From:	Cook, Katie
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SECTION 809 PANEL

Daily Media Clips

June 21, 2018

The Section 809 Panel is a congressionally mandated panel designed to be a catalyst that restores agility and simplicity to defense acquisition through bold and effective recommendations.

Good morning! We found several articles that you may be interested in.

How a Contractor's Bid Protest Was a Surprise Boost for Procurement Innovation

June 20, 2018 | Benjamin McMartin

Late last month, the Government Accountability Office overturned a $950 billion contract award to a small Virginia firm to provide cloud services for the Defense Department. The deal was unusual not just for the extraordinarily high price tag, but for how it was handled. Instead of following traditional, competitive procurement rules, officials used something called a "production other transaction agreement" crafted by the Pentagon's innovation outpost, the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DIUx). This essentially allowed the department to make the award based on the success of a prototype developed by REAN Cloud, thus bypassing the government's expensive and time-consuming traditional procurement process. It was a bold move, and to many observers, it offered a far more efficient way to purchase technology—where traditional procurements can take years to play out, OTAs can be conducted in a matter of months.

Not surprisingly, some traditional federal contractors weren't happy. One of them, Oracle America, filed a protest with GAO, and the watchdog agreed with the company that the Pentagon's use of other transaction authority was improper. GAO's decision was a blow to many officials desperate to reform the government's antiquated procurement practices.

But it shouldn't be.

In rejecting the DIUx agreement, GAO affirmed that its ability to hear OTA protests remains limited; it left the definition of OTA prototypes to the discretion of buyers; and it left the form of follow-on production agreements to the imaginations of their authors. Those are big wins in a case where GAO could have severely narrowed the parameters and limited the utility of this flexible and effective acquisition tool.

Read more HERE.

Other Articles of Interest

Under new policy, DoD to reimagine cost, pricing data requirements for contractors

June 20, 2018 | Nicole Ogrysko

DoD exploring ways to combine retail operations, but vows changes won't affect consumers

June 20, 2018 | Scott Maucione

Young & Tuteur: Policing fraud in government-funded scientific research still challenging [Audio]
June 21, 2018 | Federal Drive

US deals may become 'political footballs' as China hits back in trade row
June 21, 2018 | Wendy Wu

Report: President's Management Agenda to Drive Federal IT Contract Spending in Fiscal 2019
June 21, 2018 | Jane Edwards

How the Army will plan cyber and electronic warfare operations
June 20, 2018 | Mark Pomerleau

Turkey to receive its first F-35s Thursday as Congress fumes
June 20, 2018 | Jamie McIntyre

China's newest aircraft carrier likely to have catapult launch system
June 20, 2018 | Liu Zhen

SEC 'Forces Innovation' With New Data Science Program and a Massive IT Contract
June 20, 2018 | Jack Corrigan

Senate Rejects Bill to Rescind $15 Billion From Federal Agencies
June 20, 2018 | Eric Katz

Can a Small Business Take Over DISA's $1B Perimeter Security Contract?
June 20, 2018 | Aaron Boyd

Air Force building new strategy to modernize and restore facilities
June 20, 2018 | Scott Maucione

Here's what the Czech military wants to buy with its record $4.5B modernization program
June 20, 2018 | Jaroslaw Adamowski

Section 809 News

Follow the Section 809 Panel on LinkedIn and Twitter for the latest updates and interesting news articles. More information can be found on our website as well: section809panel.org.

The June 2018 Volume 2 Report will be available to the public on 28 June at 1700!

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