



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Space Radar Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM)

The Nation has attempted for more than a decade to produce a cutting edge space-based radar system, yet a myriad of reasons have resulted in the failure to operationally field such a system. Through this period, the Warfighter's need for such a capability has remained persistent. Due to recent technology advances in the DoD, commercial, and international industrial base, our Warfighters find themselves with the fortuitous opportunity to realize a capability that appears "good enough" and is deployable in the near term.

Over the years, through a mix of government and industry investment, both in the U.S. and abroad, radar technology has matured sufficiently to provide attainable near-term options by deploying low cost, less complex, and tremendously capable radar solutions. The solution space for affordably satisfying a significant set of military requirements has broadened greatly. The Department has an unprecedented opportunity to leverage these existing systems to satisfy Warfighter requirements.

To leverage this opportunity, it is necessary to clarify the unrealized capability needs of the Warfighter. I request the Joint Staff lead a Quick-Turn Capabilities-Based Assessment (CBA) to: confirm or amend the requirements baseline of the Space Radar Initial Capabilities Document in the context of these available technologies and the National System for Geo-Spatial Intelligence Joint Capabilities Document; and direct the focus and execution of an Analysis of Alternatives for radar capabilities in the space domain. Additionally, these efforts should inform coordination with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on implementation of the Integrated Collection Architecture.

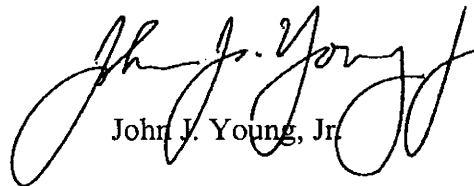
In parallel with and in support of the CBA, the DoD Executive Agent for Space will lead concept exploration, pre-acquisition activities, and preliminary systems definition efforts described below. The Air Force should support the Joint Staff on the CBA to capture near-term, midrange DoD needs. The National Reconnaissance Office and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency will provide relevant technical analyses and assistance by exploring ground and ground integration concepts and by leveraging existing bi-lateral agreements with foreign partners.



Specifically, the DoD Executive Agent for Space will perform the following actions:

- Pursue near-term demonstrations with commercial and international entities now and for the purpose of concept exploration and addressing gaps identified in the Quick-Turn CBA.
- Quantify the performance, capability, and utility of the near-term available sources of radar data from commercial and international space systems. In collaboration with the Joint Staff, identify which DoD requirements and mission areas identified in the CBA these systems could address.
- Perform a market survey through a formal Request-For-Information. Analyze different acquisition construct options, to include government-owned space segment and commercial/international radar data sources, which scope the solution space and the associated options best meeting near- and mid-term needs for radar from the space domain.
- Define and develop innovative end-to-end employment concepts for a centrally managed, tactically oriented, and responsive tasking, processing, and posting system that is able to use existing and planned commercial and international radar space systems in addition to government-owned systems. Maximize use of existing ground infrastructure to augment national data distribution systems to increase assured support to the joint Warfighter.
- Submit an acquisition strategy plan, a system description document, and a time-phased program structure by September 30, 2008, for approval to field space and ground capabilities beginning in the 2012 timeframe. Include resource requirements. This capability will be available for use by the DoD and Intelligence Community.
- Within 45 days of this ADM, please provide FY 2009 – FY 2013 funding requirements to perform the above tasks.

My point of contact is Mr. Josh Hartman at 703-697-7021.



John J. Young, Jr.

cc:

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Commander, Air Force Space Command
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command
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