TRADEWINDS

SIMPLIFED ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Acquisition Strategy for [NAMES OF INITIATIVE AND PROGRAM]

Submitted By:

TRADEWINDS

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I. Purpose

1.1 Program Description

The [**Program Name**] will develop and integrate [**initiative name**] using an incremental evolutionary acquisition approach that employs iterative development and acquisition reform principles, complying with the 1996 Clinger-Cohen Act.

1.2 Governance

[Describe organization(s) undertaking the initiative and their parent organizations]

2. Capability Description

This section is intended to *summarize* the capabilities to be provided by the AI functionality being acquired, with a particular emphasis on classes of users and the value that the capability represents for each.

Development of the Operating System: As a first step in the [**initiative name**] effort, the [**program name**] is seeking [**describe solutions sought and base-level requirements**].

Due to the iterative and adaptive nature of the Software Acquisition Pathway, the [**name of program**] will operate under the principles of starting small, iterating often, and failing/redirecting early. For this reason, the SAMP will focus on details for the first step of initiative, [**name first step**]. However, the SAMP outlines the Acquisition Strategy for the entire [**initiative name**] effort and will showcase how techniques and practices in acquiring the [**first step name**] will inform and form the basis for the future acquisition **[name associated acquisitions, if any**].

2.1 Operational Mission/Context

[**Describe the mission users must perform and the problem the acquisition initiative seeks to solve.**]

2.3 Value Statement

[**Describe the policy/regulatory origins/basis and high-level goals of the initiative.**]

3. Acquisition Approach

3.1 Utilization of the Software Acquisition Pathway

3.2 User Engagement Strategy

Agile software methodologies require users to make a greater commitment to software programs than they customarily make to traditional programs, including more frequent engagement that occurs in ways that differ from traditional programs. Effective software acquisition requires engagement with users to understand their concepts of operations, environment, existing capabilities, the external systems with which the required capability must interface, interoperability requirements, threats, and other specific needs.

Explain Phase 1 Efforts (High Level)

3.3 Schedule (Roadmap)

INCLUDE INITIAL PROJECT ROADMAP

3.4 Development of Software Competencies

The current state of expertise in the program with regards to using modern software methodologies is [ ]. Other than that, almost the entire effort will be conducted through contractors.

- *Is the program engaging with commercial or government sources to provide coaching, consulting, or training? Will train-the-trainer methods be used to help develop skills more broadly in the workforce?*
- *In what areas will SMEs be engaged to provide specialized expertise?*

4. Test & Evaluation Strategy

[**Program name**] will engage in rapid procurement and delivery of capabilities. For this reason, testing and evaluation begins at the planning phase, commences at the start of the Execution Phase, and continues throughout the lifecycle of the program.

[*insert program T&E Strategy*]

5. Contracting Strategy

5.1 Competition Strategy

5.1.1. Creation of an AI Economy through Whole-of-Nation Collaboration:

The **[initiative name]** creates the opportunity for the [**department name**] to foster a robust whole-of-nation effort in bringing these capabilities to reality. The contract strategy will capitalize on and facilitate opportunities for industry and academic participation and competition. Special focus will be directed toward non-traditional AI companies, and how the [**initiative name**] can create an "AI economy" in which American industry and academia are providing the best solutions for the defense of our nation.

5.2.2. Utilization of Tradewinds:

The Tradewinds Acquisition Environment is a suite of decentralized acquisition vehicles that enable the rapid, agile, and responsible procurement of AI. Each vehicle is designed to address a specific AI-related challenge (e.g., outreach to non-traditional defense contractors, availability of third-party test and evaluation services, ability to try AI algorithms "before you buy," and more) and to provide key AI-enabling services and tools. The Tradewind Other Transaction Authority (OTA) vehicle and associated online environment reduces acquisition or lifecycle costs by automating documentation-heavy portions of the acquisition process (i.e., automated needs definition, market research, contract writing, etc.) in a "TurboTax"-like environment on TradewindAI.com.

