

guidance, updated appropriately, pertaining to the identification, mitigation, and prevention of potentially unfair competitive advantage conferred to federally funded research and development center personnel with access to sensitive information who serve as technical advisors to acquisition programs.

“(2) The pilot program shall terminate on the date that is three years after the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

“(f) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than two years after the commencement of the pilot program, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, including an assessment of the effectiveness of activities under the pilot program in improving acquisition processes and the effectiveness of protections of private-sector intellectual property in the course of such activities.

“(g) SENSITIVE INFORMATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘sensitive information’ means confidential commercial, financial, or proprietary information, technical data, contract performance, contract performance evaluation, management, and administration data, or other privileged information owned by other contractors of the Department of Defense that is exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code, or which would otherwise be prohibited from disclosure under section 1832 or 1905 of title 18, United States Code.”

GAO STUDY; REPORT

Pub. L. 99-500, §101(c) [title X, §912(b), (c)], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783-82, 1783-146, Pub. L. 99-591, §101(c) [title X, §912(b), (c)], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-82, 3341-146, and Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title IX, formerly title IV, §912(b), (c), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3926, renumbered title IX, Pub. L. 100-26, §3(5), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 273, directed Comptroller General to conduct a study of national defense role of federally funded research and development centers and submit a report to Congress not later than one year after Oct. 18, 1986.

§ 2368. Centers for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership

(a) DESIGNATION.—(1) The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall designate each science and technology reinvention laboratory as a Center for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership (in this section referred to as “Centers”) in the recognized core competencies of the designee.

(2) The Secretary of Defense shall establish a policy to encourage the Secretary of each military department to reengineer management and business processes and adopt best-business and personnel practices at the Centers of the Secretary concerned in connection with the capability requirements of the Centers, so as to serve as recognized leaders in such capabilities throughout the Department of Defense and in the national technology and industrial base.

(3) The Secretary of Defense, acting through the directors of the Centers, may conduct one or more pilot programs, consistent with applicable requirements of law, to test any practices referred to in paragraph (2) that the Directors determine could—

(A) improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations at Centers;

(B) improve the support provided by the Centers for the elements of the Department of Defense who use the services of the Centers; and

(C) enhance capabilities by reducing the cost and improving the performance and efficiency of executing laboratory missions.

(b) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—(1) To achieve one or more objectives set forth in paragraph (2), the Secretary may authorize and establish incentives for the Director of a Center to enter into public-private cooperative arrangements (in this section referred to as a “public-private partnership”) to provide for any of the following:

(A) For employees of the Center, academia, private industry, State and local governments, or other entities outside the Department of Defense to perform (under contract, subcontract, or otherwise) work related to the capabilities of the Center, including any work that—

(i) involves one or more capabilities of the Center; and

(ii) may be applicable to both the Department and commercial entities.

(B) For private industry or other entities outside the Department of Defense to use for either Government or commercial purposes any capabilities of the Center that are not fully used for Department of Defense activities for any period determined to be consistent with the needs of the Department of Defense.

(2) The objectives for exercising the authority provided in paragraph (1) are as follows:

(A) To maximize the use of the capacity of a Center.

(B) To reduce or eliminate the cost of ownership of a Center by the Department of Defense.

(C) To reduce the cost of science, technology, and engineering activities of the Department of Defense.

(D) To leverage private sector investment in—

(i) such efforts as research and equipment recapitalization for a Center; and

(ii) the promotion of the undertaking of commercial business ventures based on the capabilities of a Center, as determined by the director of the Center.

(E) To foster cooperation and technology transfer between the armed forces, academia, private industry, and State and local governments.

(F) To increase access by a Center to a skilled technical workforce that can contribute to the effective and efficient execution of the missions of the Department of Defense.

(G) To increase the ability of a Center to access and use non-Department of Defense methods to develop and innovate and access capabilities that contribute to the effective and efficient execution of the missions of the Department of Defense.

(3)(A) Public-private partnerships entered into under paragraph (1) may be used for purposes relating to technology transfer and other authorities described in subparagraph (B).

(B) The authorities described in this subparagraph are provisions of law that provide for cooperation and partnership by the Department of Defense with academia, private industry, and State and local governments, including the following:

(i) Sections 3371 through 3375 of title 5.

