



ACQUISITION AND
TECHNOLOGY

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Paul G. Kaminski

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Attachment:

Charter for the Open Systems Joint Task Force

cc:

ASD (C3I)

ASD (ES)

Mr. Gill Decker

Mr. Clark Fiester