



Scalable Homeland Innovative Enterprise Layered Defense (SHIELD) Ordering Guide

Last Updated: June 11, 2026, version 2.0

<https://www.mda.mil/business/shield-idig.html>

Notice: The official version of the SHIELD Ordering Guide is posted in the Resources tab of the Vendor Management application in the Operations Resources and Business Integration Technologies (ORBIT) Acquisition suite of applications at <https://orbit.mda.mil/suite/>. Any printed copy is considered superseded.

Please submit proposed changes and comments to via our survey at

<https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/14526m0jmy>

Revision History

Version	Author	Date	Description of Change(s)
2.0	S3	11 June 2026	Add section 2.6.1 - Service Requirements Review Board (SRRB)
2.0	S3	11 June 2026	RFO references were updated for parts 9, 15 and 16
2.0	S3	11 June 2026	Add/Modified FAQs - Solicitation Due Dates, Templates and Samples, Solicitation, 8(a) Sole Source or Competition under SHIELD, Work Areas
2.0	S3	11 June 2026	Added incentive type arrangements under 2.3, and details for the "Notice of Intent to Place an Order" process under 3.1.

Contents

1. Introduction	5
1.1 What is SHIELD?	5
1.2 Scope	5
1.3 Ceiling	6
1.4 Period of Performance.....	6
1.5 Authorized Users.....	6
1.6 Terminology	7
2. Acquisition Planning.....	7
2.1 Market Research: Contract Holders	7
2.2 Contract Line-Item Number (CLIN) Structure for Orders	8
2.3 Order Contract Types	8
2.4 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code and Product and Service Code (PSC)	8
2.5 DD Form 2579 Small Business Coordination Record	8
2.6 Acquisition Plan/Acquisition Strategy	9
2.6.1 Service Requirements Review Board (SRRB)	9
2.7 Consolidation & Bundling Determination and Finding (D&F)	9
2.8 Commercial Service Determination.....	9
2.9 Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE).....	10
2.10 Scope Compatibility Review Process	10
2.10.1 Mandatory Pre-Solicitation Review	10
2.10.2 Submission and Approval.....	10
3. Solicitation Development and Selection Process.....	11
3.1 Fair Opportunity	11
3.2 Synopsis Postings.....	12
3.3 Exception to Fair Opportunity	12
3.4 Evaluation Criteria.....	12
3.5 Selection and Debrief Requirements.....	13

4. Order Award Process	13
4.1 Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) Reporting.....	13
4.2 System for Award Management (SAM.gov).....	14
4.3 ORBIT Acquisition	14
5. Contract Administration	15
5.1 Responsibilities	15
5.2 On-Ramps	15
5.3 Off-Ramps	16
6. Appendices	16
6.1 Scope Review Instructions – MDA Contracting Users.....	16
6.2 Obtaining Access to ORBIT Acquisition for OGA Users	16
6.3 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	17

1.Introduction

1.1 What is SHIELD?

The Scalable Homeland Innovative Enterprise Layered Defense (SHIELD) is a multiple award indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract that accommodates both fixed price and cost reimbursement contract types, under decentralized¹ ordering procedures.

Although ordering procedures are decentralized, it should be noted that activities associated with scope reviews, solicitation postings, solicitation questions and answers (Q&As), proposal receipt, and award shall occur through the ORBIT² Acquisition software application hosted by the Missile Defense Agency.

1.2 Scope

The SHIELD IDIQ is a versatile vehicle awarded by the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) that allows for the rapid delivery of innovative capabilities to the warfighter with increased speed and agility, leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning enabled applications where pertinent, and maximizing use of digital engineering, open systems architectures, model-based systems engineering, and agile processes in the acquisition, development, and sustainment of these capabilities. The scope of the SHIELD IDIQ supports commercial and non-commercial services and commodities of both classified and unclassified efforts on multiple security domains. This contract is NOT for Advisory or Assistance Services (A&AS), engineering and technical services, or systems engineering and technical assistance as defined in the Revolutionary Federal Acquisition Regulation Overhaul (RFO) 2.101 and Defense Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 209.571-1, respectively. See section 2.10 of this guide for information regarding scope reviews.

