the Government to directly license the technology developed under a Government research contract if the contractor does not take diligent steps to commercialize it. In today's world, technology is moving so fast that some companies may choose, for business reasons, to maintain their technology as a trade secret instead of patenting it. This practice is not recognized under the current regulations.

The Bayh-Dole Act is just a part of the historical development of IP rights in Government contracts. Provided below is a history of data-rights-related regulations, from the 1955 Armed Services Procurement Regulation all the way through 1995 coverage in the DFARS.<sup>5</sup>

## 1955 ARMED SERVICES PROCUREMENT REGULATION

The first procurement regulation containing technical data coverage was the Armed Services Procurement Regulation (ASPR) clause, designated "Technical Data in Research and Development Contracts," incorporated in ASPR 9-112 in January 1955.

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<sup>3</sup> 35 U.S.C. 202. Disposition of Right.

<sup>4</sup> Reagan, Ronald. (February 18, 1983). Memorandum to the Heads of the Executive Departments and Agencies: "Government Patent Policy," Pub. Papers 248.

<sup>5</sup> Nash, Ralph C., and Rawicz, Leonard (1999). *Intellectual Property in Government Contracts*. Washington, D.C.: The George Washington Law School.

The clause was included in all contracts for experimental, developmental, or research work.<sup>6</sup> The clause itself did not contain a provision for protecting a contractor's proprietary information, which was required under the contract to be delivered by the contractor to the Government. The only Government limitation in this ASPR clause was that the Government's reproduction, use, or disclosure of the contractor's submitted data must be for Government purposes.

## 1957 ARMED SERVICES PROCUREMENT REGULATION

In 1957, the ASPR was amended to amplify its data coverage. This regulation was the first to recognize a contractor's proprietary data. The clause Rights in Data—Unlimited, used in R&D contracts, provided the Government “the right to duplicate, use and disclose in any manner and for any purpose whatsoever, and have others so do, all subject data delivered under the contract.” If any proprietary data were to be delivered under this clause, it had to be delivered with unlimited rights.<sup>7</sup>

## 1958 ARMED SERVICES PROCUREMENT REGULATION

After many complaints from contractors, DoD attempted in 1958 to provide greater protection to contractors' and subcontractors' proprietary data under a new clause permitting the delivery of “Swiss cheese drawings.” This new policy attempted to encourage inventiveness and provide incentives by honoring proprietary data, limiting data requirements to that data necessary to satisfy the intended use, and treating contractors and subcontractors alike as to data delivered to the Government. This policy used one data rights clause for R&D contracts and another for supply contracts.

## 1964 ARMED SERVICES PROCUREMENT REGULATION

The basic DoD policy in use today was first adopted in 1964 by Defense Procurement Circular 6, May 1964. This policy dropped the concept of the withholding of proprietary data and replaced it with a concept requiring the delivery of contractor proprietary information with limited rights.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Lazure and Church (1954). *The Shadow and Substance of Intellectual Property in Defense Dept. R&D Contracts*. 14 Federal Bar Journal, 296.

<sup>7</sup> Whale, Arthur R. (1957). Government Rights to Technical Information Received Under Contract. *George Washington Law Review*, 25, 289.

<sup>8</sup> Hinrichs, Maj. Robert M. (1967). Proprietary Data and Trade Secrets Under DoD Contracts. *Military Law Review*, 36, 61.

## BELL HELICOPTER

The Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, in its decision in Bell Helicopter Textron,<sup>9</sup> reviewed the history of the development of the DoD data rights policy and attempted to define some of the terms used in this policy—principally the term “developed.”<sup>10</sup> The policy drafters of the DFARS, for the most part, adopted this definition for policy later developed in the DFARS.

## 1984 DATA STATUTES

In 1984—spurred on by the DoD spare-parts media blitz and a blanket deviation issued by the Secretary of Defense, permitting unlimited modifications to the data rights policies—Congress enacted statutory requirements for DoD’s acquisition of technical data under its procurement contracts. The Defense Procurement Reform Act of 1984, enacted as a part of the 1985 DoD Authorization Act,<sup>11</sup> for the first time specified requirements as to both technical data rights and technical data acquisition by DoD agencies.<sup>12</sup>

## 1987 FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION

In 1987, FAR coverage was published regarding the rights of the Government and contractors as to the data prepared or used by a contractor in performing a contract with the civilian agencies and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The FAR recognized that DoD had a unique data rights problem and that the Department would implement its own data policy in the DFARS.

## 1988 DEFENSE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION SUPPLEMENT

During the period between 1984 and 1988, DoD proposed various changes to the DFARS technical data regulations. In response to industry’s concerns over these proposals, Congress modified the technical data provisions in Title 10 of the U.S. Code, causing new regulatory proposals by DoD. Finally, in October 1988, DoD issued an interim technical data regulation as Subpart 227.4 of the DFARS,<sup>13</sup> which ultimately was replaced by the 1995 DFARS technical data provisions after a seven-year effort by industry and DoD to reach agreement on this subject.

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<sup>9</sup> ASBCA 21192, 85-3 BCA paragraph 18,415.

<sup>10</sup> De Vecchino, W. Jay (1 August 1986). “The Bell Helicopter Decision: Expanding the Government’s Rights in Technical Data.” *Public Contract Law Journal*.

<sup>11</sup> P.L. 98-525.

<sup>12</sup> These data requirements are codified in Title 10 of the U.S. Code at Sections 2302, 2305, 2320, and 2321.

<sup>13</sup> 53 Fed. Reg. 43698, Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Patents, Data and Copyrights. 28 October 1998.

