

SUBCHAPTER E—GENERAL CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

PART 1827—PATENTS, DATA, AND COPYRIGHTS

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AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 2473(c)(1).

SOURCE: 62 FR 36715, July 9, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

1827.000 Scope of part.

This part prescribes NASA policies, procedures, and clauses pertaining to patents, data, and copyrights. The provisions of FAR part 27 apply to NASA acquisitions unless specifically excepted in this part.

Subpart 1827.3—Patent Rights Under Government Contracts

1827.301 Definitions.

Administrator, as used in this subpart, means the Administrator of NASA or a duly authorized representative.

Contract, as used in this subpart, means any actual or proposed contract, agreement, understanding, or other arrangement, and includes any assignment, substitution of parties, or sub-

contract executed or entered into thereunder.

Made, in lieu of the definition in FAR 27.301, as used in this subpart, means conceived or first actually reduced to practice; provided that in the case of a variety of plant, the date of determination (as defined in Section 41(d) of the Plant Variety Protection Act, 7 U.S.C. 2401(d)) must also occur during the period of contract performance.

Reportable item, as used in this subpart, means any invention, discovery, improvement, or innovation of the contractor, whether or not patentable or otherwise protectible under Title 35 of the United States Code, made in the performance of any work under any NASA contract or in the performance of any work that is reimbursable under any clause in any NASA contract providing for reimbursement of costs incurred before the effective date of the contract. Reportable items include, but are not limited to, new processes, machines, manufactures, and compositions of matter, and improvements to, or new applications of, existing processes, machines, manufactures, and compositions of matter. Reportable items also include new computer programs, and improvements to, or new applications of, existing computer programs, whether or not copyrightable or otherwise protectible under Title 17 of the United States Code.

Subject invention, in lieu of the definition in FAR 27.301, as used in this subpart, means any reportable item that is or may be patentable or otherwise protectible under Title 35 of the United States Code, or any novel variety of plant that is or may be protectible under the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2321 et seq.).

[62 FR 36715, July 9, 1997, as amended at 62 FR 58688, Oct. 30, 1997; 63 FR 63209, Nov. 12, 1998]

1827.302 Policy. (NASA supplements paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (i)).

(a) *Introduction*. (i) NASA policy with respect to any invention, discovery, improvement, or innovation made in the performance of work under any

NASA contract or subcontract with other than a small business firm or a nonprofit organization and the allocation to related property rights is based upon Section 305 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2457) (the Act); and, to the extent consistent with this statute, the Presidential Memorandum or Government Patent Policy to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, dated February 18, 1983, and Section 1(d)(4) of Executive Order 12591. NASA policy with respect to any invention made in the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work with a small business firm or a nonprofit organization is based on 35 U.S.C. Chapter 18, as amended.

(ii) NASA contracts subject to Section 305 of the Act shall ensure the prompt reporting of reportable items in order to protect the Government's interest and to provide widest practicable and appropriate dissemination, early utilization, expeditious development, and continued availability for the benefit of the scientific, industrial, and commercial communities and the general public.

(b) *Contractor right to elect title.* (i) For NASA contracts, the contractor right to elect title only applies to contracts with small businesses and nonprofit organizations. For other business entities, see subdivision (ii) of this paragraph.

(ii) Contractor right to request a waiver of title. For NASA contracts with other than a small business firm or a nonprofit organization (contracts subject to Section 305 of the Act), it is the policy of NASA to waive the rights (to acquire title) of the United States (with the reservation of a Government license set forth in FAR 27.302(c) and the march-in rights of FAR 27.302(f) and 1827.302(f)) in and to any subject invention if the Administrator determines that the interests of the United States will be served. This policy, as well as the procedures and instructions for such waiver of rights, is stated in the NASA Patent Waiver Regulations, 14 CFR Section 1245, Subpart 1. Waiver may be requested in advance of contract award for any or all of the subject inventions, or for individually identified subject inventions reported

under the contract. When waiver of rights is granted, the contractor's right to title, the rights reserved by the Government, and other conditions and obligations of the waiver shall be included in an Instrument of Waiver executed by NASA and the party receiving the waiver.

(iii) It is also a policy of NASA to consider for a monetary award, when referred to the NASA Inventions and Contributions Board, any subject invention reported to NASA in accordance with this subpart, and for which an application for patent has been filed.

