

under paragraph (1) more than three years after the final payment is made by the United States under the agreement.

“(d) APPROPRIATE USE OF AUTHORITY.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that no official of an agency enters into a transaction (other than a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement) for a prototype project under the authority of this section unless—

“(A) there is at least one nontraditional defense contractor participating to a significant extent in the prototype project; or

“(B) no nontraditional defense contractor or small business is participating to a significant extent in the prototype project, but at least one of the following circumstances exists:

“(i) At least one third of the total cost of the prototype project is to be paid out of funds provided by parties to the transaction other than the Federal Government.

“(ii) The senior procurement executive for the agency (as designated for the purposes of section 1702(c) of title 41, United States Code) determines in writing that exceptional circumstances justify the use of a transaction that provides for innovative business arrangements or structures that would not be feasible or appropriate under a contract.

“(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the amounts counted for the purposes of this subsection as being provided, or to be provided, by a party to a transaction with respect to a prototype project that is entered into under this section other than the Federal Government do not include costs that were incurred before the date on which the transaction becomes effective.

“(B) Costs that were incurred for a prototype project by a party after the beginning of negotiations resulting in a transaction (other than a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement) with respect to the project before the date on which the transaction becomes effective may be counted for purposes of this subsection as being provided, or to be provided, by the party to the transaction if and to the extent that the official responsible for entering into the transaction determines in writing that—

“(i) the party incurred the costs in anticipation of entering into the transaction; and

“(ii) it was appropriate for the party to incur the costs before the transaction became effective in order to ensure the successful implementation of the transaction.

“(e) PILOT PROGRAM FOR TRANSITION TO FOLLOW-ON CONTRACTS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense is authorized to carry out a pilot program for follow-on contracting for the production of items or processes developed under prototype projects carried out under this section or research projects carried out pursuant to section 2371 of title 10, United States Code.

“(2) Under the pilot program—

“(A) a qualifying contract for the procurement of such an item or process, or a qualifying subcontract under a contract for the procurement of such an item or process, may be treated as a contract or subcontract, respectively, for the procurement of commercial items, as defined in section 103 of title 41, United States Code; and

“(B) the item or process may be treated as an item or process, respectively, that is developed in part with Federal funds and in part at private expense for the purposes of section 2320 of title 10, United States Code.

“(3) For the purposes of the pilot program, a qualifying contract or subcontract is a contract or subcontract, respectively, with a nontraditional defense contractor that—

“(A) does not exceed \$50,000,000 (including all options); and

“(B) is either—

“(i) a firm, fixed-price contract or subcontract; or

“(ii) a fixed-price contract or subcontract with economic price adjustment.

“(4) The authority to conduct a pilot program under this subsection shall terminate on September 30, 2010. The termination of the authority shall not affect the validity of contracts or subcontracts that are awarded or modified during the period of the pilot program, without regard to whether the contracts or subcontracts are performed during the period.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘nontraditional defense contractor’ has the meaning provided by section 2302(9) of title 10, United States Code.

“(2) The term ‘small business’ means a small business concern as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

“(g) FOLLOW-ON PRODUCTION CONTRACTS.—(1) A transaction entered into under this section for a prototype project that satisfies the conditions set forth in subsection (d)(1)(B)(i) may provide for the award of a follow-on production contract to the participants in the transaction for a specific number of units at specific target prices. The number of units specified in the transaction shall be determined on the basis of a balancing of the level of the investment made in the project by the participants other than the Federal Government with the interest of the Federal Government in having competition among sources in the acquisition of the product or products prototyped under the project.

“(2) A follow-on production contract provided for in a transaction under paragraph (1) may be awarded to the participants in the transaction without the use of competitive procedures, notwithstanding the requirements of section 2304 of title 10, United States Code, if—

“(A) competitive procedures were used for the selection of parties for participation in the transaction;

“(B) the participants in the transaction successfully completed the prototype project provided for in the transaction;

“(C) the number of units provided for in the follow-on production contract does not exceed the number of units specified in the transaction for such a follow-on production contract; and

“(D) the prices established in the follow-on production contract do not exceed the target prices specified in the transaction for such a follow-on production contract.

“(h) APPLICABILITY OF PROCUREMENT ETHICS REQUIREMENTS.—An agreement entered into under the authority of this section shall be treated as a Federal agency procurement for the purposes of chapter 21 of title 41, United States Code.

“(i) PERIOD OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to carry out projects under subsection (a) shall terminate at the end of September 30, 2018.”