(ii) Sections 2194, 2358, 2371, 2511, 2539b, and 2563 of this title.

(iii) Section 209 of title 35.

(iv) Sections 8, 12, and 23 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3706, 3710a, and 3715).

(c) PRIVATE SECTOR USE OF EXCESS CAPACITY.—Any capability of a Center made available to the private sector may be used to perform research and testing activities in order to make more efficient and economical use of Government-owned capabilities and encourage the creation and preservation of jobs to ensure the availability of a workforce with the necessary research and technical skills to meet the needs of the armed forces.

(d) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS FOR PERFORMANCE.—Amounts received by a Center for work performed under a public-private partnership may—

(1) be credited to the appropriation or fund, including a working-capital or revolving fund, that incurs the cost of performing the work; or

(2) be used by the Director of the Center as the Director considers appropriate and consistent with section 219 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note).

(e) AVAILABILITY OF EXCESS CAPACITIES TO PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTNERS.—Capacities of a Center may be made available for use by a private-sector entity under this section only if—

(1) the use of the capacities will not have a significant adverse effect on the performance of the Center or the ability of the Center to achieve the mission of the Center, as determined by the Director of the Center; and

(2) the private-sector entity agrees—

(A) to reimburse the Department of Defense when required in accordance with the guidance of the Department for the direct and indirect costs (including any rental costs) that are attributable to the use of the capacities by the private-sector entity, as determined by the Secretary of the military departments; and

(B) to hold harmless and indemnify the United States from—

(i) any claim for damages or injury to any person or property arising out of the use of the capacities, except under the circumstances described in section 2563(c)(3) of this title; and

(ii) any liability or claim for damages or injury to any person or property arising out of a decision by the Secretary to suspend or terminate that use of capacities during a war or national emergency.

(f) USE OF PARTNERSHIP INTERMEDIARIES TO PROMOTE DEFENSE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.—

(1) Subject to the approval of the Secretary or the head of the another department or agency of the Federal Government concerned, the Director of a Center may enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding or other transaction with a partnership intermediary that provides for the partnership intermediary to perform services for the Department of Defense that increase the likelihood of success in the conduct of cooperative or joint activities of the Center with industry or academic institutions.

(2) In this subsection, the term “partnership intermediary” means an agency of a State or local government, or a nonprofit entity owned in whole or in part by, chartered by, funded in whole or in part by, or operated in whole or in part by or on behalf of a State or local government, that assists, counsels, advises, evaluates, or otherwise cooperates with industry or academic institutions that need or can make demonstrably productive use of technology-related assistance from a Center.

(g) CONSTRUCTION OF PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a change, otherwise prohibited by law, from the performance of work at a Center by personnel of the Department of Defense to performance by a contractor.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “capabilities”, with respect to a Center for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership, means the facilities, equipment, personnel, intellectual property, and other assets that support the core competencies of the Center.

(2) The term “national technology and industrial base” has the meaning given that term in section 2500 of this title.

(3) The term “science and technology reinvention laboratory” means a science and technology reinvention laboratory designated under section 1105 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 10 U.S.C. 2358 note).

(Added Pub. L. 114-92, div. A, title II, §211(a), Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 764; amended Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title II, §231, Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1690; Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title XVII, §1731(a)(45), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1814.)

TRANSFER OF SECTION

Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title XVIII, §§1801(d), 1844(b)(1), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4151, 4245, provided that, effective Jan. 1, 2022, with additional provisions for delayed implementation and applicability of existing law, this section is transferred to chapter 307 of this title, as added by section 1844(a) of Pub. L. 116-283, inserted after section 4145, and redesignated as section 4146 of this title. See Effective Date of 2021 Amendment note below.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2368, added Pub. L. 100-456, div. A, title VIII, §823(a)(1), Sept. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 2018; amended Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title VIII, §841(c)(1), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1514; Pub. L. 102-25, title VII, §701(g)(1), Apr. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 115, which authorized studies in fields of research and development essential to development of critical technologies, was repealed by Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title VIII, §821(c)(1), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1431.

AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (f)(1). Pub. L. 116-92 substituted “transition” for “transition”.

