

ASTRO Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1) QUESTION: What is ASTRO?

RESPONSE: ASTRO is a broadly scoped series of contract vehicles encompassing virtually all services supporting or involving manned, unmanned, or optionally manned platforms and robotics. ASTRO is administered by the General Services Administration's (GSA) Office of Assisted Acquisition Service (AAS) FEDSIM Organization.

ASTRO is a family of ten separate, individual, Multiple Award (MA), Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts.

2) QUESTION: What is the value proposition for using ASTRO?

ASTRO provides a streamlined acquisition platform for leveraged buying of platform related services. Taxpayers, Federal agencies, and Industry will benefit in cost savings from consistent, standardized terms and conditions; a reduction in the numbers of master contracts requiring award and administration, streamlined and flexible ordering procedures, standardized labor categories, and robust competition.

3) QUESTION: What is the ceiling of the ASTRO contracts?

RESPONSE: The ASTRO contracts were awarded on authority of an approved FAR deviation from the requirement to establish a contract maximum orders value, or ceiling. There is no ceiling and agencies can safely assume ASTRO will cover all of their in-scope service requirements, no matter the aggregate value.

4) QUESTION: What does ASTRO stand for?

RESPONSE: The ASTRO name is not an acronym.

5) QUESTION: What are some relevant ASTRO milestones and information?

RESPONSE: Please see the tables provided here:

Ordering Period	Begin	End
Base Period	11/15/2021	11/14/2026
Option Period	11/15/2026	11/14/2031

Milestone Data	
Issued Solicitation	8/24/2020
Closed Solicitation	10/21/2020
Award Date	7/28/2021
Notice to Proceed	11/15/2021

Contract Data	
Total Contracts	379
Awardees	128
Small Business Contracts	48
Small Business Awardees	37

Small Business Socio Economic Categories											
	DATA OPS	MIS OPS	Aviation	Ground	Space	Maritime	DEVSI	Research	Support	Training	Total
SBA Certified Hub Zone Firm	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	12
Women-Owned Small Business	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	8
Women-Owned Small Business - Economically Disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Facility Clearance Statistics											
Security Level	DATA OPS	MIS OPS	Aviation	Ground	Space	Maritime	DEVSI	Research	Support	Training	Total
None	1	4	6	1			1			3	16
Secret		4	4	1		3	2	2		1	17
Top Secret	35	29	35	23	25	26	42	43	47	41	346
Grand Total	36	37	45	25	25	29	45	45	47	45	379

6) QUESTION: Can I purchase tools, equipment or other commodities as part of my service-based solution?

RESPONSE: Yes, the **ASTRO** contracts allow ancillary support to include tools, equipment, hardware, software and other commodities such as licenses, maintenance, etc. to be acquired under one order if integral to and necessary for the in-scope service-based solution.

7) QUESTION: Are there dollar limitations or percentages on each order for ancillary support?

RESPONSE: No. The **ASTRO** contracts do not contain any dollar or percentage (based on the total order value) limitations for ancillary support. While this offers tremendous flexibility, the OCO must remember that the primary purpose/outcome of the task order must be an in-scope services-based solution and the ancillary support must be integral and necessary to the requirement.

8) QUESTION: Are construction services allowed under the ASTRO contracts?

RESPONSE: Yes, so long as the work is integral and necessary to the in-scope services requirement. Please bear in mind that ASTRO is not a construction contract and that services that fall under the Brooks Act are not authorized under ASTRO.

9) QUESTION: Are leases allowed under the ASTRO contracts?

RESPONSE: Yes. The Government contemplates that leases may be part of a task order solution offered by a Contractor, but the Government, where the Contractor's solution includes leasing, must not be the Lessee. Under no circumstances on any task order awarded under ASTRO shall the Government be deemed to have privity-of-contract with the Owner/Lessor of the Leased Items; or, the Government be held liable for early Termination/Cancellation damages if the Government decides not to exercise an option period under a task order unless the Contractor has specifically disclosed the amount of such damages (or the formula by which such damages would be calculated) as part of its proposal and the OCO for the task order has specifically approved/allowed such damages as part of the task order terms and conditions.

