

Supplier Newsletter



WELCOME

As we step into another exciting chapter together, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the role you play in our success. Without your dedication, reliability, and expertise the achievements we celebrate would not be possible.

Your unwavering commitment directly impacts our production efficiency, product quality, and customer satisfaction. But your contributions go beyond delivering materials. You bring innovation, specialized knowledge, and strategic insights that enable us to remain competitive and adapt to a rapidly changing market.

A strong supplier network like ours isn't just about transactions – it's about fostering trust, collaboration, and shared goals. By working together, we've built a partnership that allows us to meet evolving demands with agility and confidence, positioning us for long-term success.

We value the partnerships we've cultivated and look forward to continuing this journey of mutual growth and shared accomplishments. Thank you for being an integral part of our story.

SPOTLIGHT *By Natalie Garcia*

Supplier Day 2024, “The Freedom to Explore”

General Atomics (GA) proudly hosted over 250 participants for its **7th Biennial Supplier Day** on Thursday, November 12, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. PST. The virtual event was hosted by GA Contracts, Procurement and Proposals Management, supported by Quality Assurance. Supplier Day offers a unique and exciting opportunity to network with our Suppliers and share the exciting developments at GA that Suppliers have been and could be a part of.

This inspiring and informational event was the culmination of GA's 2024 Supplier Engagement efforts; it celebrated “The Freedom to Explore,” and the role suppliers play in enabling GA's vision and ability to reach new limits. The day's agenda was carefully crafted to provide attendees with valuable insights into the company's goals, emerging technologies, and future plans. Suppliers engaged in live breakout sessions covering nine key topics. These sessions offered in-depth discussions and interactive Q&A opportunities.

In addition to the breakout sessions, Supplier Day 2024 featured a leadership panel discussion and informative guest speaker presentations. The Supplier Day planning team wishes to thank the distinguished Supplier Day Guest Speakers: **Mr. Neal Blue**, GA Chairman and CEO; **Mr. Scott Forney**, President of GA Electromagnetics (GA-EMS); **Mrs. Zabrina Johal**, Senior Director of GA Energy Strategic Development; **Mr. Mike Rucker**, Head of GA-EMS Weapons; **Dr. Kenneth Khumthong**, Senior Manager of GA Energy Group Engineering.

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QUALITY MATTERS

By Thane Douglass

The Importance of Objective Quality Evidence

In the high-stakes world of government contracting, quality is not just an expectation – it's a mandate. Every product or service delivered must meet stringent requirements, ensuring reliability, compliance, and performance. For suppliers and their sub-suppliers, this translates into a critical need to provide sufficient Objective Quality Evidence (OQE). Without it, even the most well-crafted components can face rejection, delay timelines and tarnish reputations. All GA Suppliers must prioritize delivering accurate, comprehensive OQE as it directly impacts the success of government contracts.

Documented Process to Plan First Article Inspection (FAI):

AS9102 Rev. C, Section 4.1 requires organizations to document a process to plan for FAI. In contrast, previous revisions only required a process exist, allowing organizations flexibility when presenting that process to external stakeholders. For organizations that did not previously delineate a FAI plan in procedures or work instructions, this new requirement could be substantial in that a documented process becomes auditable.

1. Compliance with Government Regulations

Government contracts operate under strict quality standards governed by regulations such as the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001, and Aero Space (AS) 9100. OQE provides documented proof that materials, processes, and final products meet these rigorous specifications. Without it, the entire supply chain risks noncompliance, potentially leading to contract penalties, financial losses, and disqualification from future bids.

Tip: Always review your purchase Order for specific OQE requirements, including material certificates, test reports, and inspection records.

2. Traceability and Accountability

OQE creates an unbroken chain of traceability from raw materials to the finished product. In government projects, traceability is paramount – not just for accountability, but also for safety and reliability. Should a defect arise, OQE allows for swift root cause analysis and corrective action, reducing downtime and financial implications.

For sub-suppliers, providing complete OQE ensures their contribution to the supply chain is transparent and reliable, building trust with both the contracted supplier and the end customer.

3. Mitigating Supply Chain Risks

Supply chain disruptions are a common challenge, but incomplete or insufficient OQE exacerbates delays and rework. If a government contractor receives a component lacking the necessary documentation, they are legally required to pause production until all requirements are met. This ripple effect can delay project completion, increase costs, and damage relationships.

Suppliers that consistently deliver accurate and thorough OQE help create a resilient supply chain, minimizing bottlenecks and ensuring on-time delivery.