Work areas as provided in Section C Paragraph 2.0 of the SHIELD IDIQ contract:

- 2.1 Science and Technology (S&T)
- 2.2 Research and Development (R&D)
- 2.3 Prototyping
- 2.4 Studies, Demonstrations, Testing of Prototypes
- 2.5 Disruptive Technologies
- 2.6 Experimentation
- 2.7 Architecture Development

¹ Decentralized Orders are also referred to as Direct Acquisitions. This allows Ordering Contracting Officers to manage the entire order lifecycle—from solicitation and award to administration and closeout.

- 2.8 Modeling, Simulation, and Analysis
- 2.9 Systems Engineering
- 2.10 Weapon Design and Development
- 2.11 Integration and Assembly
- 2.12 Production and Fielding
- 2.13 Test and Evaluation (T&E)
- 2.14 Operation and Sustainment
- 2.15 Modernization
- 2.16 Hardware and Software Modifications
- 2.17 Data Mining/Collection/Analysis
- 2.18 Facilities Engineering and Sustainment
- 2.19 Cybersecurity

1.3 Ceiling

As provided in B-2 of the base contract, the maximum value of the contract is \$151 billion. The combined value of all orders issued under the multiple SHIELD IDIQs must not exceed this value. The SHIELD Program Management Office (PMO) tracks the awarded value of the SHIELD IDIQ and the maximum value is taken into consideration during the review of scope determinations.

1.4 Period of Performance

The SHIELD IDIQ Contract include three optional ordering periods for a total of ten years if all options are exercised. The ordering periods are as follows:

Base Ordering Period December 29, 2025 – December 28, 2028*

Optional Ordering Period 1 December 29, 2028 – December 28, 2030

Optional Ordering Period 2 December 29, 2030 – December 28, 2033

Optional Ordering Period 3 December 29, 2033 – December 28, 2035

* Later awarded contracts will have an initial period of performance that will be less than the full base period stated above.

It is allowable for orders to extend beyond the current ordering period. However, orders shall not extend beyond the limit of the overall ten-year period of performance without the approvals described in DFARS RFO 217.201-270(e).

1.5 Authorized Users

Ordering Activities: Duly warranted Department of War (DoW) Contracting Officers in good standing with the appropriate contracting authority are authorized to issue solicitations and award orders under this contract. Agencies that are not within the DoW are not authorized to use this vehicle. For the purpose of this contract, these individuals

are referred to as Ordering Contracting Officers (OCOs). Also, the terminology provided in the ORBIT Acquisition application refers to users outside of MDA as Other Government Agencies (OGAs).

1.6 Terminology

A comparison of terminology frequently used for Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 15 competitions versus order competitions under indefinite delivery contracts is provided for clarity. It should be noted that the terms below are utilized by the MDA. However, the terminology applied to order competitions may vary among various agencies.

RFO Part 15 Terms	RFO Part 16
Offeror	Contract Holder
Requests for Proposal (RFP)	Fair Opportunity Proposal Request (FOPR)
Source Selection	Order Evaluation Evaluation and Selection
Source Selection Plan (SSP)	Fair Opportunity Selection Plan (FOSP)
Source Selection Authority	Fair Opportunity Decision Authority (FODA)
Source Selection Decision Document	Fair Opportunity Decision Document (FODD)
Negotiations	Interchanges Exchanges Negotiations
Proposal	Proposal Quote Response

It is highly recommended that ordering activities review their respective agencies' guidance with regards to a selection plans, decision authorities, and documentation requirements to support the award. RFO Part 16 does not contain requirements for the creation of a structured source selection team, source selection plan, the appointment of a decision authority, or the creation of a specific decision document. However, agencies will frequently develop local procedures that address these aspects of order competitions under indefinite delivery contracts.

2.Acquisition Planning

2.1 Market Research: Contract Holders

Market research, as prescribed in RFO Part 10, is mandatory for all orders. To streamline this process, the SHIELD PMO intends to require contract holders to include

capability statements, business size, facility clearance levels, and points of contact in their company profile. This information will be available within 30 days³ of the contract holder attending a post award orientation.

2.2 Contract Line-Item Number (CLIN) Structure for Orders

Ordering activities have complete discretion to establish the CLIN structure for each order. The CLIN structure is determined at the order level and is not dictated by the SHIELD IDIQ contract.

