

Quality Supplier Management



PURPOSE

To provide information regarding initiatives in supply quality management.

POINTS OF MAJOR INTEREST AND FACTS

The TACOM-ARDEC strategic approach to supplier quality management is defined within the TACOM-ARDEC Supplier Management Strategic Plan.

Current Quality Supplier initiatives include the Army Materiel Command (AMC) Contractor Performance Certification Program (CP)2 that recognizes world class suppliers, the TACOM Qualified Supplier List (QSL) program that pre-qualifies suppliers to industry standard practices, partnerships with key suppliers and benchmarking of commercial and government best practices.

CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (CP)2

As part of best value acquisition, TACOM-ARDEC promotes supplier quality systems that are compliant to international and sector-specific commercial management models and encourages key suppliers to become certified through the AMC (CP)2. (CP)2 is a voluntary government/supplier partnership that recognizes suppliers with world-class quality practices. TACOM-ARDEC manages the AMC (CP)2 and is overseen by the AMC Quality Federation.

QUALITY SUPPLIER LIST (QSL) PROGRAM

The TACOM QSL program is managed by TACOM-ARDEC, with oversight from the TACOM Quality Federation. A QSL is a list of suppliers that have been pre-qualified, based on conformance to applicable quality, manufacturing or design process criteria, for a specific family of products. Once a QSL is established, subsequent competition for specified products is limited to the suppliers

contained on the QSL. To date, QSLs have been established in support of TACOM secondary procurements. The QSL management team is currently evaluating expansion of the program into other areas such as services and research & development.

PARTNERSHIPS

Quality partnerships involve a commitment between government and industry to improve communications and avoid disputes. Partnerships take many forms, from Alpha Contracting (where an integrated product team consisting of government and contractor personnel jointly develop the scope of work and other contract requirements) to formal partnership agreements with prime system contractors.

Next on the continuous improvement journey is the creation and deployment of an integrated supplier management program that will use contemporary quality-related business processes adopted from commercial and public sector best practices. Such a revolutionary undertaking will require disciplined, systematic development to assure a value-added program that serves all relevant government and industry stakeholders. TACOM-ARDEC, as a member of the AMC Quality Federation, will partner with other component quality activities and the acquisition community toward establishment of an Integrated Quality Supplier Management (IQSM) program, referred to as Q21. Once fully implemented, Q21 will provide TACOM-ARDEC and AMC with a proactive, risk-based supplier management tool to facilitate development, production and fielding of advanced technologies and products supporting the Army's transformation.

For additional information, please contact

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