

Subpart 216.7—Agreements

216.703 Basic ordering agreements.

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Subpart 216.1—Selecting Contract Types**216.104 Factors in selecting contract types.**

(d) Design stability should also be considered.

216.104-70 Research and development.

(a) *General.* There are several categories of research and development (R&D) contracts: research, exploratory development, advanced development, engineering development, and operational systems development (see 235.001 for definitions). Each category has a primary technical or functional objective. Different parts of a project may fit several categories. The contract type must fit the work required, not just the classification of the overall program.

(b) *Research and exploratory development.* (1) Price is not necessarily the primary factor in determining the contract type.

(2) The nature of the work to be performed will usually result in a cost-plus award fee, cost-plus fixed fee term, cost-no-fee, or cost-sharing contract.

(3) If the Government and the contractor can identify and agree upon the level of contractor effort required, the contracting officer may select a firm fixed-price level-of-effort contract, except see 235.006.

(4) If the Government and the contractor agree that an incentive arrangement is desirable and capable of being evaluated after completion of the work, the contracting officer may use an incentive type contract.

(c) *Advanced development.* (1) The nature of the work to be performed often results in a cost-plus fixed fee completion type contract.

(2) Contracting officers may select incentive contracts if—

(i) Realistic and measurable targets are identified; and

(ii) Achievement of those targets is predictable with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

(3) Contracting officers should not use contracts with only cost incentives where—

(i) There will be a large number of major technical changes; or

(ii) Actions beyond the control of the contractor may influence the contractor's achievement of cost targets.

(d) *Engineering development and operational systems development.* (1) When selecting contract types, also consider—

(i) The degree to which the project is clearly defined, which in turn affects the contractor's ability to provide accurate cost estimates;

(ii) The need for effort that will overlap that of earlier stages;

(iii) The need for firm technical direction by the Government; and

(iv) The degree of configuration control the Government will exercise.

(2) For development efforts, particularly for major defense systems, the preferred contract type is cost reimbursement.

(3) Contracting officers should use fixed-price type contracts when risk has been reduced to the extent that realistic pricing can occur; e.g., when a program has reached the final stages of development and technical risks are minimal, except see 235.006.

Subpart 216.2—Fixed-Price Contracts**216.203 Fixed-price contracts with economic price adjustment.****216.203-4 Contract clauses.**

(a) *Adjustment based on established prices-standard supplies.* Generally, use the clause at FAR 52.216-2, Economic Price Adjustment-Standard Supplies, only when—

(i) The total contract price exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold; and

(ii) Delivery will not be completed within 6 months after the contract date.

(b) *Adjustment based on established prices-semistandard supplies.* Generally, use the clause at FAR 52.216-3, Economic Price Adjustment-Semistandard Supplies, only when—

(i) The total contract price exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold; and

(ii) Delivery will not be completed within 6 months after the contract date.

(c) *Adjustments based on actual cost of labor or material.*

(2) Limit use of the clause at FAR 52.216-4, Economic Price Adjustment-Labor and Material, to contracts in which the price exceeds \$50,000 and the period of performance exceeds 6 months, unless otherwise approved by the chief of the contracting office. Use an appropriate modification of the clause in sealed bidding.

(4) Apply the full amount of the decrease in the labor rates and fringe benefits or unit prices for materials.

(d) *Adjustments based on cost indexes of labor or material.* Use the following guidelines—

(i) Do not make the clause unnecessarily complex.

(ii) Normally, the clause should not provide either a ceiling or a floor for adjustment unless adjustment is based on indices below the four digit level of the Bureau of Labor Statistics—

(A) Producer Price Index;

(B) Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries, benefits, and compensation costs for aerospace industries; or

(C) Wage and Income Series by Standard Industrial Classification (Labor).

(iii) Normally, the clause should cover all potential economic fluctuations within the original contract period of performance.

(iv) The clause must accurately identify the index(es) upon which adjustments will be based.

(A) It must provide for a means to adjust for appropriate economic fluctuation in the event publication of the movement of the designated index is discontinued. This might include the substitution of another index if the time remaining would justify doing so and an appropriate index is reasonably available, or some other method for repricing the remaining portion of work to be performed.

