Subpart 970.35—Research and Development Contracting

Parent topic: PART 970—DOE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATING CONTRACTS

970.3500 Scope of subpart.

This subpart implements 48 CFR 35.017 regarding the establishment, use, review, and termination of Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE).

970.3501 Federally funded research and development centers.

970.3501-1 Sponsoring agreements.

(a) The contract award document constitutes the sponsoring agreement between the Department of Energy and the contractor operating an FFRDC.

(b) The contract statement of work shall define the purpose and mission of the FFRDC.

(c) Other elements of the sponsoring agreement which shall be incorporated into the contract include:

(1) The appropriate termination clause of the contract (as prescribed in 48 CFR subpart 49.5);

(2) The plan for the identification, use, and disposition of retained earnings, if applicable;

(3) The clause entitled “Federally Funded Research and Development Center Sponsoring Agreement,” which, in part, prescribes limitations on the FFRDC competing with the private sector, and requirements for the FFRDC's acceptance of work from a nonsponsor; and

(4) Other terms and conditions considered necessary for the particular circumstances of the FFRDC (e.g., advance understandings on particular cost items).

970.3501-2 Using an FFRDC.

The contractor may only accept work from a non-sponsor (as defined in FAR 35.017) in accordance with the requirements of the current DOE approved mechanisms for engaging with a non-sponsor (*e.g.,* Strategic Partnership Projects, Cooperative Research and Development Agreements, and Agreements for Commercializing Technology). Only a Federal Contracting Officer can obligate the Government to place work on the contract and obligate the Government to reimburse the contractor under the contract.

970.3501-3 Reviewing FFRDC's.

(a) All Department of Energy sponsored FFRDC's are operated by management and operating contractors.

(b) Coincident with the review required by 48 CFR 17.605(b) and 970.1706-1(b) regarding the decision to extend or compete a management and operating contract, the contracting officer shall, in accordance with internal Departmental procedures:

(1) Conduct the review required by 48 CFR 35.017-4 concerning the use and need for the FFRDC; and

(2) Recommend for Secretarial approval, the continuation or termination of the Department's sponsorship of an FFRDC at the time authorization is required to extend or compete a management and operating contract.

970.3501-4 Contract clause.

The contracting officer shall insert the clause at 970.5235-1, Federally Funded Research and Development Center Sponsoring Agreement, in all solicitations and contracts for the management and operation of an FFRDC sponsored by the Department of Energy.