(c) *Government license.* For each subject invention made in the performance of work under a NASA contract with other than a small business firm or nonprofit organization and for which waiver of rights has been granted in accordance with 14 CFR Section 1245, Subpart 1, the Administrator shall reserve an irrevocable, nonexclusive, nontransferable, royalty-free license for the practice of such invention throughout the world by or on behalf of the United States or any foreign Government in accordance with any treaty or agreement of the United States.

(d) *Government right to receive title.* Under any NASA contract with other than a small business or nonprofit organization (i.e., those contracts subject to Section 305(a) of the Act), title to subject inventions vests in NASA when the determinations of Section 305(a)(1) or 305(a)(2) have been made. The Administrator may grant a waiver of title in accordance with 14 CFR Section 1245.

(e) *Utilization reports.* For any NASA contract with other than a small business firm or a nonprofit organization, the requirements for utilization reports shall be as set forth in the NASA Patent Waiver Regulations, 14 CFR Section 1245, Subpart 1, and any Instrument of Waiver executed under those Regulations.

(f) *March-in rights.* For any NASA contract with other than a small business firm or a nonprofit organization, the march-in rights shall be as set forth in the NASA Patent Waiver Regulations, 14 CFR Section 1245, Subpart 1, and any Instrument of Waiver executed under those Regulations.

(g) *Preference for United States industry.* Waiver of the requirement for the agreement for any NASA contract with other than a small business firm or a nonprofit organization shall be in accordance with the NASA Patent Waiver Regulations, 14 CFR Section 1245, Subpart 1.

(i) *Minimum rights to contractor.* (1) For NASA contracts with other than a small business firm or a nonprofit organization (i.e., those contracts subject to Section 305(a) of the Act), where title to any subject inventions vests in NASA, the contractor is normally granted, in accordance with 14 CFR 1245, a revocable, nonexclusive, royalty-free license in each patent application filed in any country and in any resulting patent. The license extends to any of the contractor's domestic subsidiaries and affiliates within the corporate structure, and includes the right to grant sublicenses of the same scope to the extent the contractor was legally obligated to do so at the time the contract was awarded. The license and right are transferable only with the approval of the Administrator, except when transferred to the successor of that part of the contractor's business to which the invention pertains.

(2) The Administrator is the approval authority for revoking or modifying a license. The procedures for revocation or modification are described in 37 CFR 404.10 and 14 CFR 1245.108.

1827.303 Contract clauses. (NASA supplements paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d))

(a)(1)(A) See 1827.303-70(a).

(B) To qualify for the clause at FAR 52.227-11, a prospective contractor may be required to represent itself as either a small business firm or a nonprofit organization. If there is reason to question the status of the prospective contractor, the contracting officer may file a protest in accordance with FAR 19.302 if small business firm status is questioned, or require the prospective contractor to furnish evidence of its status as nonprofit organization.

(5) Alternate IV to 52.227-11 is not used in NASA contracts. See instead 1827.303-70(a).

(b)(1)(ii) FAR 52.227-12 is not used in NASA contracts. See instead 1827.303-70(b).

(c)(1)(ii) When work is to be performed outside the United States, its possessions, and Puerto Rico by contractors that are not domestic firms, see 1827.303-70(f).

(2) See 1827.303-70 (b) and (f).

(d)(1) When one of the conditions in FAR 27.303(d)(1) (i) through (iv) is met, the contracting officer shall consult with the installation intellectual property counsel to determine the appropriate clause.

[62 FR 36715, July 9, 1997, as amended at 64 FR 36606, July 7, 1999]

1827.303-70 NASA solicitation provisions and contract clauses.

(a) When the clause at FAR 52.227-11 is included in a solicitation or contract, it shall be modified as set forth at 1852.227-11.

(b) The contracting officer shall insert the clause at 1852.227-70, New Technology, in all NASA solicitations and contracts with other than a small business firm or a nonprofit organization (i.e., those subject to section 305(a) of the Act), if the contract is to be performed in the United States, its possessions, or Puerto Rico and has as a purpose the performance of experimental, developmental, research, design, or engineering work. Contracts for any of the following purposes may be considered to involve the performance of work of the type described above (these examples are illustrative and not limiting):

(1) Conduct of basic or applied research.

(2) Development, design, or manufacture for the first time of any machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter to satisfy NASA's specifications or special requirements.

(3) Development of any process or technique for attaining a NASA objective not readily attainable through the practice of a previously developed process or technique.

(4) Testing of, evaluation of, or experimentation with a machine, process, concept, or technique to determine whether it is suitable or could be made suitable for a NASA objective.