



**FAR FACTS**  
**SEASON 2023, EPISODE TWENTY**  
**FAR PARTS 34 & 35**

1. Major System Acquisitions are those programs that, as determined by the agency head, (1) are directed at and critical to fulfilling an agency mission need, (2) entail allocating relatively large resources for the particular agency, and (3) warrant special management attention, including specific agency-head decisions. **FAR 34.003(c).**
2. The program manager shall, throughout the acquisition process, promote full and open competition and sustain effective competition between alternative major system concepts and sources, as long as it is economically beneficial and practicable to do so. **FAR 34.005.**
3. The phases of a FAR Part 34 -Major System Acquisition are:
  - a. Concept Exploration Contracts
  - b. Demonstration Contracts
  - c. Full-Scale Development Contracts
  - d. Full Production

**FAR 34.005-3, -4, -5, and -6.**

4. An Earned Value Management System (EVMS) is required for major acquisitions for development, in accordance with OMB Circular A-11. **FAR 34.201(a).**
5. As a general rule, Contractors must submit EVMS reports to the Government on a monthly basis. **FAR 34.201(c).**
6. When an EVMS is required, the Government will conduct an Integrated Baseline Review (IBR). The purpose of an IBR is to verify the technical content and the realism performance budgets, resources, and schedules. **FAR 34.202(b).**
7. The contracting officer should require the use of an EVMS that complies with the guidelines of Electronic Industries Alliance Standard 748 (EIA-748) (current version at the time of solicitation). **FAR 34.005-2(b)(6).**
8. The Government has the authority to request that a prime contractor's subcontractors possess a compliant EVMS. **FAR 52.234-3(c) and 52.234-4(g).**
9. Unlike contract for supplies or services, most research and development (R&D) contracts are directed toward objectives for which work methods cannot be precisely described in advance. **FAR 35.002.**

10. In reviewing work statements, contracting officers should ensure that language suitable for a level-of-effort approach, which requires the furnishing of technical effort and a report on the results, is not intermingled with language suitable for a task completion approach, which often requires the development of a tangible end item design to achieve specific performance characteristics. **FAR 35.005(c).**
11. The use of cost reimbursement type contracts is “usually” appropriate for most R&D contracts. **FAR 35.006(c).**
12. Contracting officers should initially distribute solicitations only to sources technically qualified to perform research or development in the specific field of science or technology involved. **FAR 35.007.**
13. During the negotiation of R&D contracts, the contracting officer shall obtain “complete information” concerning the prime contractor’s plans to subcontract any experimental, research, or development services required under the statement of work. **FAR 35.009.**
14. Subcontracting under an R&D contract, generally requires the contracting officer’s prior written approval. **FAR 35.009.**
15. R&D contracts shall specify the technical data to be delivered under the contract. **FAR 35.011.**
16. A broad agency announcement (BAA) is a type of solicitation used for the acquisition of basic and applied research and part of any development not related to the development of a specific system or hardware procurement. **FAR 35.016(a).**
17. BAAs must be publicized through the Government-wide point of entry (GPE) and may also be published in noted scientific, technical, or engineering periodicals if authorized pursuant to subpart 5.5. **FAR 35.016(c).**
18. A federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) enables the Government to use private sector resources to accomplish tasks that are integral to the mission and operation of a sponsoring agency. **FAR 35.017(a)(2).**
19. FFRDCs are operated, managed, and/or administered by either a university or consortium of universities, other not-for-profit or nonprofit organization, or an industrial firm, as an autonomous organization or as an identifiable separate operating unit of a parent organization. **FAR 35.017(a)(3).**
20. FFRDCs are established and operate under what is known as a “Sponsoring Agreement.” **FAR 35.017-1.** The minimum requirements of a Sponsoring Agreement can be found at **FAR 35.017-1(c).**
21. An FFRDC may, if permitted by its Sponsoring Agreement, provide research and development services to agencies other than its “sponsoring agency.” **FAR 35.017-3.**
22. The National Science Foundation maintains a master list of all FFRDCs. **FAR 35.017-6.**