

COVID-19 Alert: The health, safety and well-being of our employees, customers, community and suppliers are our top priorities as we provide continued support and service to our US government and non-government customers. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and advising employees and stakeholders to take necessary precautions. Please visit www.ga.com and click ['Procurement'](#) or ['Visitor Information'](#) for announcements and additional information.

Supplier Newsletter



Spring 2021

SPOTLIGHT

General Atomics Awarded DARPA Contract to Design Nuclear Thermal Propulsion System for DRACO Mission



From its original charter to explore peaceful uses of atomic energy, GA drew leading scientists who formed the nucleus of a thriving company that continues to attract leaders in science and engineering.

GA's Electromagnetic Systems Group (GA-EMS) is applying that 66 years of research and talent to a new contract award from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), to support the Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations (DRACO) program. GA-EMS will lead the design of a novel Nuclear Thermal Propulsion (NTP) system that will allow a rocket to operate in cislunar space, the region outside of Earth's atmosphere to just past the moon's orbit.

"We are excited to support DARPA in defining the next evolution of propulsion technology, critical to maintaining space domain awareness in the cislunar region and beyond," stated Scott Forney, president of GA-EMS. "GA-EMS is uniquely positioned to support this effort because we have capabilities and heritage in both nuclear reactor systems and space systems, the combination of which is required to execute the DRACO mission."

The goal of the DRACO program is to demonstrate an NTP system on orbit by 2025. To date, the SNAP-10A reactor has been the only U.S. nuclear power reactor launched into space, for which General Atomics was directly involved in nuclear fuel testing and characterization. Over the next 18 months, GA-EMS will deliver a preliminary design of the NTP system in order to demonstrate and ensure the system is operationally effective and able to be built and validated in low-earth orbit within the next five years.

"We know what it takes to design and build safe, mission-specific reactors, as exemplified by our more than 66 TRIGA® (Training, Research, Isotopes, General Atomics) reactors around the world that are widely regarded as some of the safest reactors ever built," said Dr. Christina Back, Vice President of Nuclear Technologies and Materials at GA-EMS. "GA-EMS' expertise in state-of-the-art nuclear fuels and advanced materials are key components to the NTP design to create a highly efficient and exceptionally safe propulsion system. Combined with our in-house capabilities to fabricate these components and others, we can ensure delivery of a superior NTP reactor on orbit and on time."

Read more about DRACO at [DARPA's website](#); and learn more about [GA's Products and Technology](#).

WELCOME

GA recognizes the role our Suppliers play in our success and we thank you for supporting our critical customers during the global pandemic. A brief pause quickly turned into learning how to do business differently. We are proud of our Employees and Suppliers who adapted quickly, but did not lose sight of their commitments. Our Spring issue looks at some of those commitments - one even dating back to our founding.

QUALITY MATTERS

The unique quality imperative faced by Aerospace & Defense

The Aerospace & Defense (A&D) industry has recognized the crucial role of quality in the performance of aviation, space, and defense products for decades. That's why the industry developed quality standards that take into account the industry's unique challenges for product safety and reliability.

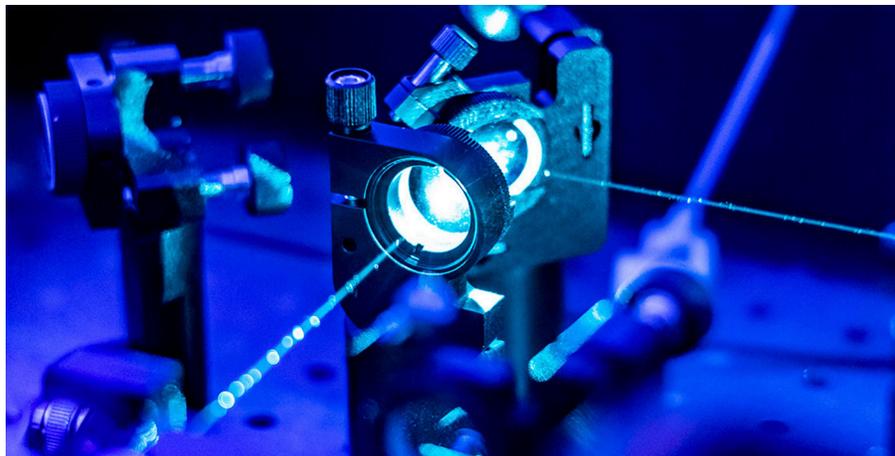
Aerospace Standard 9100, referred to as AS9100, is the international Quality Management System (QMS) standard for the A&D industry. This standard was created by the International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG) with the help of representatives from aviation, space and defense companies worldwide. It was first released by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) in October 1999, replacing the earlier AS9000 standard. The current version is AS9100D.

AS9100 fully incorporates the International Standards Organization (ISO) 9001 standard, which is generally accepted by most industries around the world. And, because AS9100 was designed specifically for manufacturing and services companies within the aerospace sector, it satisfies Department of Defense (DoD), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) quality requirements, among others.

To be "AS9100 Certified" means that an organization has met the requirements of AS9100, after review and concurrence ('certification') by an independent certification body. There is a strong preference across the A&D industry to work with certified suppliers because of the confidence it instills in products.

GA-EMS is proud to be certified to the most current version of AS9100. To maintain that certification, GA flows down certain requirements to its suppliers. It is critical to GA that suppliers perform to these requirements. Not only does it help ensure we maintain this highly coveted certification, but it also promotes confidence in the quality, safety, and reliability of our suppliers' products and services.