**§ 2371a. Cooperative research and development agreements under Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980**

The Secretary of Defense, in carrying out research projects through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and the Secretary of each military department, in carrying out research projects, may permit the director of any federally funded research and development center to enter into cooperative research and development agreements with any person, any agency or instrumentality of the United States, any unit of State or local government, and any other entity under the authority granted by section 12 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a). Technology may be transferred to a non-Federal party to such an agreement consistent with the provisions of sections 11 and 12 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 3710, 3710a).

(Added and amended Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title II, §267(c)(1)(A), (B), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2468;

Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title X, §1073(a)(50), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1903.)

#### CODIFICATION

The text of section 2371(i) of this title, which was transferred to this section, redesignated as text of section, and amended by Pub. L. 104-201, §267(c)(1)(A), (B), was based on Pub. L. 103-355, title I, §1301(b), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3286.

#### AMENDMENTS

1997—Pub. L. 105-85 inserted “Defense” before “Advanced Research Projects Agency”.

1996—Pub. L. 104-201 transferred section 2371(i) of this title to this section, added section catchline, and struck out subsec. (i) designation and heading which read as follows: “Cooperative Research and Development Agreements Under Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980”. See Codification note above.

### § 2372. Independent research and development and bid and proposal costs: payments to contractors

(a) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations governing the payment, by the Department of Defense, of expenses incurred by contractors for independent research and development and bid and proposal costs.

(b) COSTS ALLOWABLE AS INDIRECT EXPENSES.—The regulations prescribed pursuant to subsection (a) shall provide that independent research and development and bid and proposal costs shall be allowable as indirect expenses on covered contracts to the extent that those costs are allocable, reasonable, and not otherwise unallowable by law or under the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(c) ADDITIONAL CONTROLS.—Subject to subsection (f), the regulations prescribed pursuant to subsection (a) may include the following provisions:

(1) A limitation on the allowability of independent research and development and bid and proposal costs to work which the Secretary of Defense determines is of potential interest to the Department of Defense.

(2) For each of fiscal years 1993 through 1995, a limitation in the case of major contractors that the total amount of the independent research and development and bid and proposal costs that are allowable as expenses of the contractor’s covered segments may not exceed the contractor’s adjusted maximum reimbursement amount.

(3) Implementation of regular methods for transmission—

(A) from the Department of Defense to contractors, in a reasonable manner, of timely and comprehensive information regarding planned or expected Department of Defense future needs; and

(B) from contractors to the Department of Defense, in a reasonable manner, of information regarding progress by the contractor on the contractor’s independent research and development programs.

(d) ADJUSTED MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT.—For purposes of subsection (c)(2), the adjusted maximum reimbursement amount for a major contractor for a fiscal year is the sum of—

(1) the total amount of the allowable independent research and development and bid and proposal costs incurred by the contractor during the preceding fiscal year;

(2) 5 percent of the amount referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) if the projected total amount of the independent research and development and bid and proposal costs incurred by the contractor for such fiscal year is greater than the total amount of the independent research and development and bid and proposal costs incurred by the contractor for the preceding fiscal year, the amount that is determined by multiplying the amount referred to in paragraph (1) by the lesser of—

(A) the percentage by which the projected total amount of such incurred costs for such fiscal year exceeds the total amount of the incurred costs of the contractor for the preceding fiscal year; or

(B) the estimated percentage rate of inflation from the end of the preceding fiscal year to the end of the fiscal year for which the amount of the limitation is being computed.

(e) WAIVER OF ADJUSTED MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the applicability of any limitation prescribed under subsection (c)(2) to any contractor for a fiscal year to the extent that the Secretary determines that allowing the contractor to exceed the contractor’s adjusted maximum reimbursement amount for such year—

(1) is necessary to reimburse such contractor at least to the extent that would have been allowed under regulations as in effect on December 4, 1991; or

(2) is otherwise in the best interest of the Government.

(f) LIMITATIONS ON REGULATIONS.—Regulations prescribed pursuant to subsection (c) may not include provisions that would infringe on the independence of a contractor to choose which technologies to pursue in its independent research and development program.

(g) ENCOURAGEMENT OF CERTAIN CONTRACTOR ACTIVITIES.—The regulations under subsection (a) shall encourage contractors to engage in research and development activities of potential interest to the Department of Defense, including activities intended to accomplish any of the following:

(1) Enabling superior performance of future United States weapon systems and components.

(2) Reducing acquisition costs and life-cycle costs of military systems.

(3) Strengthening the defense industrial base and the technology base of the United States.

(4) Enhancing the industrial competitiveness of the United States.

(5) Promoting the development of technologies identified as critical under section 2506 of this title.

(6) Increasing the development and promotion of efficient and effective applications of dual-use technologies.

(7) Providing efficient and effective technologies for achieving such environmental