



1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide policy and guidance to the SPAWAR Claimancy with regard to bridge contracts.

A bridge contract is any non-competitive service contract or modification that extends the period of performance, essentially "bridging" the time between the end of one service contract action and the beginning of another.

An Institute for Defense Analysis Study of J&A data indicated that nearly one in four sole source contracts for DOD services are bridge contracts ([Toolbox](#)). These non-competitive contracts or period of performance extensions usually result when acquisition process inefficiencies or delays cause the existing contract to expire before a new competitive contract can be awarded. Because bridge contracts are generally awarded solely to the incumbent, they are short-term solutions that impede effective competition.

This guidance does not apply to "Continued Contracts" actions under [DFARS 204.7001](#) and [DFARS PGI 204.7001](#), which are issued solely for administrative purposes and do not expand the scope of work, nor extend the period of performance beyond that of the predecessor contract. Continued contracts are generally issued when continued performance under a contract number is not possible (if the supplementary PII serial numbering system is exhausted, or for major systems contracts with multiple options).

Related guidance is available under CMPG section [5.3.1.4 Bridge Contracts](#) and the [J&A SCPPM](#). 

2. POLICY

In line with the directives of Better Buying Power, to promote real and effective competition, it is SPAWAR Policy to reduce the use of bridge contracts. As bridge contracts are usually awarded pursuant to [FAR 6.302](#) or [FAR 8.405](#), a J&A is required. Before submitting the J&A, an approved Request for Bridge Contract is required (see [Toolbox](#)).

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Program Manager/Technical Code completes the Request for Authorization of Bridge Contract; follows  [J&A SCPPM](#) to prepare J&A.

3.2 HCA collects data; completes the Quarterly Bridge Contract Report and submits it to DASN(AP) Director for Services Acquisition.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1. Bridge Contract Authorization shall be completed and signed by both the program manager/requirement owner and the Activity Chief of the Contracting Office (CCO), Echelon II CCO, or Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA), depending on the threshold value of the bridge. Bridge contract authorization shall be delegable one level only (see [Approvals](#)).

4.2. Prepare Justification and Approval (J&A)

In situations where it cannot be avoided, and no alternative is feasible, a J&A for a new contract citing the appropriate authority and procedures for award under [FAR Part 6](#) will be required.

A. J&As for bridge contracts shall not be processed before the Program Manager completes the Request for Authorization of Bridge Contract. All J&As for bridge contracts must contain the subtitle: "Bridge Contract: Contract Number and J&A Number". Bridge authorization must be approved prior to and included in the J&A package. The determination



must address the rationale for use of a bridge contract, certify the urgency of the requirement, and be signed by both the program manager/requirement owner and the Contracting Officer.

B. Ensure that any such action is processed only in anticipation of a competitive follow-on.

C. Limit the period of performance to the time necessary to process the competitive follow-on. Follow-on contracts that have the same sole source outlook as the original acquisition are also targeted and challenged for the identification of additional sources (see [Toolbox](#)).

4.3. J&A Processing - J&As for bridge contracts shall not be processed before the Bridge Contract Authorization is approved and included in the J&A package.

4.4. Reporting Requirements - Within 30 days from the end of each quarter, SPAWAR Policy 2.3.1 shall submit the Quarterly Bridge Contract Report to DASN (AP) Director for Services Acquisition. Negative reports are required and may be submitted via memorandum. Reports shall be submitted via email to HQ_Contracts_Policy@navy.mil.

5. APPROVALS



Bridge Value (x)	Approval Authority
$x > \$5.5M$	HCA
$\$700K < x \leq \$5.5M$	Echelon II CCO
$\$700K \leq x$	Activity COO

6. TOOLBOX

6.1 Templates/Sample

- [Request for Authorization of Bridge Contract](#) – Sep 2012
- [Quarterly Bridge Contract Report](#) – Apr 2013
- [Sample Bridge e-mail to Admiral](#) – Jan 2016



6.2 Memoranda

- [Implementation Directive for Better Buying Power](#) - USD AT&L, Nov 2010
- [Reducing Reliance on Bridge Contracts](#) – DASN(AP), Oct 2012

6.3 GAO Cases

- [Non-Competitive 8\(a\) Bridge Contracts](#) – GAO, Jan 2006
- [Reasonably Prompt Corrective Action – GAO, Apr 2011](#)

6.4 References

- [Competitiveness in the Services Sector](#) – Institute for Defense Analysis, Mar 2010
- [DoD's Competition Report for FY 2009](#)

7. CHANGE HISTORY

Updated material is highlighted by *purple text* and an Alert/New icon.

Date	Description of Changes
January 2016	Approval thresholds updated and Sample Bridge email added.
March 2014	Content formatted and reorganized; updated links.
November 2012	Last version created in old format. Latest updates under this topic were approval authorities and reporting requirements.