2.3 Order Contract Types

SHIELD can accommodate fixed price (see RFO subpart 16.2), cost reimbursement (see RFO subpart 16.3), time-and-material, incentive type arrangements, and labor-hour (see RFO subpart 16.6) order types. It is the ordering activity's responsibility to select the correct order type for each order. They must also ensure the order includes all required clauses, adding any that are not already in the base SHIELD IDIQ contract. In accordance with RFO clause 52.216-18(b), all orders are subject to the terms and conditions of the SHIELD IDIQ. In the event of conflict between an order and the SHIELD IDIQ, the SHIELD IDIQ shall take precedence.

2.4 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code and Product and Service Code (PSC)

When issuing orders under the SHIELD multiple-award contract, it is important to adhere to the following guidelines for NAICS and Product and Service Codes (PSCs).

The parent contract is assigned NAICS code 541715 (Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences). In accordance with RFO 19.103(b) and 13 CFR § 121.402(c)(2)(i) all subsequent orders must also utilize this same NAICS code, because the SHIELD IDIQ does not include any other NAICS code.

This restriction does not apply to the PSC. Ordering activities shall choose the PSC that is applicable to their order.

2.5 DD Form 2579 Small Business Coordination Record

The DD Form 2579 created for the SHIELD IDIQ is not a blanket approval; a separate DD Form 2579 is required for all orders valued over the micro-purchase threshold. While the SHIELD IDIQ does not have small business pools, OCOs are encouraged to use their discretionary authority to set aside orders for small businesses. Per RFO

³ The post award orientation for the initial awards of the SHIELD IDIQ occurred February 17, 2026.

16.505(b)(2)(i)(F), setting aside an order for a small business concern is a recognized exception to the fair opportunity process, and no further justification is required to use this exception. To ensure accuracy, OCOs should require offerors to recertify their size and small business program status (e.g., 8(a), HUBZone, WOSB/EDWOSB, or SDVOSB) prior to the award of an order. In cases of a discrepancy between the business size in ORBIT and www.sam.gov, the information on www.sam.gov will take precedence.

2.6 Acquisition Plan/Acquisition Strategy

In accordance with RFO 7.102, acquisition planning is required for all acquisitions, with a written plan being mandatory for any action expected to exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT). There are additional nuances to the thresholds that exceed SAT based on the nature of the work (i.e., research and development) therefore ordering activities are encouraged to review RFO Part 7 and DFARS RFO Part 207 carefully for the appropriate threshold requirements. It should also be noted that there is additional content requirements provided in the DFARS RFO PGI 207.104-70 for R&D requirements. The combined acquisition plan/acquisition strategy (AP/AS) developed for the overarching SHIELD IDIQ was intentionally broad in nature; therefore, each order must be supported by an order-specific acquisition plan that addresses the orders' unique requirements to comply with DFARS RFO PGI 207.104(b).

2.6.1 Service Requirements Review Board (SRRB)

IAW DODI 5000.74, Department of War (DoW) requiring activities must conduct a Service Requirements Review Board (SRRB) to validate all service requirement orders valued at \$10 million or more. This validation is led by the requiring organization and must occur before the acquisition strategy is approved.

2.7 Consolidation & Bundling Determination and Finding (D&F)

In accordance with RFO 7.107-3(b), MDA posted to www.sam.gov the intent to consolidate requirements under the SHEILD IDIQ Contract. The findings, made pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 657q, as implemented in RFO 7.107-2 are provided in the D&F posted to [sam.gov.https://sam.gov/opp/bc0ac0906f414557b49a20f12afd1371/view](https://sam.gov/opp/bc0ac0906f414557b49a20f12afd1371/view).

2.8 Commercial Service Determination

The SHIELD IDIQ can accommodate both commercial and non-commercial services and commodities. However, a Commercial Service Determination was not created and OCOs will need to create one that is specific to their acquisition as provided in RFO 10.001(f), RFO 12.101(a), and DFARS RFO 212.

2.9 Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE)

The SHIELD IDIQ contracts were awarded without price or cost as an evaluation factor, an approach permitted by RFO 15.104(b)(1)(ii)(A). As such, the master contract contains no pricing data to support the development of IGCEs. Therefore, ordering activities will need to seek other sources for development of an IGCE.

