

EXECUTIVE ORDER

OTAs IN THE NEWS

Executive Order, "Modernizing Defense Acquisitions and Spurring Innovation in the Defense Industrial Base"

April 9, 2025 – In the wake of President Trump's newly signed Executive Order to modernize defense acquisitions, a renewed spotlight is being placed on Other Transaction Authorities (OTAs) as a vital pathway for defense innovation. The Executive Order signals a clear mandate that aligns with SpEC's mission: revolutionize Government innovation through the use of OTAs.

"It is the policy of the United States Government to accelerate defense procurement and revitalize the defense industrial base to restore peace through strength. To achieve this, the United States will rapidly reform our antiquated defense acquisition processes with an emphasis on speed, flexibility, and execution. We will also modernize the duties and composition of the defense acquisition workforce, as well as incentivize and reward risk-taking and innovation from these personnel."

"Within 60 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the President a plan to reform the Department of Defense's acquisition processes that, to the maximum extent possible, incorporates the following:

(a) Utilization of existing authorities to expedite acquisitions throughout the Department of Defense, including a first preference for commercial solutions and a general preference for Other Transactions Authority, application of Rapid Capabilities Office policies, or any other authorities or pathways to promote streamlined acquisitions under the Adaptive Acquisition Framework."