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The Honorable Michael Duffey
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Subj: GAO Report on Standard Reference Architecture for Digital Engineering

Dear Hon. USD (A&S) Michael Duffey:

This letter augments my letter dated March 21, 2026, Subj: Palantir MAVEN Program of Record Approach to Standardize a Digital Engineering (DE) Tool. It is now responsive to GAO Report GAO-26-108457 *Weapon Systems Annual Assessment*, July 2026. The report includes the following statement:

Congress directed each Secretary of a military department to develop and implement a standard reference architecture to guide the use of and best practices for DE for program design, development, and testing within each covered armed force under the jurisdiction of that Secretary.

The previous letter included the following excerpts:

Please instruct the Chief Digital Artificial Intelligence Office to invest now and standardize the use of MAVEN as a DE tool across the Joint Force and establish AI-enabled decision-making as the cornerstone of our DE strategy.

Leverage the Maven Ontology as an operational digital twin that acts as the core semantic layer to standardize and connect disparate data sources for DE and program management.

I recommend that you request Congress to authorize you to develop and implement a common standard reference architecture for all departments to guide the use of and best practices for DE for program design, development, and testing.

Yours truly,



Paul Solomon

Hon. Ken Calvert, Chairman, Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
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USW(R&E) Emil Michael