For more information on your role in safe and reliable products, see our [Quality Assurance](#) page. As a valued supplier to GA, we appreciate your continued commitment to quality and your support of our valued AS9100 certification.



SUPPLIER FOCUS

A foundation for successful partnerships: GA's Supplier Code of Conduct

GA recognizes its civic responsibility to conduct business in a responsible and ethical manner. Even when the law does not apply, the Company maintains certain standards of ethics and morality that employees and suppliers adhere to. The standards set forth in our [Supplier Code of Conduct](#) are an extension of GA's internal Code of Business Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

While supporting the critical products and services GA provides to its customers, we expect a robust commitment to lawful, moral and ethical behavior from our suppliers; just as we expect from our employees.

Please take some time to review our Supplier Code of Conduct. It features the statement of 'Core Values' and a number of 'Practical Commitments.' These commitments help to ensure we deliver products of the highest quality and reliability while conducting business honestly, fairly and with an eye toward stewardship.

Over the next few issues, look for features exploring the Supplier Code of Conduct and its commitments.

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

A Reminder to GA Large Business Suppliers and Subcontractors

The USG has established aggressive goals for the utilization of small businesses in federal contracting. And in 2020, the Small Business Administration was pleased to announce the [USG had exceeded its goals for fiscal year 2019](#).

GA is proud to partner with its valued Suppliers, small and large, to contribute to these goals.

Did you know that GA submits reports to the USG regarding its small business utilization? If you are a large, or other-than-small, business who has provided GA with a Small Business Subcontracting Plan that was incorporated into an Order, you probably do. These reports are an "Individual Subcontracting Report" (ISR).

The reporting requirements are contained in [FAR 52.219-9 "Small Business Subcontracting Plan"](#). ISRs are submitted using the [Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System \(eSRS\)](#). An ISR is specific to one contract and is due twice a year. ISRs cover data from the contract's inception to the periods ending on March 31 and September 30.

If an Order from GA requires a supplier to submit these reports, the GA Buyer will provide the information below to facilitate supplier reporting:

- Prime Contract number
- Subcontract Number (GA Purchase Order number)
- GA's DUNS Number
- Email address of GA's Small Business Liaison Officer (SBLO)

Suppliers are expected to submit the required reports, even if the Supplier had no purchasing activity during that reporting period in support of their GA Order.

Additionally, if the Supplier makes a sub-tier award that exceeds the threshold for a Small Business Subcontracting Plan, the Supplier is required to obtain a subcontracting plan from its supplier in accordance with FAR 52.219-9 and provide their supplier with:

- the Prime Contract Number that was provided on the GA Order,
- Suppliers DUNS, and
- email address of the Supplier individual who will accept or reject the supplier's submissions (usually the SBLO).

It's critical that GA Suppliers, and their suppliers, comply with any required reporting actions. In addition, GA Suppliers should seek out opportunities to work with small businesses and support the USG goals.

If you are a small business interested in learning more about how to participate in federal contracting, please visit the [SBA website](#) and [GA's Small Business website](#).

FAR 52.219-9 "Small Business Subcontracting Plan" mentions another required report, the Summary Subcontract Report (SSR).

SSRs are required to be submitted by other-than-small businesses who are subject to FAR 52.219-9. The SSR encompasses all purchasing activity associated with a USG executive agency. The SSR is due annually by October 30th and covers the previous twelve-month period from October 1st through September 30th. SSRs are submitted to the federal government, only, and are not received by GA.

COMPLIANCE CORNER

Don't fear Purchasing System Reviews; Be Prepared!

Government audits, especially Contractor Purchasing System Reviews (CPSRs) generally inspire anxiety and dread. Not at GA. At GA, we appreciate the competitive advantage that an approved Purchasing System provides us; and by maintaining an always ready state we perform in audits just like our products perform in the field, flawlessly and reliably.

A CPSR is an evaluation conducted by the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) to assess the efficiency and effectiveness with which a prime contractor spends Government funds. The results of a CPSR are forwarded to the administrative contracting officer (ACO) who will make a determination to grant, withhold or withdraw approval of the purchasing system. A withholding or withdrawing of approval can have serious financial and operational consequences on a prime contractor.

At GA, we manage our Purchasing System to exacting specifications and in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Our staff leverages government and industry resources in the pursuit of repeated approval of our system. One of our most significant resources, outside of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and the Defense FAR supplement (DFARS), is the ["CPSR Guidebook"](#).

The Guidebook is updated on a regular basis to reflect the procedures by which DCMA conducts CPSRs. It includes specific regulatory references, their applicability to purchasing systems and subcontracts, and in nearly all cases, an outline of the requirements and expectations of a CPSR analyst during a review. This tool dates back to 2015 and was released by DCMA to align contractors' expectations.

While not all GA Suppliers are subject to this requirement, the CPSR Guidebook still serves as an important resource for understanding our business needs and certain industry best practices to implement requirements that may be included in GA Orders. One requirement that is of particular focus for GA is the need for timely acknowledgement of our Orders which support Government customers. Timely acknowledgement, according to the requirement in the Order, ensures that you are able to support critical Government schedules and confirms to GA that your company is in good standing and eligible to receive Government funds.

Speaking of Order Acknowledgements...

Orders from GA may include a Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS) rating. In these cases, federal regulation requires GA to secure your acknowledgement within 10 days if the rating begins with "DX" or 15 days if the rating begins with "DO". The DPAS program allows the U.S. Government (USG) to mobilize industry in response to national priorities. GA appreciates its Suppliers who provide timely and affirmative acknowledgement.

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.