4. Enhancing Reputation and Future Opportunities

Government contractors value suppliers and sub-suppliers who consistently meet quality and documentation requirements. By providing sufficient OQE, GA Suppliers demonstrate professionalism, reliability, and a commitment to excellence. These qualities not only enhance their reputation but also position them as preferred partner for future Orders.

Best Practices for Providing OQE

- **Understand Contract Requirements:** Thoroughly review and understand the quality and documentation standards outlined in the Order.
- **Maintain Accurate Records:** Keep detailed records of material certifications, inspection results, and testing procedures.
- **Review Associated Documentation:** Scrutinize all documents, certifications, inspection reports, and test records to identify and rectify inaccuracies and inconsistencies.
- **Invest in Quality Management Systems:** Implement robust QMS frameworks, such as ISO 9001 and/or AS9100, to streamline documentation and ensure compliance.
- **Communicate with Your Supplier:** Establish clear lines of communication with GA to address questions or clarify requirements promptly.

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CYBERSECURITY CORNER

By Kevin Pyle

CMMC Is Coming

On August 15, 2024, the DoD published the proposed rule amending 48 CFR Parts 204, 212, 217 and 252 providing guidance to contracting officers and implementing the contractual requirements related to the **Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC)** 2.0 program. CMMC 2.0 provides a framework for assessing contractor implementation of cybersecurity requirements and enhancing the protection of unclassified information within the DoD supply chain.

Proposed changes to the existing Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) include:

1. Add references to the CMMC 2.0 program requirements proposed at 32 CFR part 170 to DFARS 252.204-7021;
2. Add definitions for controlled unclassified information (CUI) and DoD unique identifier (DOD UID) to the subpart to DFARS 252.204-7021;
3. Establish a solicitation provision (252.204-7YYY) and prescription;
4. Revise the existing clause language (252.204-7021) and prescription.

The proposed rule's revisions to DFARS 252.204-7021, **"Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Requirements,"** create additional requirements for contractors and subcontractors including:

- Obtain a CMMC certificate from a CMMC Third-Party Assessment Organization (C3PAO) or a CMMC self-assessment for each contractor information system that will process, store, or transmit FCI or CUI prior to award and throughout performance of the contract
- Complete and maintain annually, or when a change to compliance status occurs, in SPRS an affirmation by an Affirming Official of continuous compliance with the security requirements at 32 CFR part 170 for each of the information systems that will process, store, or transmit FCI or CUI during the performance of the contract

- Notify the Contracting Officer within 72 hours when there are any lapses in information security or changes in the status of CMMC certificate or self-assessment during performance of the contract
- Confirm Subcontractors complete and maintain on an annual basis or when changes occur in status, an affirmation of continuous compliance with the security requirements associated with the CMMC level required for the subcontract

GA Suppliers that handle FCI, CDI or CUI will be required to implement, and maintain for the life of the subcontract, the CMMC level commensurate with the type of information being handled. The CMMC level required under the subcontract will be flowed down to suppliers in accordance with the proposed rule.

The proposed rule indicates that CMMC will follow a phased-in approach. During the initial three years following the final rule's effective date, the information collection requirements will impact contractors only when the solicitation or contract requires an offeror to have a specific CMMC level. These refer to contracts for which the CMMC Program Office directs DoD component program offices to include a CMMC requirement. By the fourth year, the information collection requirements in the solicitation provision and contract clause will impact all DoD contracts when there will be a requirement to process, store or transmit FCI or CUI.

In October 2024, the final 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 170 was also published. This begins the market rollout of CMMC (where DIB companies can obtain their certification(s) prior to contractual obligation).



In The News



By Zach Baur

Navy Gold Coast Event – Diamond Sponsor

General Atomics (GA) and its affiliate, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI), were proud to be a collective Diamond Sponsor of the 36th annual Department of the Navy Gold Coast Small Business Exposition at the San Diego Convention Center, August 19-21, 2024.

As the premier Navy procurement conference, Navy Gold Coast provides essential education and support for businesses of all

sizes to aid the warfighter mission. The GA and GA-ASI Small Business Program Offices participate annually to enhance and diversify their supplier base through strategic small business partnerships. We look forward to continuing to engage with the small businesses we met toward leveraging these partnerships in support of our nation's warfighters.



QUALITY MATTERS *Continued from p. 2*

For GA Suppliers, providing sufficient OQE is not just about compliance – it's about contributing to a larger mission. Our projects often have national security, public safety, or critical infrastructure implications, making every component and document essential.

By delivering comprehensive and accurate OQE, GA Suppliers strengthen the entire supply chain, foster trust, and ensure the successful completion of our work. It's a commitment to excellence that benefits everyone – from the smallest vendor to the end user.