(B) Normally, there should be no need to make an adjustment if computation of the identified index is altered. However, it may be appropriate

to provide for adjustment of the economic fluctuation computations in the event there is such a substantial alteration in the method of computing the index that the original intent of the parties is negated.

(C) When an index to be used is subject to revision (e.g., the Bureau of Labor Statistics Producer Price Indexes), the economic price adjustment clause must specify that any economic price adjustment will be based on a revised index and must identify which revision to the index will be used.

(v) Construct the index to encompass a large sample of relevant items while still bearing a logical relationship to the type of contract costs being measured. The basis of the index should not be so large and diverse that it is significantly affected by fluctuations not relevant to contract performance, but it must be broad enough to minimize the effect of any single company, including the anticipated contractor(s).

(vi) Construction of an index is largely dependent upon three general series published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These are the—

(A) Industrial Commodities portion of the Producer Price Index;

(B) Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries, benefits, and compensation costs for aerospace industries; and

(C) Wage and Income Series by Standard Industrial Classification (Labor). Since there is no BLS published series currently available that relates directly to total prices of delivered DoD aircraft, ships, missiles, electronics, etc., it will be necessary to construct composite indices from major portions of the three series identified.

(vii) Normally, do not use more than two indices, i.e., one for labor (direct and indirect) and one for material (direct and indirect).

(viii) The clause must establish and properly identify a base period comparable to the contract periods for which adjustments are to be made as a reference point for application of an index.

(ix) The clause should not provide for an adjustment beyond the original contract performance period, including options. The start date for the adjustment may be the beginning of the contract or a later time, as appropriate, based on the projected rate of expenditures.

(x) The expenditure profile for both labor and material should be based on a predetermined rate of expenditure (expressed as the percentage of material or labor usage as it relates to the total contract price) in lieu of actual cost incurred.

(A) If the clause is to be used in a competitive acquisition, determine the labor and material allocations, with regard to both mix of labor and material and rate of expenditure by percentage, in a manner which will, as nearly as possible, approximate the average expenditure profile of all companies to be solicited so that all companies may compete on an equal basis.

(B) If the clause is to be used in a noncompetitive acquisition, the labor and material allocations may be subject to negotiation and agreement.

(C) For multiyear contracts, establish predetermined expenditure profile tables for each of the annual increments in the multiyear buy. Each of the second and subsequent year tables must be cumulative to reflect the total expenditures for all increments funded through the latest multiyear funding.

(xi) The clause should state the percentage of the contract price subject to price adjustment.

(A) Normally, do not apply adjustments to the profit portion of the contract.

(B) Examine the labor and material portions of the contract to exclude any areas that do not require adjustment. For example, it may be possible to exclude—

(1) Subcontracting for short periods of time during the early life of the contract which could be covered by firm-fixed-priced subcontracting;

(2) Certain areas of overhead, e.g., depreciation charges, prepaid insurance costs, rental costs, leases, certain taxes, and utility charges;

(3) Labor costs for which a definitive union agreement exists; and

(4) Those costs not likely to be affected by fluctuation in the economy.

(C) Allocate that part of the contract price subject to adjustment to specific periods of time (e.g., quarterly, semi-annually, etc.) based on the most probable expenditure or commitment basis (expenditure profile).

(xii) The clause should provide for definite times or events that trigger price adjustments. Adjustments should be frequent enough to afford the contractor appropriate economic protection without creating a burdensome administrative effort. The adjustment period should normally range from quarterly to annually.

(xiii) When the contract contains cost incentives, any sums paid to the contractor on account of economic price adjustment provisions must be subtracted from the total of the contractor's allowable costs for the purpose of establishing the total costs to which the cost incentive provisions apply. If the incentive arrangement is cited in percentage ranges, rather than dollar ranges, above and below target costs, structure the economic price adjustment clause to maintain the original contract incentive range in dollars.

