



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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**PR-RES-AC-002**

15 September 2023

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Update to Mandatory Source for Commercial IT Services

1. References:

- a. Army Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (AFARS) 5139.101-90
- b. Deputy Under Secretary of the Army (DUSA) memorandum (Use of the Army Computer Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions Contract Vehicles to Purchase Commercial Information Technology Services), 1 December 2020
- c. CIO memorandum (Update to Army Cloud Computing Requirements), 10 July 2023
- d. Army Regulation 25-1, (Army Information Technology)

2. Purpose. This memorandum provides updated guidance on the use of Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS) for commercial Information Technology (IT) Services.

3. Background.

a. Per reference 1b and the Army Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (AFARS) 5139.101-90, the Army's CHESS program is the mandatory source for purchasing commercial IT services. Currently, there is only one IT service contract available on CHESS, which is the Army's Information Technology Enterprise Solutions-3 Services (ITES-3S) vehicle.

b. Since the initial attempts to standardize IT acquisition, the Army's needs have continued to evolve, and the rate of technology change has continued to accelerate. Critical enabling services such as cloud services, secure agile software development, and continuous software development have emerged as essential components of the Army's modernization approach.

c. ITES-3S has scope and labor categories for many IT services, but the labor rates are generally lower than other contracts and schedules, making it more difficult to hire the needed expertise. Facilitating wide-ranging competition for highly sought after and

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specialized services and skill sets, such as cloud and software development, will enable the Army to rapidly address changing needs more effectively. This update will allow users to use a wide range of contracts outside of ITES-3S for their cloud, software development, and continuous software evolution requirements.

4. Guidance.

a. Effective immediately, all cloud services, software development, and continuous software evolution service-type contracts (e.g., labor) are no longer required to use CHES nor are they required to obtain a Statement of Non-Availability to use a contract outside of CHES. All cloud services, software development and continuous software evolution service-type contracts/acquisitions shall follow the requirements specified in reference 1c and report investments and spend appropriately.

b. ECMA will work with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Procurement to update Army guidance and AFARS as needed.

5. Points of contact:

a. For policy questions: [usarmy.pentagon.hqda-cio.mbx.policy-inbox@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.pentagon.hqda-cio.mbx.policy-inbox@army.mil)

b. CIO Policy Division: Mr. Keith Dean, (703) 545-1354, [keith.t.dean1.civ@army.mil](mailto:keith.t.dean1.civ@army.mil)

c. ECMA: Mr. Scott Seybold, (703) 545-4618, [patrick.s.seybold2.civ@army.mil](mailto:patrick.s.seybold2.civ@army.mil)

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