Also, see our past article on AS9100, Embracing Efficiency and Adaptability: Changes to AS9100 Certification Process and the Rise of Remote Auditing, in the Spring/Summer 2023 issue. [SupplierNewsletter SpringSummer23.pdf](#).

On the Horizon

General Atomics Signs a Memorandum of Understanding With Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation

Collaboration Will Fast-Track Technologies, Materials for Nuclear Reactor Systems

General Atomics (GA) announced that it has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with the **Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC)** to investigate collaborative project opportunities to support United Arab Emirates (UAE) nuclear energy programs. Representatives from both companies signed the MOU while attending the CERAWEEK Conference in Houston, TX.

Under the MOU, General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS), a group operating within GA, and ENEC will conduct detailed discussions covering several projects, including opportunities to utilize GA-EMS' **SiGA® cladding** for nuclear reactor applications and **Fast Modular Nuclear Reactor designs**. Silicon carbide cladding will improve the safety and affordability of existing light

water reactors, as well as minimize outage time. Additionally, this innovative material is critical for the Department of Energy-funded Fast Modular Reactor (FMR) design and other advanced or Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) that use high temperature to achieve high efficiency in production of electricity.

“We look forward to working with ENEC to develop potential opportunities to fast-track the development of advanced fuels, silicon carbide cladding and new modular reactor designs to support the UAE’s innovation-driven nuclear energy initiatives,” stated **Scott Forney**, president of GA-EMS.

“ENEC has extensive experience in developing nuclear programs and building and operating reactor systems to the highest standards of safety, quality, and security. We are committed to working with companies like ENEC, whose reputation for excellence is synergistic with ours, to deliver these revolutionary technologies to greatly enhance the safety, durability, performance, and economics of nuclear energy systems.”

To read further please click [here](#).



Scott Forney (left), President of General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems and His Excellency Mohamed Al Hammadi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation

In The News (continued)

GA-ASI Selected to Build CCA for AFLCMC

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) has been selected to build production representative flight test articles of the **Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA)** for the U.S. **Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC)**. This option contract award exercises the critical design, build, and flight test on the existing CCA contract with GA-ASI following an initial 6-month phase that culminated in a successful CCA preliminary design review (PDR) earlier this year.

The CCA program aims to be a force multiplier, developing a low-cost, modular, unmanned aircraft equipped with advanced sensors or weapons and operating in collaborative teams with the next generation of manned combat aircraft.

In February 2024, GA-ASI successfully conducted the maiden flight of the XQ-67A CCA prototype aircraft validating the “genus/species” concept pioneered by the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) as part of the Low-Cost Attritable Aircraft Platform Sharing (LCAAPS) program. This program focused on building several aircraft variants from a common core chassis. Since then, this prototype for CCA has successfully completed two additional test flights, laying the groundwork for a successful production and flight test program. GA-ASI's CCA production representative design is based upon the XQ-67A Off-Board Sensing Station developed by GA-ASI for the AFRL.

“The CCA program redefines the future of aviation and will shape the USAF acquisition model to deliver affordable combat mass to the warfighter at the speed of relevancy,” said **Mike Atwood**, Vice President of Advanced Programs for GA-ASI.

“Throughout our 30-year history, GA-ASI has been at the forefront of rapidly advancing unmanned aircraft systems that support our warfighters,” said GA-ASI President **David R. Alexander**.

“The USAF is moving forward with GA-ASI due to our focused commitment to unmanned air-to-air combat operations and unmatched UAS experience, ensuring the production of the CCA aircraft at scale to deliver affordable combat mass for the warfighter.”

To complement the CCA contract, GA-ASI will continue to conduct a series of autonomy and mission system tests on the MQ-20 Avenger® UAS and XQ-67A to accelerate the readiness of operational autonomy. These live flight tests will continue to demonstrate the readiness of the full mission capability to support the emerging U.S. Air Force Autonomous Collaborative Platforms (ACP).

To read further click [here](#).



Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) for the U.S. Air Force Life Cycle Management Center (AFLCMC).

In The News (continued)

GA-ASI Awarded Next Gen HF Modem Contract

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) was awarded a contract on October 4, 2024, to develop a next generation high-frequency (HF) modem for the U.S. Naval Information Warfare (NAVWAR) Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (PEO C4I). The task order was issued by the Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Pacific.

GA-ASI will develop a cost-efficient, software-defined Generation 2 HF modem that meets U.S. Navy ship, sub, and shore environmental requirements and supports a rapid fielding schedule. GA-ASI will provide waveform and modem development, test and

evaluation, as well as onsite technical assistance for the NAVWAR PEO C4I program.

