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USAF AEDC Contracts With Bechtel-led National Aerospace Solutions for Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) Test Operations and Sustainment (TOS)

SYNOPSIS

The U.S. Air Force Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) (Arnold AFB, TX) awarded Bechtel-led National Aerospace Solutions, LLC (Reston, VA) an estimated \$1.5 billion cost-plus award fee contract (FA9551-15-C-0000) to manage test operations and sustainment duties at Arnold and other Air Force facilities in Maryland and California.

CUSTOMER

USAF, Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) (Arnold AFB, TX)

COMPANY

National Aerospace Solutions, LLC (Reston, VA) Website Ownership Change | Now owned by Learning Technologies Group plc HN101021 - Learning Technologies Group plc Acquires GP Strategies Corp. National Aerospace Solutions, members include Bechtel National, Inc., Sierra Labs Inc., and GP Strategies Corporation. NAS learning subcontractors include: ntlgpl, Inc. and Chicago Federal Solutions, Inc.

Contracting \$ (Million)	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	Total
FA9551-15-C-0000	\$895.5	\$277.4	\$289.5	\$442.5	\$341.8	\$2,442.0

Trained With

- Bechtel National, Inc. (Reston, VA)
 - The Air Force is working hard to ensure the long-term viability of the complex, while maintaining a reliable and cost-effective mission success," said Craig Abbott, president of Bechtel's Nuclear, Security & Environmental global business unit. "AEDC is a national asset for both the government and commercial sectors, and its potential to meet the needs of future ground test programs is ever greater. We're ready to partner with the Air Force and the team at AEDC to help make that potential."
 - "Bechtel is eager to work with our teammates, the talented complex workforce, and the community to support the mission of AEDC to become the "center of excellence" for Air Force operations, that of the NAS Board of Managers. "Our goal is to build on their experience and capabilities to take the complex to the next level of performance."
- GP Strategies Corporation (Columbia, MO)
 - GP Strategies' role in Pressure and Hazardous Material Systems (PHMS) Certification contract at AEDC began in 1988. The contract was held by General Physics Company (GPC), an operating subsidiary of GP Strategies Corp.
- Sierra Labs Inc (Fremont, CA)
- Chicago Federal Solutions, Inc. (Aurora, IL)
- Logic Inc (Huntsville, AL)

SCOPE & HISTORY

Test Operations and Sustainment includes operations of 43 wind tunnels, rocket and turbine engine test cells, ballistic ranges, space chambers, and other specialized testing units, as well as technology development, equipment and facility sustainment, capital improvements to the sites and other services for the AEDC. The Complex has played a role in testing nearly all of the United States' top priority aerospace programs, from fighter jets and missiles to Apollo rockets and weather satellites.

Areas of service includes:
- Test Facilities: System development and capability knowledge is the ultimate product to an AEDC customer. A customer engages AEDC with the intent to generate data, information, and knowledge to aid them in the development, characterization, performance enhancement, or qualification of a system or to identify completion of development milestones. Test is about decision support - infusing the customer's decision process with information from the test. AEDC resources include the main site in Tullahoma, TN, including the Advanced Missile Signature Center (AMSC), as well as the AEDC Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel at White Oak MD, and the National Full-Scale Aerodynamics Complex (NFAC) located at Ames Research Center in California. It includes all work necessary to plan, provision, execute, analyze, and report on test and evaluation (T&E) and missile signature projects. Actual workload can vary significantly from test asset to test asset. Test projects range widely in type, size, and complexity.
- The contractor will provide all project management and technical support necessary to accomplish effective test and evaluation and missile signature efforts in support of the AEDC mission and apply a comprehensive systems engineering process. The contractor will also provide analysis, evaluation, and reporting of foreign scientific and technical information including technical findings, trends, capabilities, and limitations.

Contractor and government program managers will work closely during planning and execution of any project. The government program manager will be the primary customer interface on all programmatic issues (schedule commitments, financial planning and commitment, status reporting, etc.) and will be kept fully informed on project and customer issues of any nature. Extensive direct communication between the contractor and the user will occur on technical issues.

On occasion, AEDC will provide test products to foreign entities.
- Technology Products: Management and execution of AEDC test technology program. It includes the development of new test techniques, instrumentation, analytical methods, and computational modeling and simulation to solve particular test problems or to generally advance the state of the art in test effectiveness and efficiency. Technology projects are performed in support of AEDC testing, for external customers, or in cooperation with other Government agencies or private industry. External customers include contracts awarded under the Small Business Administration's Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program. Projects vary widely in magnitude and scientific and engineering disciplines. Projects may include mechanical, electrical, electronic, and aeronautical engineering, optics, basic physics, nuclear physics, computational techniques, information technology, mathematical modeling and more.
- Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDTE&E) Asset Investments: This element focuses on eliminating capability gaps and ensuring that AEDC possesses the capability to satisfy future customer requirements. This element contains the work necessary to plan, program, and execute investment solutions to meet AEDC's RDTE&E asset needs. The type of projects to be planned include instrumentation, process control, mechanical systems, structural systems, utility systems, machining equipment, fabrication equipment, laboratory equipment and computer systems for all AEDC test assets. Future test capability planning and programming responsibilities include concept development, technology applications, validation of investment requirements, spiral development plans of identified technical shortfalls, and assessment of solution alternatives. Work performed will include, but is not limited to, efforts funded by the Military Construction Program (MCP), Major T&E Improvement & Modernization (IAM) program, Centralized Test and Evaluation Investment Program (CTEIP), and Major Range and Test Facility Base (MRTFB).

