

THE BDO GOVCON WEEK AHEAD - FEBRUARY 2021

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Biden's Gambit - Checkmating Foreign Manufacturers: During his first week on the job, the President delivered an opening intended to help American companies and workers gain control of the board with the "Made in America" Executive Order. On January 25, 2020, President Biden issued the "Executive Order on Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers," which urges federal agencies to purchase more American-made goods and services.

This EO lays out the following plans and actions to be taken, among several others:

- ▶ Creation of the "Made in America Office" and appointment of a director who will review proposed waivers
- ▶ Development of a General Services Administration-operated website to publicize all proposed waivers and their status and decision
- ▶ Agency status reports on the Made in America laws implementation, within 180 days of the EO
- ▶ Proposed changes to the Federal Acquisition Regulation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, within 180 days of the EO.

BDO will continue to monitor the proposed rulemaking progress. Keep reading the Week Ahead for more information on when the comment period(s) will open to find out how the proposed changes may impact you and your business.

For more information please click [this link](#) and [this link](#).

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Science Knows No Country: At the end of January 2021, President Biden issued a memorandum on restoring trust in government through scientific integrity and evidence-based policy making. The memo calls for a shift toward independent,

data-driven policy making and establishes new leadership positions across multiple federal agencies.

“It is the policy of my administration to make evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data,” the memo states, calling for the establishment of new policies, frameworks, a White House-level task force and agency Chief Science Officers. The new Chief Science Officer role is required for any agency that funds, conducts or oversees any scientific research, and agencies have 90 days to establish scientific advisory committees to support the new role.

The CSO, along with the scientific advisory committee, will lead their respective agencies in all science and research issues and ensure the programs are “scientifically and technologically well-founded and conducted with integrity.”

For more information, please click this link.

DoD Doubles-Down on Space Force Support: Since its inception in December 2019, the newest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, the United States Space Force, has spurred opportunity and excitement in the contracting and civilian communities alike. To double down on its commitment to the USSF, the U.S. Air Force is working to reorganize existing acquisition processes and departments to streamline and consolidate procurement practices.

As part of this restructuring, three individual directorates were established to oversee areas essential to the advancement of the USSF: Acquisition, Architecture, and Policy and Integration. The establishment of these new directorates is part of an overarching goal within the military to make the space acquisition process more efficient. Fragmented leadership and inefficient processes within the Department of Defense have been widely criticized for delaying national security and mission critical capabilities.

As part of the 2020 defense authorization bill, the DoD is required to appoint a space acquisition executive. This position has yet to be established but is required to be created by October 2022. Along with the new directorates, this position would coordinate with the USSF service acquisition executive to streamline the acquisition and procurement of space systems.

In government FY2021, the USAF received \$153.6 billion in funding with \$15.4 billion directed to USSF. This value is likely to increase with the FY2022 defense budget, which is expected to be unveiled in early February. As the DoD and Congress continue to show strong support for the USSF, new opportunities may arise for the contracting community.