2.10 Scope Compatibility Review Process

2.10.1 Mandatory Pre-Solicitation Review

Ordering activities may request a scope compatibility review at any point in the acquisition process. OCOs must submit requirements for scope review through the ORBIT Acquisition suite before releasing a solicitation to the SHIELD IDIQ contract holder to verify that the proposed work is within the established scope of the SHIELD IDIQ master contract. The SHIELD PMO Contracting Officer provides approval for this review within the ORBIT Acquisition suite.

2.10.2 Submission and Approval

Scope review requests are submitted through the ORBIT Acquisition suite. For detailed instructions on the submission process, please consult Appendix 6.1 of this guide.

If the order is deemed within scope, the SHIELD PMO will issue a written letter that indicates the work is within scope. The letter is provided in ORBIT and contains a control number. The control number must be included in all subsequent documentation provided to SHIELD contract holders, including:

- Market Research Requests
- Solicitation Documents
- Order Award

The following requirements are not authorized under the SHIELD IDIQ and should not be submitted for a scope review.

Advisory and Systems Engineering Services

- Advisory or Assistance Services (A&AS): As defined in RFO 2.101.
- Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance (SETA): As defined in DFARS RFO 209.571-1.

Information Technology (IT) Requirements

- General IT: In accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 14240, IT requirements that can be procured through the General Services

Administration's (GSA) government-wide acquisition contracts (GWACs) are prohibited. The SHIELD IDIQ was specifically structured to avoid duplicating existing government-wide vehicles already designated for IT solutions. This is detailed in our public Determination and Finding (D&F), which aligns with the government-wide procurement principles in E.O. 14240 and OMB Memorandum M-25-31. The D&F is available on sam.gov (the relevant details are on page 4):

<https://sam.gov/opp/bc0ac0906f414557b49a20f12afd1371/view>. However, IT requirements that are ancillary to the primary work areas described in Section 1.2 of this guide are permissible. All ancillary acquisitions of software, including both applications and embedded systems, should utilize modern development practices, such as Agile, DevOps, and Lean. Furthermore, the associated task orders for these software acquisitions should be performance-based.

3. Solicitation Development and Selection Process

3.1 Fair Opportunity

To ensure each awardee receives a fair opportunity to be considered for each order exceeding the micro-purchase threshold issued under the SHIELD IDIQ, ordering activities must disseminate all solicitations via the ORBIT Acquisition application. All solicitation documentation released through the application must include the MDA control number, as referenced in Section 2.10.2 of this guide. Classified information shall not be released directly through the application. Instead, for solicitations containing classified material, ordering activities must post an unclassified notice that provides contract holders with clear instructions on how to securely access the classified portions of the solicitation.

In accordance with RFO 16.507-4 and -5, ordering activities may choose to streamline the solicitation process by issuing a "Notice of Intent to Place an Order" (also known as a Pre-Solicitation Notice) via ORBIT to all SHIELD awardees. When this method is utilized, only those vendors who formally respond to the Notice of Intent by the stated deadline will receive the subsequent solicitation. Furthermore, if the task order requires access to classified information, the Notice of Intent will explicitly state the mandatory Facility Clearance Level (FCL) required for eligibility. Vendors who do not possess the required FCL at the time of their response, or who fail to respond to the Notice of Intent entirely, will not receive the solicitation and will not be considered for the order.

3.2 Synopsis Postings

In general, the contracting officer does not synopsise orders under indefinite-delivery contracts unless the order restricts competition to one manufacturer or the OCO is placing an order exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold that does not provide for fair opportunity. See the following section of this guide for details regarding exceptions to fair opportunity. OCOs should review the requirements of RFO 16.505(b)(2)(ii)(D) for posting requirements.

3.3 Exception to Fair Opportunity

In circumstances that require limiting competition, an exception to the fair opportunity process is required. OCOs must ensure all justification, approval, and posting requirements are completed in accordance with RFO 16.505(b)(2)(ii) and DFARS RFO 216.505(b)(2). The SHIELD PMO has not established any additional procedures beyond those stipulated in the FAR and DFARS. However, orders for exceptions to fair opportunity activities must be solicited via the ORBIT Acquisition suite. The portal allows OCOs to select contract holders and only those selected would have the ability to respond to the solicitation with a proposal.