- RDTE&E and Test Support Assets: This element contains the operations and maintenance of AEDC's RDTE&E and Test Support assets to ensure they meet current and future requirements. These assets include all test units, plants, instrumentation and controls, and test support (utility) assets. Actual workload of each test unit can vary significantly.
- Machine and Fabrication and Laboratory Assets: This element includes all facets of machine and fabrication and laboratory support to test and base functions. Work includes machining, calibrations, maintenance, certifications, testing, inspections, and analyses which may range from simple tasks requiring less than one man-hour for major projects involving several hundred man hours. Shops and laboratories included are:
- All RDTE&E machine and fabrication assets, the Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory, the Chemical Laboratory, and the Metallurgical and Non Destructive Examination (MET/NDE) Laboratory.

The contract was signed on Jun. 30, 2015 and becomes effective on Jul. 1, 2015. Work will be performed at three geographic locations: Arnold AFB, Tennessee; the National Full-Scale Aerodynamics Complex (NFAC) at NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field in California; and the Hypervelocity Wind Tunnel 9 facility at the Federal Research Center at White Oak, Maryland. Work is expected to be complete by Sept. 30, 2016. FY15 RDTE&E funds in the amount of \$2,000,000 are being obligated at the time of award.
The contract contains a nine-month base period (worth \$170.2 million) and seven one-year options that, if exercised, could increase its total cumulative value to \$1.55 billion and extend the period of performance through Sept. 30, 2023.

Contract Increases & Extensions
On Jun. 23, 2016, AEDC awarded modification (P00011) to extend the period of performance to Jun. 30, 2024.
On Dec. 20, 2021, AEDC awarded a \$155.4 million modification (P00158) to increase the contract ceiling to \$1.65 billion.
On May 23, 2022, AEDC awarded a \$189.1 million modification (P00174) to increase the contract ceiling to \$1.83 billion (according to the Pentagon).
On Dec. 15, 2022, AEDC awarded a \$178.4 million modification (P00192) to increase the contract ceiling to \$2.01 billion (according to the Pentagon).
On Jun. 15, 2023, AEDC awarded a \$192.9 million modification (P00212) to increase the contract ceiling to \$2.23 billion (according to the Pentagon).
On Jan. 19, 2024, AEDC awarded a \$269.8 million modification (P00233) to increase the contract ceiling to \$2.53 billion (according to the Pentagon) and extend the period of performance through Jun. 30, 2024.
On Jun. 17, 2024, AEDC awarded a \$462.2 million modification (P00241) to increase the contract ceiling to \$2.81 billion (according to the Pentagon) and extend the period of performance through Jun. 30, 2025.

COMPETITION

The contract was competitively procured through solicitation FA9551-13-R-0100, which was issued on 5-Aug-2014 and called for full & open competition (NACCS 541330, Engineering Services). A total of four offers were received. The procurement is considered a follow-on effort. The incumbent was Aerospace Testing Alliance (ATA) (Tullahoma, TN), which performed the work previously under a 12-yr, \$1.65 billion contract (FA9551-03-C-0001) awarded in July 2003.

OTHER BIDDERS

- Aerospace Testing Alliance (ATA) (Tullahoma, TN)
 - This business was originally known as Aerospace Testing Alliance (ATA) (DISCLOSED COMPANY) at the time of this program's inception.
 - Trained With:
 - CSRA, Inc., Defense Group (Falls Church, VA)
 - GP Strategies Corporation (Columbia, MO)
 - Jacobs Technology Inc. (Tullahoma, TN)
 - This business was originally known as GP Strategies Corp. at the time of this program's inception.
 - Jacobs Technology Inc. (Tullahoma, TN)
 - This business was originally known as Jacobs Technology, Inc. at the time of this program's inception.
- Innovative Test Asset Solutions LLC (Tullahoma, TN)
 - Innovative Test Asset Solutions LLC (ITAS) was a joint venture consisting of Jacobs Technology Inc. and PAC Applied Technologies, LLC, which was a joint venture consisting of Bechtel National, Inc. and PAC Applied Technologies, LLC. ITAS was a joint venture consisting of Bechtel National, Inc. and PAC Applied Technologies, LLC. ITAS competed for the Test Operations and Sustainment (TOS) contract. ITAS's Jacobs and PAC, and PAC's GP Strategies, were the joint venture members of the incumbent AEDC contractor, Aerospace Testing Alliance (ATA).
 - Contract: (C2A215), Start Date: Dec. 10/2015. Case #: 418873 | Outcome: Sustained.
 - HE this link to read the GAO decision.
 - Trained With:
 - Jacobs Engineering Group Inc (Dallas, TX)
 - This business was originally known as Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. at the time of this program's inception.
 - PAE Holding Corporation (Arlington, VA)

DATES & VALUES

Award Date: 01-Jul-2015
Value: \$2,616 Million
End Date: 30-Jun-2023
Type: Cost Plus Fixed Fee

PREDECESSOR

- USAF AEDC Awards Jacobs-led Joint Venture \$2.78 Contract to Test Center
 - Awarded: 8 July 2003
 - Value: \$1,400.3M

SUCCESSOR

- USAF AEDC Contracts With Beyond New Horizons for Test Operations and Sustainment (TOS)
 - Awarded: 1-Apr-2024
 - Value: \$3.0M

PROGRAMS

- Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) Support
 - Lesses
- Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC) Support

DOD BUDGET

- RDTE&E
 - Facilities Restoration and Modernization - Test and Evaluation Support
 - Facilities Sustainment, Test and Evaluation Support
 - Major T&E Investment