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July 21, 2026

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

Subj: Recommendation for Digital Engineering to Support Golden Dome for America

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

This letter augments my letter, dated July 4, 2026, Subj: GAO Report on Standard Reference Architecture for Digital Engineering (DE). It is now also responsive to the following in the following Item of Special Interest in the SENATE REPORT 119–127 NDAA for FY 2027 REPORT [TO ACCOMPANY S. 4784], dated June 15, 2026 (Senate Report 119-127):

Golden Dome modeling, simulation analysis, and reporting

The committee further notes that the Golden Dome for America (GDA) architecture is a “system of systems.”... The verification and validation of such an architecture against the full spectrum of mixed-raid threats...requires modeling, simulation, and analysis (MS&A) capabilities of a fidelity, scale, and speed that exceed those of legacy DoD MS&A infrastructure.

In addition, the committee recognizes that the broader commercial economy, including the autonomous vehicle, physical artificial intelligence, electronic design automation, and industrial digital twin sectors, has developed...DE... capabilities of a sophistication and scale that, in important respects, surpass MS&A capabilities developed exclusively for defense applications. Non-traditional defense contractors and their underlying commercial products represent a significant resource for the DoD in scaling MS&A capacity to meet the GDA mission.

Accordingly, the committee directs the Deputy Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of GDA, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, and the Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, to submit to the congressional defense committees, not later than March 1, 2027, a report on the use, integration, and effectiveness of commercial and defense-adjacent modeling, simulation and analysis (MS&A) capabilities in support of Golden Dome for America.

At a minimum, the report should include the following:

(5) Any legislative, regulatory, or policy recommendations the Deputy Secretary of Defense considers necessary or appropriate to accelerate the adoption, accreditation, and integration of commercial and defense-adjacent MS&A capabilities in support of GDA.

Recommendations to Accelerate the Adoption, Accreditation, and Integration of DE Capabilities

The previous letters included the following recommendations:

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.

Please include the same recommendations in your report, required by Senate Report 119-127, of any legislative, regulatory, or policy recommendations you consider necessary or appropriate to accelerate the adoption, accreditation, and integration of commercial and defense-adjacent DE capabilities in support of GDA.

Yours truly,



Paul Solomon

Cc:

Hon. Dep. Sec. Stephen Feinberg

Hon. Adam Smith, HASC

Hon. Mike Rogers, HASC

Hon. Roger Wicker, SASC

Hon. Russell Vought, Director, OMB

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

Hon. Dan Driscoll, Sec. of the Army

Anthony Capaccio, Bloomberg News

Hon. Acting Sec. of the Navy Hung Cao

Shelby Oakley, GAO

Hon. David Norquist NDIA

Hon. Troy Meink, Sec. of the AF

Hon. Asst. Sec. of War for Industrial Base Policy, Michael Cadenazzi

Hon. Pete Hegseth, Sec. of War

Hon. DoW CIO Kirsten Davies

Hon. USW(R&E) Emil Michael