## 1995 DEFENSE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION SUPPLEMENT

The 1995 DFARS technical data regulations resulted from the work of a Government Industry Technical Advisory Committee established by the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal years 1992 and 1993.<sup>14</sup> The advisory committee completed its work in December 1993 and DoD published a proposed rule, based on this committee's work, on June 20, 1994.<sup>15</sup> The final regulation was published in 1995 as DFARS Subpart 227.71 for technical data and DFARS 227.72 for computer software.<sup>16</sup> It sought to balance the interest of the developer and users of technical data, but in crucial aspects favored the interests of the developers over the data users. The final data regulations are referred to in this guide as the 1995 DFARS.

As new acquisition strategies are pursued to attract firms that will share their commercial technology with DoD, the Government must move toward even more commercially friendly IP terms and conditions. The tumultuous history of technical data laws and regulations are an apt reminder that this arena is fraught with vested interests and entrenched positions. Yet, much progress has been made in bringing Government and industry together.

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<sup>14</sup> P.L. 102-190.

<sup>15</sup> 59 Fed. Reg. 31584, Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation; Rights in Technical Data. June 20, 1994.

<sup>16</sup> 60 Fed. Reg. 33464, Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Rights in Technical Data: Final Rule. 28 June 1995.



## Appendix F

# References

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The following references provide additional insight into the IP aspects of Government contracts. This list is not a specific endorsement or recommendation of the references.

***Essentials of Intellectual Property*, by Christian R. Andersen. 1998. Pearson Publications Company, 9614 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, TX 75243 (<http://www.pearsonpub-legal.com>).**

This book helps readers search and value IP assets across the globe. It covers, in detail,

- ◆ patents,
- ◆ trademarks,
- ◆ copyrights,
- ◆ searching for all three, and
- ◆ legalization and authentication of documents.

Included with each book is a disk recorded with an HTML Web page that can be read by any Internet browser, such as Netscape or Microsoft Internet Explorer. It contains links to sites on the World Wide Web that are relevant to the practice of IP, such as the U.S. Patent Office, European Patent Office, and U.S. Library of Congress, which offer practice information and forms. The HTML page provides links to searching and training resources offered through the Dialog® system, links to other Web-based search resources, and links to Pearson Publications' Web site, where updated resources will be available.

***Intellectual Property in Government Contracts*, by Ralph C. Nash and Leonard Rawicz, Fourth Edition, 1999. The George Washington Law School, Government Contracts Program, 600 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20037.**

This book's material is divided into 3 volumes:

- ◆ Volume 1: Intellectual Property Rights
- ◆ Volume 2: Technical Data Rights
- ◆ Volume 3: Computer Software, Information, and Contract Remedies.



In Volume 1, the material principally deals with the relationship between the IP concepts of patents, trade secrets, and copyrights and the Government's procurement and financial assistance processes. Volume 2 analyzes and discusses the legal rights that pertain to technical data obtained from contractors and prospective contractors. It reviews the contract provisions that govern data furnished pursuant to contract requirements. Volume 3 describes modes of protection for computer software/databases and deals with terminology and clauses that apply to the acquisition of computer software and related documentation under contracts (supply or R&D).

The volumes also contain text of supporting statutes, regulations, applicable FAR and DFARS clauses, and relevant documents.

***Licensing Software and Technology to the U.S. Government*, by Matthew S. Simchak and David A. Vogel, CCH Incorporated, 2700 Lake Cook Road, Riverwoods, IL 60015. 2000.**

This text examines the primary method by which the Federal Government acquires the rights, by contract, to use and disclose IP. It is intended to be a practical resource for any private contractor or Government agency that must deal with data rights on an ongoing basis in the formation and administration of Federal contracts. It contains both the detailed requirements of the various data rights regulations and the practical implications of those requirements for contractors and agencies alike.

**DAU (Defense Acquisition University) CON 210; *Government Contract Law Course Text*; (1999 Edition)**

This text includes sections on patents and technical data that provide basic educational information about patents, copyrights, data rights, and the Government's policy concerning these rights. It includes industry examples from actual court cases dealing with IP in Government contracts. Although concise, it is thorough in dealing with the subject. It can be found at the DoD Deskbook homepage ([www.deskbook.org](http://www.deskbook.org)) under the Reference Library and then Education & Training Materials. Refer to Chapter 5, Property, for relevant content.

### **United States Code Online**

The Legal Information Institute hosts a searchable Web site that includes the entire U.S. Code online at <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>.

## ual Property Resources

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The Services' phone/resource list below provides points of contact: names, titles, organizations, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. This resource is meant to assist contracting officers in obtaining information and guidance on the sometimes-complex judgments to be made in negotiating IP provisions of a contract with commercial companies.

### *Resource List*

Name	Title	Organization	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Will Anderson	Associate General Counsel (Acquisition)	Air Force	703-588-5090	andersow@pentagon.af.mil
Bernard Chachula	Director of Contract Law, Air Force Materiel Command	Air Force	937-255-6111 x301	BERNARD.CHACHULA@wpafb.af.mil
Alan Klein	Intellectual Property Counsel of the Army	Army	703-696-8113	Alan.Klein@hqda.army.mil
Richard Gray	Associate General Counsel (Acquisition)	Air Force	703-588-5091	Richard.Gray@pentagon.af.mil
Thomas McDonnell	Patent Counsel	Navy	703-696-4000	Thomas_McDonnell@onr.navy.mil
Gregory Redick	Assistant for Acquisition Process and Policies	Office of Director, Acquisition Initiatives	703-697-6399	Gregory.Redick@osd.mil

**Office of Acquisition Initiatives  
Under Secretary of Defense  
(Acquisition, Technology & Logistics)  
(703) 693-7795**