



DEFENSE CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Our Software Professionals can provide you with support when you contract with a Supplier for development of software intensive systems

DCMA Software Professionals - your indispensable partner

For more information contact the:

DCMA Software Engineering and Acquisition Management (SEAM) Center

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Who we are

The Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) is a Component of the Department of Defense (DoD) and we provide Contract Administrative Services (CAS) and technical oversight of DoD Suppliers to ensure the products contracted for are delivered on time, within cost, and meet contractual requirements. Our Software Professionals are your indispensable partner located at many of the leading DoD suppliers. They have extensive knowledge of the suppliers' management and software engineering processes and capabilities.

What we do

Our Software Professionals are comprised of Software Engineers, Information Technology Specialists, and Quality Assurance Specialists who are DAWIA certified, extensively trained and certified in our own Software Professional Development Program (SPDP), and many hold professional certifications.

DCMA executes the administrative and technical functions that are defined in FAR 42.302(a) – Contract Administrative Functions. Some of the services we provide include:

- Assess and participate in formal reviews such as: Software Requirements Review (SRR), Preliminary Design Review (PDR), Critical Design Review (CDR), Test Readiness Review (TRR), Functional or Physical Configuration Audit (FCA/PCA), Formal Qualification Testing (FQT).
- Assess and participate in formal audits such as: Functional or Physical Configuration Audit (FCA/PCA).
- Perform process reviews with emphasis on the Software Engineering Development Environment, Risk Management, Configuration Management, peer reviews, and informal or formal testing.
- Perform product evaluations on contractor's Software Code, Software Development Plan (SDP), Software Requirements Specification (SRS), Interface Requirements Specification (IRS), Software Design Document (SDD), etc.
- Witness Formal Qualification Testing (FQT), accept product, analyze performance for trends, identify and monitor supplier risks, provide independent objective status, issue Corrective Action Requests (CAR), monitor subcontractor performance, participate on Integrated Product Teams (IPT), be a member of the Software Configuration Control Board (SCCB), identify Continuous Improvement Opportunities (CIO), and provide predictive analysis.

How we do it

Our software support services and level-of-effort are determined as follows:

- Software Contract Criticality (SCC)
- Mandatory DCMA Software Surveillance tasks/activities called "Core Elements"
- Software Risk Assessment, and
- Customer requested tasks/activities called "Customer PLUS Elements"

The SCC provides an indicator for Technical, Cost, and Schedule complexity. It is based on the technical complexity, dollar value, and Defense Priorities and Allocation System (DPAS) rating for the contract. The SCC is factored as: High, Moderate, or Low – which determines the "Core Elements" that must be performed by the Software Professional and documented in their Software Surveillance Plan (SSP).

The Core Elements are then assessed for Risk, and the results of the assessment are used to determine the frequency of engagement, and the methods that will be used to perform technical oversight of the Suppliers' performance. Lastly, the DCMA Software Professional communicates with the customer to determine if there are any additional support in the form of Customer PLUS Elements that need to be engaged in, and adds them to the SSP.

How our services help our customers

Our Software Professionals serve as your "information broker" throughout the acquisition lifecycle. Their mission is to ensure that our customers receive software products and/or systems with embedded software in accordance with contractual specifications/requirements, and to provide their customers with "**independent assessment**" of the Suppliers' performance and capability to allow the customer to make informed decisions. And, since DCMA is a DoD component, our services are provided free of charge to DoD components and on a fee basis to non-DoD organizations (such as: NASA, NRC, Foreign Governments, etc.).