(xiv) The economic price adjustment clause should provide that once the labor and material allocations and the portion of the contract price subject to price adjustment have been established, they remain fixed through the life of the contract and shall not be modified except in the event of significant changes in the scope of the contract. The clause should state that pricing actions pursuant to the Changes clause or other provisions of the contract will be priced as though there were no provisions for economic price adjustment. However, subsequent modifications may include a change to the delivery schedule or significantly change the amount of, or mix of, labor or material for the contract. In such cases, it may be appropriate to prospectively apply economic price adjustment coverage. This may be accomplished by—

(A) Using an economic price adjustment (EPA) clause that applies only to the effort covered by the modification;

(B) Revising the baseline data or period in the EPA clause for the basic contract to include the new work; or

(C) Using an entirely new EPA clause for the entire contract, including the new work.

(xv) Consistent with the factors in paragraphs (d)(i) through (xiv) of this subsection, it may also be appropriate to provide in the prime contract for similar economic price adjustment arrangements between the prime contractor and affected subcontractors to allocate risks properly and ensure that those subcontractors are provided similar economic protection.

(xvi) When economic price adjustment clauses are included in contracts that do not require submission of cost or pricing data as provided for in FAR 15.403-1, the contracting officer must obtain adequate information to establish the baseline from which adjustments will be made. The contracting officer may require verification of the data submitted to the extent necessary to permit reliance upon the data as a reasonable baseline.

[56 FR 36340, July 31, 1991, as amended at 62 FR 40472, July 29, 1997; 63 FR 11529, Mar. 9, 1998; 64 FR 2597, Jan. 15, 1999]

216.203-4-70 Additional clauses.

(a) *Price adjustment for basic steel, aluminum, brass, bronze, or copper mill products.*

(1) The price adjustment clause at 252.216-7000, Economic Price Adjustment—Basic Steel, Aluminum, Brass, Bronze, or Copper Mill Products, may be used in fixed-price supply contracts for basic steel, aluminum, brass, bronze, or copper mill products, such as sheets, plates, and bars, when an established catalog or market price exists for the particular product being acquired.

(2) The 10 percent figure in paragraph (d)(1) of the clause shall not be exceeded unless approval is obtained at a level above the contracting officer.

(b) *Price adjustment for nonstandard steel items.* (1) The price adjustment clause at 252.216-7001, Economic Price Adjustment—Nonstandard Steel Items, may be used in fixed-price supply contracts when—

(i) The contractor is a steel producer and actually manufacture the standard

steel mill item referred to in the “base steel index” definition of the clause; and

(ii) The items being acquired are non-standard steel items made wholly or in part of standard steel mill items.

(2) When this clause is included in invitations for bids, omit Note 6 of the clause and all references to Note 6.

(3) Solicitations shall instruct offerors to complete all blanks in accordance with the applicable notes.

(4) When the clause is to provide for adjustment on a basis other than “established price” (see Note 6 of the clause), that price must be verified.

(5) The ten percent figure in paragraph (e)(4) of the clause shall not be exceeded unless approval is obtained at a level above the contracting officer.

(c) *Price adjustment for wage rates or material prices controlled by a foreign government.* (1) The price adjustment clause at 252.216-7003, Economic Price Adjustment—Wage Rates or Material Prices Controlled by a Foreign Government, may be used in fixed-price supply and service contracts when—

(i) The contract is to be performed wholly or in part in a foreign country; and

(ii) A foreign government controls wage rates or material prices and may, during contract performance, impose a mandatory change in wages or prices of material.

(2) Verify the base wage rates and material prices prior to contract award and prior to making any adjustment in the contract price.

[56 FR 36340, July 31, 1991, as amended at 62 FR 34122, June 24, 1997; 62 FR 40472, July 29, 1997]

Subpart 216.3—Cost-Reimbursement Contracts

216.306 Cost-plus-fixed-fee contracts.

(c) *Limitations.*

(i) Except as provided in paragraph (c)(ii) of this section, annual military construction appropriations acts prohibit the use of cost-plus-fixed-fee contracts that—

(A) Are funded by a military construction appropriations act;

(B) Are estimated to exceed \$25,000; and