3.4 Evaluation Criteria

As provided in RFO Part 16, OCOs have broad discretion to develop order placement procedures and should aim to keep submission requirements minimal. However, it is critical for OCOs to understand that the evaluation criteria used to award the SHIELD IDIQ contract were intentionally minimal to enable a rapid and flexible source selection process.

As a result, the responsibility for conducting a thorough evaluation of technical capability, past performance, and price rests entirely at the order level. Below is information related to the SHIELD IDIQ source selection that ordering activities may find useful:

- **Technical:** Corporate experience in two of the 19 work areas. The work areas themselves were intentionally left undefined for flexibility. Offerors will not be restricted to the work areas they proposed against for order placement.
- **Past Performance:** Not an evaluation factor.
- **Pricing:** Not an evaluation factor. The OCO shall consider price or cost as a factor in the selection of each order.
- **Security:** Each offeror was required to successfully clear the Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence (FOCI) review process. However, not all contract holders

hold a Facility Clearance. OCOs must ensure secure access to classified portions of any order.

- **Responsibility Determination:** The standards of contractor responsibility as set forth in RFO Part 9 and DFARS RFO Part 209 were completed for the SHIELD IDIQ. However, OCOs are highly encouraged to conduct their own review of offerors prior to the award of orders, as various responsibility standards must take into account the scope of work. In addition, while the contract holders were found responsible prior to award, their risk ratings, SAM representations, and other data may change over the course of the 10-year ordering period. It should also be noted that DFARS RFO 216.505 requires the ordering contracting officer to ensure Supplier Performance Risk System (SPRS) assessments of price risk and supplier risk are considered as a part of the order award decision.
- **Subcontracting Plan:** As provided in RFO 19.109 a subcontracting plan was required by offerors that were in an other than small business at the time of proposal submission. It should be noted that IAW RFO 19.302-1(d) a contract may not have more than one subcontracting plan. However, an OCO may establish separate subcontracting goals for each order.
- **Information Management and Control Plan (IMCP):** An IMCP describes the contract holders' policies and procedures for the dissemination and accountability of Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). It is typically required during MDA source selections. The submission of an IMCP is a requirement at the SHEILD IDIQ level therefore OCOs do not need to include this requirement in their order solicitations.

3.5 Selection and Debrief Requirements

IAW RFO 16.507-5(c) OCOs must perform the following post-award actions:

- For Orders Over \$7.5 Million: Send notification to all unsuccessful awardees.
- For Orders \$10 Million or More: Provide a written or oral post-award debriefing to both successful and unsuccessful awardees, as required by DFARS RFO 216.507-5(b)(c).

4. Order Award Process

4.1 Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) Reporting

All awards, and modifications to those awards, must be reported to FPDS through a contract action report (CAR) as provided in RFO 4.301 and DFARS RFO 204.301-72. Failure to do so is a compliance issue and prevents the DoW from accurately tracking MDA SHIELD usage and spending. Exceptions apply specifically to classified orders as

described in RFO 4.301(a)(3)(vi) and DFARS RFO PGI 204.301-72(b).

Data Fields are important for accurate reporting- Please pay close attention to the following fields and ensure they are completed:

- a. Referenced Indefinite Delivery Vehicle (IDV) ID
- b. Date Signed
- c. Action Obligation (the dollar value of the order)
- d. Product and Service Code (PSC)
- e. NAICS Code (must be NAICS code 541715 (Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences))
- f. Extent Competed (should reflect the fair opportunity process, e.g., "Competed under IDV")

4.2 System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

Periodic Checks: Ordering Officers should perform periodic checks (e.g., prior to exercising an option on a multi-year order) to ensure the contractor maintains an active registration in SAM.gov.

No Active Registration = No award of new orders and no payment: If a contractor's SAM.gov registration lapses, payments must be withheld in accordance with agency policy until the registration is reactivated. This is a critical control to ensure compliance with federal regulations.

4.3 ORBIT Acquisition

SHIELD will leverage MDA's ORBIT Acquisition application. ORBIT is the mandatory system for submitting scope determination requests and posting solicitations (FOPRs) for SHIELD IDIQ orders. ORBIT can also be used to obtain modification proposals, request/receive deliverables from vendors, and conduct similar formal communications. To obtain access to ORBIT, go to <https://orbit.mda.mil> and request access using the ORBIT Helpline application. DoW personnel may access the ORBIT Acquisition application using their Common Access Card (CAC). Vendors will access the ORBIT at <https://orbit.mda.mil/suite/sites/vendor-management-vendors> and must use their Login.gov account. After obtaining access, additional information is available in the Resources tab in the Vendor Management application.

