# *Headquarters U.S. Air Force*

## *I n t e g r i t y - S e r v i c e - E x c e l l e n c e*

## *Open Systems Acquisition (OSA) and the C4ISR Other Transaction Authority (OTA)*

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- Motivation – Open Systems Acquisition

- OTA Overview

- AF C4ISR OTA & Considerations

- PlugTests

- Notional Value

- Contact Information

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- Open System Approaches are promising, but so far government success has been elusive…

- Better Buying Power 3.0 says "Do more without more…"

- Congress (Sect 801 FY15 NDAA) says for MDAP and MAIS programs, Thou Shalt use Modular Open Systems Architecture to get better, faster, and cheaper…within 10 years

- etc…(lots of unfunded mandates and wonderful ideas)



- Bending the Cost Curve OSA aims to help beleaguered PMs by providing top cover, training, and tools… such as the OSA OTA…

- **What is an Other Transactions Authority (OTA)?**

  - Not a standard procurement contract, grant, or cooperative agreement

  - Is a legally binding instrument more like a commercial-sector contract between the govt and industry

  - Encourages collaboration and promotes innovation from non-traditional defense contractors as well as traditional defense contractors

  - Congress authorized OTAs under 10 USC 2371, Section 845 of Public Law 103-160; changed to Section 815 in FY16 NDAA

- Purpose is to develop C4ISR Information System prototypes; not for basic or applied research

- Prototypes developed will modernize C4ISR Information Systems using agile developed "plug-n-play" technologies via modern Open Systems Architectures to provide rapid adaptation and integration of new capabilities.

- Competition is open to industry partners unable or unwilling to comply with the FAR, its supplements, or laws limited in applicability to procurement contracts

- What doesn't apply under the OTA?
  - GAO protest rules, Truth in Negotiations Act, Cost Accounting Standards (CAS), Buy American Act, Berry Amendment, Sections 35 USC 202-204 of Bayh-Dole Act, Anti-kickback Act, Procurement Integrity Act, Contract Disputes Act, …etc.

- Fiscal laws still apply; $99M ceiling, 5 year PoP

- Govt sets Government Purpose Rights as minimum for effort under the OTA; while the developer retains the right to commercialize what it developed

# AF C4ISR OTA & Considerations

- **Air Force C4ISR OTA**

  - An agreement with SOSSEC consortium

  - Government awards agreement to SOSSEC, which then enters into agreements with the industry partner
    - Must be a member of SOSSEC to participate

- **Considerations**

  - The authority to award may be used only when:

    - At least 1 non-traditional defense contractor participates to a significant extent **or**

      - >1/3 total cost (cash or in-kind) of project must be paid out of funds provided by non-Federal parties to the transaction, **or**

      - Senior Procurement Executive for Military Service determines exceptional circumstances

- **What is a PlugTest?**
  - A Commercial Best-Practice – the OTA was designed around having PlugTests!
  - An event where multiple industry partners demonstrate their initial prototypes to the govt to allow an assessment/down-select decision

- **Why choose a PlugTest?**
  - Includes COTS demo + 2-4 months of development
  - Demo initial prototypes *free of charge
  - Allows non-traditionals to better demonstrate their capabilities
  - Allows for "crowd-sourcing" solutions with reduced red tape

