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December 27, 2023

The Honorable Heidi Shyu
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Research and Engineering (USD(R&E))
The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301

Subject: Award/incentive fee criteria should include reduction of Technical Debt

Dear USD Shyu:

This letter augments my letter, dated December 26, 2023, Subj: Include Technical Debt in Policy and Guidance (NDAA for FY 2022, Sec. 835 report). Today, I ask you to consider recommendations made in 2020 regarding incentives to reduce technical debt as well as other recommendations regarding Agile Methods.

The previous recommendations were included in my attached letter to the HASC, SASC, and USD Lord, Subj: Award/Incentive Fees for Software Deliveries Using Agile Methods, dated Feb. 16, 2020. That letter included discussion of technical debt and the use of Agile Methods, both DoD-wide and on the F-35 program.

Please consider the recommendations in the 2020 letter along with those submitted yesterday.

Paul Solomon

CC:

The Hon. William La Plante USD(A&S)

The Hon. Andrew Hunter, AF Asst. Sec. for AT&L

Hon. Donald Norcross, HASC

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Hon. Adam Smith, HASC

Hon. Robert J. Wittman, HASC