5. Contract Administration

5.1 Responsibilities

The management of the SHIELD IDIQ contracts resides with a Contracting Officer that is assigned to the SHIELD PMO. The SHIELD IDIQ does not have any contract requirements or obligated dollars. No performance occurs under the SHIELD IDIQ. Some of the administration duties the SHIELD PMO performs are ensuring the ORBIT Acquisition application is accessible; issuing modifications as needed for the SHIELD IDIQ; and ensuring the ceiling of the SHIELD IDIQ is not exceeded.

The responsibility for the placement and subsequent administration of all orders, however, rests with the OCOs. Ordering activities release solicitations, conduct evaluations, and make awards. Ordering activities are responsible for the requirement and are authorized to place orders against the SHIELD IDIQ. The OCO is using their warrant authority to manage the order from solicitation to close out. Evaluation criteria, the determination to set-aside orders, and Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) requirements are just some examples of the aspects an OCO will decide for their acquisition. OCOs must ensure each order contains the necessary points of contact, such as the OCO Representative, Technical Point of Contact, and others as they deem appropriate.

Because the Department of War (DoW) is considered a single executive agency, orders placed under this contract are not subject to the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. § 1535) as an interagency acquisition.

5.2 On-Ramps

The SHIELD PMO reserves the right to reopen competition at any time to increase the number of SHIELD IDIQ contract holders. If this occurs, a formal "on-ramp" announcement will be posted on SAM.gov, allowing new companies an opportunity to submit proposals. These new proposals will be evaluated using the same criteria as the original solicitation. Existing SHIELD IDIQ holders do not need to re-compete. On-ramps do not impact the current contract. All activity should continue and OCOs should not wait for the on-ramp to be completed before posting solicitations or making award decisions. Following the on-ramp, all contract holders—both existing and new—will be able to compete for future task and delivery orders. The contract period for any new awardees will be concurrent with the existing ordering period, and their inclusion will not increase the SHIELD IDIQ's maximum contract value.

5.3 Off-Ramps

A contractor can request to leave the SHIELD IDIQ contract at any time. If the Government agrees, a bilateral modification will be executed to terminate the SHIELD IDIQ at no cost to either party. The Government may also initiate the removal of a contractor for cause, including:

- Non-responsiveness to modifications at the SHIELD IDIQ level.
- Failure to submit a bona fide proposal for 12 consecutive months. A bona fide proposal is defined as a good-faith submission that is responsive to the material requirements of the solicitation.

If a contractor is removed from the SHIELD IDIQ for any reason while performing on an active order, they are required to complete performance of that order under its original terms.

6. Appendices

6.1 Scope Review Instructions – MDA Contracting Users

This appendix is a separate document that can be accessed in the ORBIT Acquisition application under the Vendor Management sub-application (Resources Tab). The appendix provides the steps for completing scope determinations within the ORBIT Acquisition suite. You must first have a scope determination completed before posting a solicitation. See the section titled “Creating a Scope Determination Request” on page 2 for instructions for the ordering contracting office. **For MDA personnel, a requirement record in the ORBIT Acquisition Requirements Management application must be created prior to starting this process.**

6.2 Obtaining Access to ORBIT Acquisition for OGA Users

This appendix is a separate document that can be accessed in the ORBIT Acquisition application under the Vendor Management sub-application (Resources Tab). The appendix provides instructions for non-MDA users to register and access the ORBIT Acquisition suite. These instructions are intended for ordering activities and not contract holders.