“The Gen2 Modem delivers the security and resilience the U.S. Navy needs for its tactical radio fleet modernization efforts,” said **Jeff Hettick**, GA-ASI vice president of Agile Mission Systems.

“These modems will be the heart of the HF system, providing high-speed, long-range HF communications that meets the Navy’s demanding program of record requirements, which includes beyond-line-of-sight communications in a satellite-denied environment.”

The work will be performed by GA-ASI over a 16-month base development timeline.

General Atomics Awarded Navy Contract to Advance Long Range Maneuvering Projectile

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) has been awarded a contract from the U.S. Navy via Advanced Technology International (ATI) for its Long-Range Maneuvering Projectile (LRMP) Common Round. GA-EMS received the award under the Naval Surface Technology Innovation Consortium (NSTIC) Other Transaction Authority (OTA) contract vehicle to mature and further demonstrate the company’s LRMP prototype system to perform the Navy’s Common Round offensive strike capabilities at increased range using fielded 155 mm artillery systems.

“The LRMP is truly an innovative design, delivering greater range and maneuverability, precision, and payload flexibility to support a variety of missions, including strike and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance missions,” said **Scott Forney**, president of GA-EMS.

“The LRMP’s capabilities have the potential to deliver lethal effects to defeat static and moving targets at 120 km and beyond. This represents a factor of 4 increase in range from conventional artillery systems beyond what is currently available today.”

The LRMP’s simplified design and unique projectile shape enables very long glide ranges without the need for auxiliary propulsion or rocket assist. It is scalable for use in all existing artillery systems,



ensuring compatibility with legacy launchers, autoloaders and handling equipment. With greater maneuverability, accuracy, and payload options, LRMP offers additional cross range benefits to increase the engagement zone without having to reposition the launcher.

“GA-EMS has conducted successful LRMP testing to ensure survivability, performance, and aerodynamics,” said **Mike Rucker**, head of GA-EMS Weapon Programs.

“We are in preparations for upcoming LRMP Common Round glide testing at Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah as part of the first contract task order. Additional milestone testing and follow on tasks will be completed throughout the contract’s five-year period of performance to design, manufacture, assemble and test LRMP rounds for 155 mm artillery systems as well as other platforms.”

In The News (continued)

General Atomics Expands International Collaborations and Partnerships with Japan in Critical and Emerging Technologies

General Atomics, a defense and diversified technologies company with affiliates operating on five continents, is expanding its collaborations and partnerships across Japan with new investments in the nuclear energy and rare earth elements sectors.

Numerous teaming arrangements are in the late stages of discussion and are set to be announced in early 2024. These partnerships will complement the company's existing relationships as a long-term partner collaborating with Japanese industry and government agencies.

"General Atomics is committed to collaborating with its Japanese partners to advance the development of cutting-edge technologies in the maritime security, nuclear energy, and rare earth elements sectors," said **Dr. Vivek Lall**, chief executive at General Atomics Global Corporation.

"Building on a legacy of successful collaborations, we have held a series of strategic engagements with government officials, industry leaders, and research institutions in Japan. These engagements have laid the foundation for future partnerships aimed at advancing the development of critical and emerging technologies."

In 2023, Japan's Kyoto Fusioneering announced [an agreement with GA](#) to supply two advanced gyrotrons to the U.S. Department of Energy's DIII-D National Fusion Facility in San Diego, Calif.



Currently, the [Japan Coast Guard \(JCG\)](#) and [Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force \(JMSDF\)](#) are testing and deploying the MQ-9B SeaGuardian® Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) built by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI). SeaGuardian is a long-endurance maritime surveillance aircraft that can be used for a variety of missions, including search and rescue, disaster response, and maritime law enforcement.

GA-ASI's MQ-9B aircraft is revolutionizing the global RPA systems market by providing true all-weather capability and full compliance with STANAG-4671 (NATO UAS airworthiness standard). This feature, along with GA-ASI's operationally proven collision avoidance radar, enables flexible operations in civil airspace.

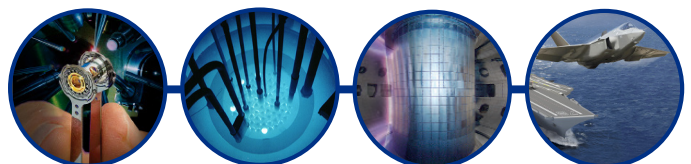
To read further click [here](#).

Supplier Day *Continued from p. 1*

Adding to Supplier Day's impact were special video segments that showcased GA's commitment to innovation, with highlights on new technologies and our rich history. The videos underscored how GA and our partners are advancing solutions that empower greater freedom of exploration in all five sectors.

