OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF
DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
3040 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-3040

NOV 2 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (ACQUISITION, LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGY)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (ACQUISITION)
DIRECTOR, BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

SUBJECT: Software Evaluations for ACAT I Programs

On October 26, 1999, the Under Secretary of Defense (AT&L) signed a memorandum directing evaluations of the software capability of contractors for ACAT I programs (see attached memorandum). He also assigned me the responsibility for approving tools for these evaluations that are equivalent to the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) Capability Maturity Model (CMM) Level 3.

I request your assistance in defining Level 3 equivalence requirements for tools that may be proposed for performing these evaluations. These requirements should allow for broad interpretations of Level 3 to foster innovative process improvement programs. In addition, I request your assistance in defining a single recommended evaluation technique so these tools will provide consistent results and will not burden our contractor community with multiple evaluation types.

Please contact my Director, Software Intensive Systems, Dr. Jack Ferguson, (703) 697-7922, fergusj@acq.osd.mil, to participate in this effort.

Delores M. Etter

Delores M. Etter
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Science and Technology)

Attachment

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION AND
TECHNOLOGY

26 OCT 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES
DIRECTOR OF BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION

SUBJECT: Software Evaluations for ACAT I Programs

It is DoD policy that software systems be designed and developed based upon software engineering principles. This includes the selection of contractors with the domain experience in developing comparable software systems, a successful past performance record, and a demonstrable mature software development capability and process. It also requires a software measurement process to plan and track the software program, and to assess and improve the development process and associated software product.

Software development and performance is an integral component of advanced defense systems. Accordingly, it will be a technical requirement for contract that each contractor performing software development or upgrade(s) for use in an ACAT I program will undergo an evaluation, using either the tools developed by the Software Engineering Institute (SEI), or those approved by the DoD Components and the DUSD(S&T).

At a minimum, full compliance with SEI Capability Maturity Model Level 3, or its equivalent level in an approved evaluation tool, is the Department's goal. However, if the prospective contractor does not meet full compliance, a risk mitigation plan and schedule must be prepared that will describe, in detail, actions that will be taken to remove deficiencies uncovered in the evaluation process and must be provided to the Program Manager for approval. The Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Science & Technology) will define Level 3 equivalence for approved evaluation tools. The evaluation will be performed on the business unit proposed to perform the work. The reuse of existing evaluation results performed within a two-year period prior to the date of the government solicitation is encouraged.

This policy is effective immediately and will be incorporated into the current DoD 5000 series rewrite.

J. S. Gansler