6.3 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Topic Area	Question	Answer	Reference
Pricing	Does the SHIELD IDIQ contain ceiling rates or pricing?	No. Price was not used as part of the award determination. The OCO shall consider price or cost as one of the factors in the selection decision for each order IAW RFO 16.507-2(c)(1)(iv)	RFO 16.501-2(b)(2), RFO 15.104(b)(1) and RFO 16.507-2(c)(1)(iv)
Scope	Are there definitions for the work areas provided in section 1.2 of this guide?	No. There are no definitions for each of the work areas.	Section C of the IDIQ
NAICS Code	Does my task or delivery order's scope need to match the SHIELD IDIQ's NAICS Code?	Yes. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code assigned to the SHIELD IDIQ contract represents the principal purpose of the overall contract, not the purpose of every individual order. While your order's scope must fall within the broader Section C – Description/ Specifications/Statement of Work for the SHIELD IDIQ, it does not need to exactly match the SHIELD IDIQ's primary NAICS code. As the Court of Federal Claims has affirmed, "the selected code captures the principal purpose of the contract. It need not be a perfect fit to every facet of the performance work statement" (Ingenesis, Inc. v. United States, No. 11-754C, 17 (Fed. Cl. Mar. 12, 2012))	RFO 19.103 and RFO 19.111-1(a)
Acquisition Plan / Acquisition Strategy	Do I need an AP/AS for my Order? Can I use the SHIELD IDIQ AP/AS for my contract file?	Yes, you need an acquisition plan and the SHIELD IDIQ does not fulfil this requirement. This is because the SHIELD IDIQ acquisition plan is too broad and does not address many of the requirements provided in RFO Part 7. See Section 2.6 of this guide for additional information.	RFO 7.102

Topic Area	Question	Answer	Reference
IGCE	Are there rates at the SHIELD IDIQ level that I can use to develop an IGCE?	No. As permitted by RFO 15.104(b)(1), price was not an evaluation factor for the SHIELD IDIQ awards. As a result, no baseline pricing exists for creating an Independent Government Cost Estimate (IGCE).	RFO 15.104(b)(1)
Clauses	Will OCOs need to include clauses in the order, or do we only use the SHIELD clauses provided in the master contract?	The OCO holds the responsibility for ensuring the inclusion of all necessary clauses at the order level. Should the required clause not be present in the base SHIELD IDIQ contract, the OCO must add it to the individual order. Furthermore, the OCO is accountable for verifying that all fill-in provisions and any other applicable clauses are correctly incorporated into each order. This includes payment instructions (to include the Wide Area Workflow clause, if applicable) for the order.	
Subcontracting Plan	Do I need to include a subcontracting plan in my order?	No. In accordance with regulations allowing only one subcontracting plan per contract, a single plan is incorporated at the SHIELD IDIQ level. Consequently, individual task and delivery orders issued under this contract shall not have their own subcontracting plans. Instead, orders may stipulate specific subcontracting goals to be achieved during performance.	RFO 19.302-1(d)
Contract Holder Pool	How does a contractor join the SHIELD contract?	A new contractor can only join if an "On-Ramp" occurs and this requires the use of RFO 15 procedures to award a SHIELD IDIQ. At any time, contractors can always form teaming arrangements with SHIELD contract holders and become subcontractors to the prime contract holder.	

Topic Area	Question	Answer	Reference
Congressional Notification	Do I need to post a Congressional notification if my order is above the threshold provided in DFARS RFO 205.302?	No. The SHIELD team posted notice with the estimated value of \$151B. Do not report orders up to the estimated value. The SHIELD PMO actively tracks the ceiling and ensures the orders do not exceed the estimated value. Below are the links to the 3 DoW postings for the \$151 B award: https://www.war.gov/News/Contracts/Contract/Article/4346674/ https://www.war.gov/News/Contracts/Contract/Article/4364107/ https://www.war.gov/News/Contracts/Contract/Article/4380949/contracts-for-jan-15-2026/ Below is a link to the sam.gov postings that were released the same day with the name of the awardees. These list were provided to Congress ahead of the DoW posting. https://sam.gov/workspace/contract/opp/51cd64d3b5f54bc0a28fc8d30d2d0222/view	DFARS RFO 205.302(a)(i)(B)
Order Scope	Can I establish an ordering CLIN within my Task or Delivery Order?	No. OCOs must be careful not to inadvertently establish a second-tier IDIQ. Below is a link to an article that shares some lessons learned from two GAO decisions regarding Flexible Ordering Agreements. https://publiccontractinginstitute.com/gao-warns-against-use-of-flexible-ordering-agreements/	RFO 16.506(b)(5)
Options	Can I include option CLINs within my order?	Yes. Option CLINs are allowed on SHIELD Orders.	RFO 17.2

