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The Hon. Secretary of the Air Force Dr. Troy Meink
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Subj: Unfinished Business to Institutionalize Digital Engineering

Dear Hon. Sec. of the Air Force Troy Meink:

My letter to Dep. Sec. of War Feinberg, Subj: Prioritized Menu of Acquisition Reform Actions, dated October 28, includes two issues that also require your attention.

1. Initiate process to terminate DFARS Earned Value Management System (EVMS) clause.
2. Obtain benefits of digital engineering (DE) ecosystem ASAP

Please take immediate actions to address the first issue. That will also remove an obstacle to institutionalizing “going digital including program management,” a goal that was established by Gen. Duke Richardson and myself when he was with SAF/AQ in 2022.

EVMS and Feinberg

The Feinberg letter included the following excerpt:

Menu of Acquisition Reform Actions for Hon. Dep. Sec. of War Feinberg			
Action	Benefits	Ease or Speed of Implementation	Statutory Requirement
1. Terminate DCMA EVMS Compliance Reviews and Metrics	Reduce waste; Ineffective and not value-added.	Easiest, fastest.	No
2. Submit public comment to SAE International to approve my procedural appeal regarding balloting for SAE/EIA-748E.	Avoid costs to implement a revised standard in training, policies, guides, and compliance reviews.	Easy, fast.	No.
3. Advise OMB Dir. Vought to revise OMB policy to omit references to EIA-748 and to terminate its designation as a Voluntary Consensus Standard because it is not fit for use.	Terminate standard that is costly to administer, obscures situational awareness of cost, schedule, and technical performance, and is not fit for use.	Easy, fast.	No.

DE and Richardson

My letter to Sec. War Hegseth, Subj: Unfinished Business with former USD(R&E) Heidi Shyu and with F-35 and F-47 Programs, dated March 23, 2025, included the following excerpt:

Unfinished Business, Air Force

I received a letter from Gen. Duke Richardson when he was at SAF/AQ. He wrote:

The Department of the Air Force supports Ms. Shyu and her goals to modernize systems engineering processes while leveraging digital engineering and model-based systems engineering. I have provided a copy of your letter and white paper *Integrating the Embedded Software Path, MBSE, and DE with Program Management* to my staff for their consideration as they modernize acquisition policy to take full advantage of digital engineering and to enable the use of digital artifacts that accelerate our development, manufacturing, sustainment, and operations of warfighter capabilities. We agree the institutionalization of “going digital” must include program management if we are to be successful. We are collaborating with the Office of the Secretary of Defense to improve current directives, instructions, and guides to evolve systems engineering and program management practices with regards to utilization of digital engineering and model-based acquisition. Your recommendations are appreciated.

Thank you again for sending a copy of your letter and recommendations. The Department of the Air Force is fully committed to improving our warfighter’s capability, and we recognize digital engineering is vital to maintaining our dominance in air, space, and cyberspace.

Request for Your Support

So, please act promptly to influence the SAE Council’s decision on my procedural complaint regarding EIA-748E. If the SAE Council acts correctly on my complaint, EIA-748E will no longer be a costly detour to institutionalizing DE. Program managers will not waste time and money on complying with the DFARS EVMS clause.

Additional information is in letters to Driscoll, Feinberg, Vought, Saltzman, Duffey, and Chairman Rogers at www.pb-ev.com. Download the letters from the “EIA-748 EVMS STANDARD STATUS” page. This letter is also posted.

Yours truly,



Paul J. Solomon

CC:

Hon. Adam Smith, HASC

Hon. Mike Rogers, HASC

Hon. Roger Wicker, SASC

Russell Vought, Director, OMB

Hon. SON John Phelan

Hon. Gen. B. Chance Saltzman, U.S. Space Force

Hon. Pete Hegseth, Sec. of War

Anthony Capaccio, Bloomberg News

Meg O’Keefe SAE G-47 SE Committee

Hon. USD Michael Duffey

Hon. David Norquist NDIA

Dep. Sec. of War Stephen Feinberg

Hon. USD Emil Michael,

Hon. Dan Driscoll, Sec. of the Army

John Evers SAE G-47 SE Committee