The approach allows [**program name**] to assess multiple technologies, decrease risk, and gather data to make more informed decisions as the effort is underway. Under this approach, [**program name**] has the flexibility to continue with one (or more) vendors directly, and work can progress without re-working any aspects of existing prototypes.

Organizational Conflicts of Interest (OCI) will be managed at the order level for each individual requirement. All requirements developers and evaluators will be required to sign non-disclosure agreements (NDA) at the development and evaluation phases. Additionally, potential vendors may be required to provide OCI mitigation plans, should the potential for actual or perceived conflicts arise.

5.2 Use of Tradewinds Contract Vehicles

Tradewind leverages Other Transaction Authorities (OTA) to rapidly acquire new technologies and solutions as prototypes and evaluate such technologies for limited or full deployment. Prototypes are intended to identify capability gaps or find alternative solutions to existing ~~capabilities~~ problems. OTAs provide access to industry (large, small, and by definition non-traditional defense contractors), academia, as well as Government laboratories. Leveraging AI subject matter experts, CDAO will oversee the process for technology recommendations and selections based on needs statements for PMO consideration.

The CDAO uses a business partner to oversee Tradewinds and manage its relationship and access to Industry expertise as well as collaborate to establish OTA processes that meet rapid acquisition needs. The business partner-will interact with Industry to increase the breadth of expertise available to respond to published problem and needs statements.

After prototypes prove successful, integration, if desired, will be implemented in the manner that makes the best business and most practicable sense. Careful consideration will be given to the needs of the Government to employ the best acquisition practices, whether that includes follow-ons using OTAs or use of FAR based processes.

5.3 Intellectual Property Strategy

[insert IP Strategy]

6. Technical Approach

6.1 Platform/Infrastructure

6.2 Design Considerations

7. Risk Management

8.1. Cybersecurity

8.2. Cost and Funding

8.3. Performance

8.4. Schedule

8.5. Competition and Conflicts of Interest

8.6. Integration & Interoperability

9. Metrics

- Describe the minimum set of high-level metrics for the program, which is planned to be provided on a regular cadence. Metrics should address the frequency with which quality software is delivered into operation, user satisfaction with that software, and delivered quality, among other areas. Metrics may need to change over the life of a program.
- Discuss how the metrics will be used to identify risks that need to be managed.
- Discuss how the measures will be shared within the team and with external stakeholders.

Example: Software Delivery and Operations Performance Metrics:
- Lead Time: the time it takes from code commit to running in production successfully
- Deployment Frequency: the frequency of SW deployment to production, i.e. once per month/week/day/hour
- Mean Time to Restore: the time it takes to restore a service (specific application) or platform when an unplanned outage occurs
- Change Fail Rate: the percentage of changes made to applications or platform once pushed to production, i.e. number of changes that cause degraded service or require remediation
- Availability: the percentage of time that the infrastructure, system, or a solution remains operational under normal circumstances in order to serve its intended purpose
- Annual Value Assessments from key internal/external partners/stakeholders

10. Life-Cycle Product Support Strategy

- Describe how the program's product support strategy, rather than treating development and sustainment as separate activities, instead treats software acquisition as continuing evolution of capability. Discuss how the strategy supports modern software development strategies, including DevSecOps, and fosters a continuous engineering and delivery model.

- Summarize the technical data approach that will be used to support the program's needs in terms of affordability, quality, flexibility and competition over the software development effort. If known, provide an overview of the CDRLs which will be used.

11. Responsible AI

[Insert RAI Strategy]

12. Cost and Funding

- Summarize the program funding levels by year, for five years to align with budget planning. Discuss costs for:

- Discuss whether the funding will be provided across multiple appropriations categories, and whether that aligns with the roadmap.

13. Program Office Staffing & Resourcing Profile

Talent Acquisitions and Retention is a major Acquisition risk to execute strategy

- Identify the manpower and functional competencies required for successful program execution. Considering the overall, technical, acquisition, sustainment, and management approach, specify the number of personnel expected to be needed to manage, oversee, and execute this program.

- Discuss what will be done to ensure that teams have the proper skillsets to support the decentralized decision-making necessary for the program to take

advantage of fast learning cycles in a continuous integration / continuous deployment environment.