- **Why choose a Whitepaper?**
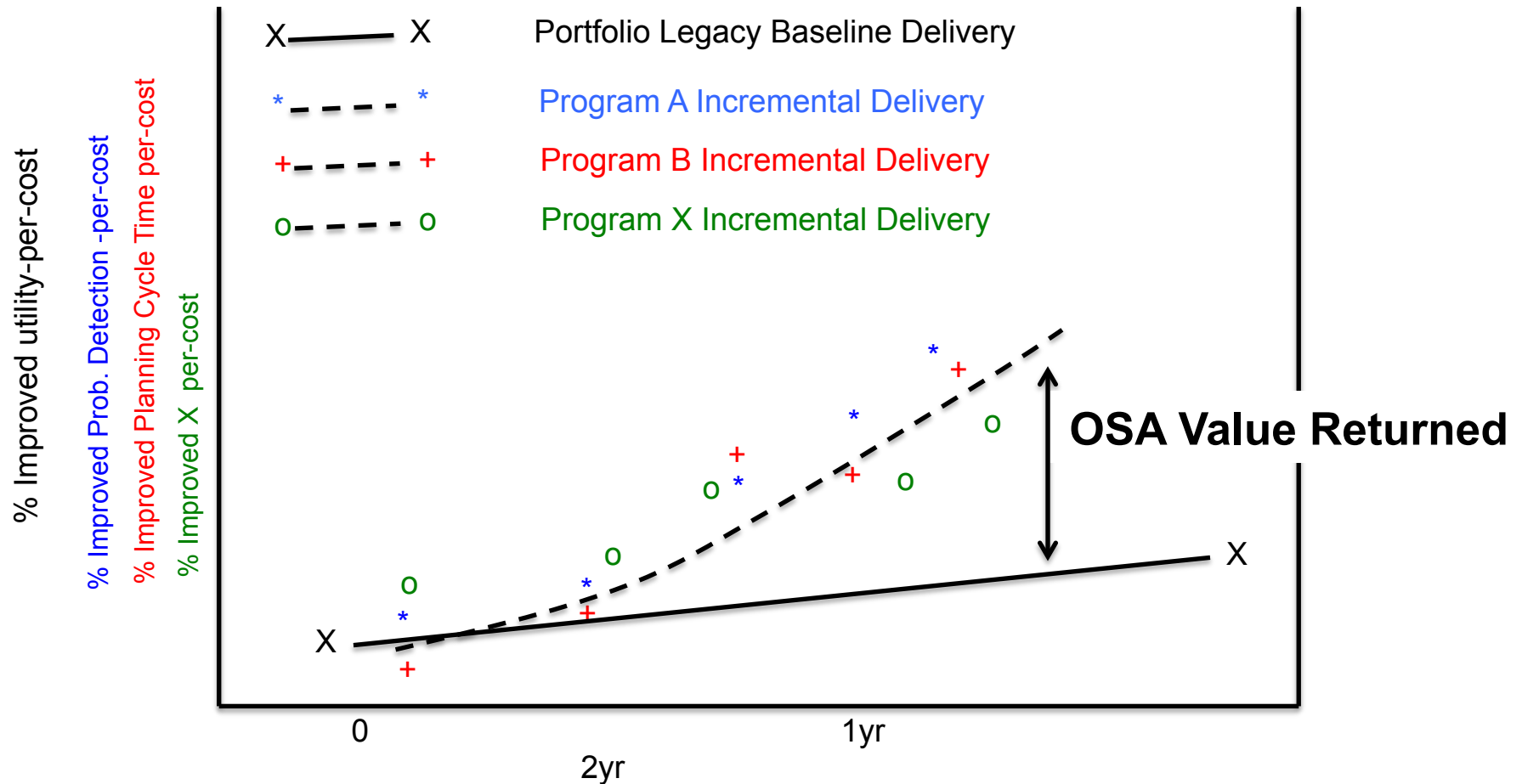  - Prefer a traditional approach to acquisition



Regardless of initial choice, proposal acceptance results in a prototype delivery

Notional Value Returned Across Investment Portfolio

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X———X  Portfolio Legacy Baseline Delivery

\* - - - \*  Program A Incremental Delivery

+ - - - +  Program B Incremental Delivery

o - - - o  Program X Incremental Delivery

% Improved utility-per-cost

% Improved Prob. Detection -per-cost

% Improved Planning Cycle Time per-cost

% Improved X  per-cost

OSA Value Returned

0

2yr

1yr

Development Time = Contracting + AoA + Engineering + T&E + Cert + Etc.

*Integrity - Service - Excellence*

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- For companies wishing to participate:

  - SOSSEC Consortium (System of Systems Security)
  - www.sossecconsortium.com
  - info@sossecconsortium.com

- For Program Offices:

  - OTA Program Manager
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