

AUTHORITY PATH JUSTIFICATION

Under two special laws (10 U.S.C. 4022 and 4023), DoD can sometimes buy a prototype or run an experiment outside the normal federal buying rules. This page records which route fits your answers, why, and what still needs documenting. Not legal advice — decisions stay with the government.

Your route

1. Vendor: No vendor in mind
2. Selection process: Challenge / CSO to selection

Path

Competitive 4022 Prototype OTA

Production path

Future production path available

Why this path

You have a competitive way to reach this vendor for a prototype, with room for a future production path under this authority.

Still need to document

1. Confirm the competitive access vehicle (Tradewinds, marketplace, ERIS, SBIR/STTR, or existing CDAO agreement)
2. Document the prototype need and production-path intent
3. Route through your organization's OTA approval steps

Irongold