If you missed Supplier Day, review the videos and materials on our [website](#).

GA extends its sincere gratitude to all who attended and contributed to the success of the 7th bi-annual Supplier Day. With the knowledge gained and connections strengthened, we look forward to continuing our exploration and shared growth alongside our supplier partners.



In The News (continued)

General Atomics Awarded Space Development Agency Contract to Demonstrate Optical Communication Terminals

General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS) has been awarded a contract from the Space Development Agency (SDA) to demonstrate the capabilities of the company's Optical Communication Terminals (OCTs) hosted on GA-EMS' GA-75 (75 kilogram class) spacecraft while in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

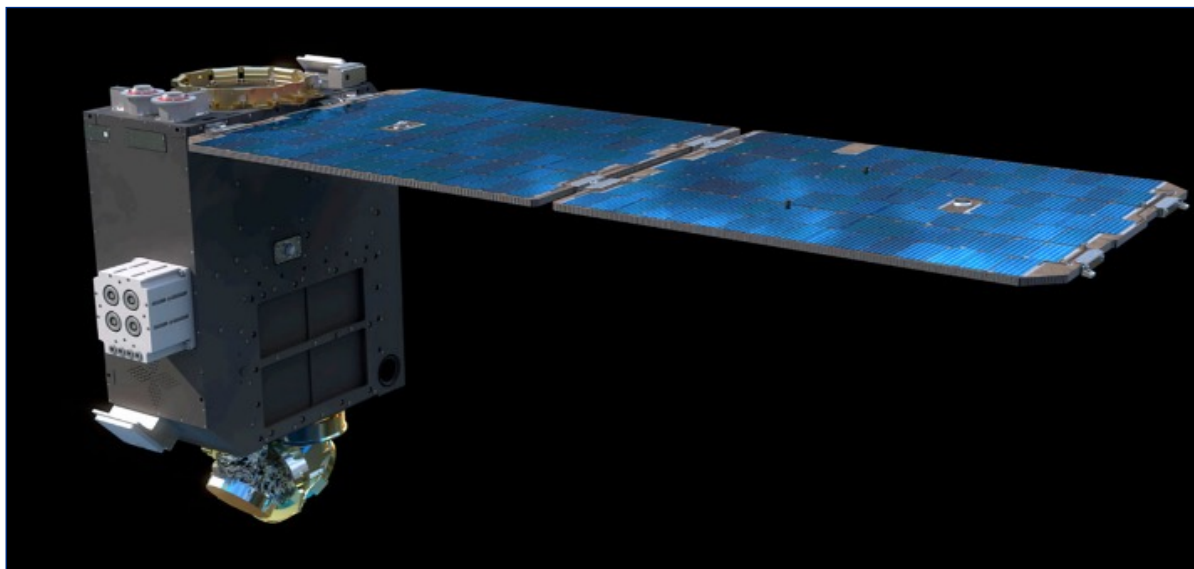
"We're excited to continue working with SDA and look forward to demonstrating our OCT capability developed, built, and tested by GA-EMS, and integrated on GA-EMS-designed and built spacecraft," said **Scott Forney**, president of GA-EMS.

"This contract supports the deployment of next generation optical communication technologies that will provide faster, more secure, higher fidelity transmissions, and greater resiliency to ensure 24/7 connectivity from the earth to space."

GA-EMS is designing and building two OCTs to provide robust space-to-space communication in a degraded environment and establish and maintain links to meet SDA standards and requirements. The OCTs can support a vast network of satellites, data and information sharing, and collective on-orbit computing resources to support customer and mission requirements.

The OCTs will be integrated on two GA-EMS GA-75 spacecraft. The GA-75 is a resilient, modular, and configurable half-ESPA bus design with capabilities to support a variety of communications and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) payloads and missions. The GA-75 is a commercially available platform that utilizes standard payload interfaces to enable seamless integration and mission-ready delivery times. It is also compatible with multiple launch vehicles and can package two spacecraft per ESPA port or fill a single ESPA port depending on mission payload size.

To read further click [here](#).



GA-EMS GA-75 Satellite with Optical Communication Terminal

As a high technology and high concept provider of Defense and Energy solutions, GA is uniquely positioned for growth and success. Global progress through technology remains our mission. **GA appreciates the support of its Suppliers in accomplishing this mission.**

Remember to contact your Purchasing Representative about any questions regarding open Orders or your continued performance. Your Purchasing Representative is your primary point of contact.

Please advise your Purchasing Representative when contacted by other GA personnel. If you have any comments or questions about this publication, please contact us at SupplierEngagement@GA.com.