Topic Area	Question	Answer	Reference
Period of Performance	Can I create an order that extends beyond the current option period of performance for the SHIELD IDIQ?	Yes. You are limited by the period of performance for the overall SHIELD IDIQ when all options are exercised and the current option period. There are very limited circumstances which allow for an order to extend one year beyond the ten-year limit of the SHIELD IDIQ period of performance.	DFARS RFO 217.201-270(c)
Responsibility Determination	Do I have to create a new responsibility determination for my order?	No. A responsibility determination was previously conducted at the time of award; therefore, the review conducted IAW RFO 9.1 may be limited as deemed appropriate by the OCO. The SHIELD PMO recommends OCO's review aspects that are essential to their acquisition, such as financial capabilities.	GAO Decision B-409272: Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.
Solicitation Due Dates	What are the minimum number of days a solicitation must be posted?	A specific number of days for general solicitation posting is not mandated under RFO 16.507. The SHIELD PMO recommends establishing a response period that is commensurate with the complexity of the requirement. Keep in mind if only one proposal is received when competitive procedures were used and the solicitation allowed fewer than 30 days for receipt of proposals then you might need to post for longer.	RFO 16.507, DFARS RFO 216.507-70, DFARS RFO 215.202-71, PGI RFO 215.202-71(b)(2)
Procurement Administrative Lead Time (PALT)	What is the standard PALT for SHIELD Orders?	The SHIELD PMO will be collecting metrics related to PALT and will be prepared to share this information with OCOs as it becomes available.	

Topic Area	Question	Answer	Reference
Government Property	I have an order that will have Government Property. Are there any special considerations I need to keep in mind?	OCO's are required to follow all FAR, DFARS, and agency requirements. For MDA employees, that includes utilizing the Government Property PWS/SOW language as provided in the MDA Acquisition Library and the mandatory property CDRL located at https://mko.mda.mil/sites/da/issuances/default.aspx	
Novation	A contractor has novated, but the SHIELD IDIQ still has the original company information. What steps need to be taken to award to the new company?	If a novation agreement needs to be completed on the SHIELD IDIQ, please contact the MDA SHIELD Team prior to award of the order.	

Topic Area	Question	Answer	Reference
Templates and Samples	Does MDA have any templates & samples to share?	No, but here are some resources that you may find useful when developing your solicitation. - Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) Guiding Principles For Fair Opportunity Selection Under Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 16.505(b)(1) Those with access to the Air Force's DAF365 can access the link Fair Opportunity Guiding Principles - Version 3.5 April 2025 - Procurement Innovation Lab - Innovation Snapshots https://www.dhs.gov/publication/pil-innovation-snapshots - Periodic Table of Acquisition Innovations Playbook https://www.acquisitiongateway.gov/periodic-table	
Solicitation	Do I need to build my solicitation through the ORBIT system or attach a word/pdf version of the solicitation with the Opportunity posting?	You do not need to build the solicitation directly within ORBIT. Instead, you will create the solicitation externally (e.g., as a Word or PDF document) and attach it directly to the Fair Opportunity Announcement in ORBIT.	
8(a) sole source or competition under SHIELD	Can I make a direct award to an 8(a) contract holder under the SHIELD IDIQ?	You may compete an 8(a) requirement under SHIELD, but you may not sole source to an 8(a) contract holder under the SHIELD IDIQ. However, these orders must be formally offered to and accepted into the 8(a) program following the procedures outlined in 13 CFR 124.502.	13 CFR 124.501; 13 CFR 124.502; 13 CFR 124.503; RFO 16.506; RFO 19.303-3; DFARS RFO 219.108-1; and PGI 219.108-1

Topic Area	Question	Answer	Reference
Work Areas	What are the mission area "buckets" for task order competitions under the SHIELD IDIQ?	The SHIELD IDIQ does not utilize mission area "buckets" for task order competitions. To receive a base award, offerors were required to demonstrate an 'acceptable' rating for corporate experience in at least two of the 19 specified work areas. However, once awarded, vendors are not restricted to competing only within the specific work areas they initially proposed against.	

If you have any questions that were not addressed by the FAQ above, please send them to the SHIELD PMO via the Microsoft Survey:

<https://forms.osi.apps.mil/r/14526m0jmy>