2018—Subsecs. (f) to (h). Pub. L. 115-232 added subsec. (f) and redesignated former subsecs. (f) and (g) as (g) and (h), respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2021 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 116-283 effective Jan. 1, 2022, with additional provisions for delayed implementation

and applicability of existing law, see section 1801(d) of Pub. L. 116-283, set out as a note preceding section 3001 of this title.

[§ 2369. Repealed. Pub. L. 103-355, title III, § 3062(a), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3336]

Section, added Pub. L. 100-456, div. A, title VIII, § 842(a), Sept. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 2026; amended Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title IX, § 904(d)(1), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1728, related to program for supervision and coordination of product evaluation activities within the Department of Defense.

[§ 2370. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title X, § 1061(j)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 443]

Section, added Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title II, § 241(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1516, required annual report to Congress on Biological Defense Research Program.

[§ 2370a. Repealed. Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title X, § 1005(a), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2036]

Section, added Pub. L. 103-160, div. A, title II, § 214(a), Nov. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 1586, related to medical countermeasures against biowarfare threats and allocation of funding between near-term and other threats.

§ 2371. Research projects: transactions other than contracts and grants

(a) **ADDITIONAL FORMS OF TRANSACTIONS AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of each military department may enter into transactions (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants) under the authority of this subsection in carrying out basic, applied, and advanced research projects. The authority under this subsection is in addition to the authority provided in section 2358 of this title to use contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants in carrying out such projects.

(b) **EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.**—In any exercise of the authority in subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall act through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency or any other element of the Department of Defense that the Secretary may designate.

(c) **ADVANCE PAYMENTS.**—The authority provided under subsection (a) may be exercised without regard to section 3324 of title 31.

(d) **RECOVERY OF FUNDS.**—(1) A cooperative agreement for performance of basic, applied, or advanced research authorized by section 2358 of this title and a transaction authorized by subsection (a) may include a clause that requires a person or other entity to make payments to the Department of Defense or any other department or agency of the Federal Government as a condition for receiving support under the agreement or other transaction.

(2) The amount of any payment received by the Federal Government pursuant to a requirement imposed under paragraph (1) may be credited, to the extent authorized by the Secretary of Defense, to the appropriate account established under subsection (f). Amounts so credited shall be merged with other funds in the account and shall be available for the same purposes and the same period for which other funds in such account are available.

(e) **CONDITIONS.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that—

(A) to the maximum extent practicable, no cooperative agreement containing a clause under subsection (d) and no transaction entered into under subsection (a) provides for research that duplicates research being conducted under existing programs carried out by the Department of Defense; and

(B) to the extent that the Secretary determines practicable, the funds provided by the Government under a cooperative agreement containing a clause under subsection (d) or a transaction authorized by subsection (a) do not exceed the total amount provided by other parties to the cooperative agreement or other transaction.

(2) A cooperative agreement containing a clause under subsection (d) or a transaction authorized by subsection (a) may be used for a research project when the use of a standard contract, grant, or cooperative agreement for such project is not feasible or appropriate.

(f) **SUPPORT ACCOUNTS.**—There is hereby established on the books of the Treasury separate accounts for each of the military departments and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency for support of research projects and development projects provided for in cooperative agreements containing a clause under subsection (d) and research projects provided for in transactions entered into under subsection (a). Funds in those accounts shall be available for the payment of such support.

(g) **EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) ensure that management, technical, and contracting personnel of the Department of Defense involved in the award or administration of transactions under this section or other innovative forms of contracting are afforded opportunities for adequate education and training; and

(2) establish minimum levels and requirements for continuous and experiential learning for such personnel, including levels and requirements for acquisition certification programs.

(h) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(i) **PROTECTION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION FROM DISCLOSURE.**—(1) Disclosure of information described in paragraph (2) is not required, and may not be compelled, under section 552 of title 5 for five years after the date on which the information is received by the Department of Defense.

(2)(A) Paragraph (1) applies to information described in subparagraph (B) that is in the records of the Department of Defense if the information was submitted to the Department in a competitive or noncompetitive process having the potential for resulting in an award, to the party submitting the information, of a cooperative agreement for performance of basic, applied, or advanced research authorized by section 2358 of this title or another transaction authorized by subsection (a).

(B) The information referred to in subparagraph (A) is the following:

(i) A proposal, proposal abstract, and supporting documents.