10) QUESTION: Are ASTRO contractors required to meet a minimum facility security clearance?

RESPONSE: No, however, OCO's may specify any level of facility or personnel clearance required for their order. In addition, OCOs should clearly identify any clearance level required as a condition for award and request appropriate verification as part of their RFP.

11) QUESTION: Who can place orders under the ASTRO contracts?

RESPONSE: Currently, the **ASTRO** contracts are available for use by all General Services Administration (GSA) Assisted Acquisition Ordering Officers who have obtained a Delegation of Procurement Authority from the ASTRO Program Office. Contract Specialists/Contracting Officers who have received training from the applicable **ASTRO** contracting officer or his/her duly authorized representative are authorized to use the **ASTRO** contracts. However, only a duly warranted Contracting Officer with an **ASTRO** DPA can *sign* the **ASTRO** task order. **ASTRO** training must be completed as part of the delegation process.

12) QUESTION: Must I provide fair opportunity to all ASTRO contractors for each and every order?

RESPONSE: No. You must provide fair opportunity to all ASTRO contractors within the Pool applicable to your task order requirement for every order exceeding \$3,000 unless one of the exceptions to fair opportunity as listed in FAR subpart 16.505(b)(2)(i)(A) through (F) applies.

13) QUESTION: What NAICs (North American Industry Classification System) code was used to award the ASTRO contracts and do I need to use this code on my order?

RESPONSE: Each of the ASTRO Pools has a primary NAICS code identified for that pool as shown in the table here.

DATA OPERATIONS POOL
Function: Performance of Data Operations including all data collection, processing, exploitation, and dissemination activities associated with manned, unmanned, and optionally manned platforms and robotics supporting mission performance. This includes traditional labor services as well as “as a service” support.
North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code and Title: 541990 – All Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
Small Business Size Standard: \$16.5 Million
MISSION OPERATIONS POOL

Function: Mission Operations includes performance of operational services not included in Data Operations associated with manned, unmanned, and optionally manned platforms and robotics supporting mission performance. This includes traditional labor services as well as “as a service” support.

NAICS Code and Title: 541990 – All Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

Small Business Size Standard: \$16.5 Million

AVIATION POOL

Function: Maintenance, repair, and overhaul of manned, optionally manned, and unmanned aircraft.

NAICS Code and Title: 488190 – Other Support Activities for Air Transportation

Small Business Size Standard: \$35 Million

GROUND POOL

Function: Maintenance, repair, and overhaul of manned, optionally manned, and unmanned ground platforms and industrial machinery.

NAICS Code and Title: 488999 – All Other Support Activities for Transportation

Small Business Size Standard: \$8 Million

SPACE POOL

Function: Maintenance, repair, and overhaul of manned, optionally manned, and unmanned space platforms.

NAICS Code and Title: 488190 – Other Support Activities for Air Transportation

Small Business Size Standard: \$35 Million

MARITIME POOL

Function: Maintenance, repair, and overhaul of manned, optionally manned, and unmanned maritime platforms.

NAICS Code and Title: 336611 – Ship Building and Repairing

Small Business Size Standard: 1,250 employees

DEVELOPMENT/SYSTEMS INTEGRATION POOL

Function: Systems integration, improvement, and/or engineering associated with manned, unmanned, and optionally manned platforms.

NAICS Code and Title: 541330 – Engineering Services

Small Business Size Standard: \$41.5 Million (based on the 541330 exceptions)

RESEARCH POOL

Function: All R&D associated with manned, unmanned, optionally manned, and counter Unmanned Systems (UxS) platforms

NAICS Code and Title: 541715 – Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology)

Small Business Size Standard: 1,000 Employees

SUPPORT POOL

Function: All support services (except training) required for successful execution of a product, program, project, or process regarding platforms and robotics for land, air, sea, or space; the planning necessary to support operational missions; and the analysis of the results of an operational mission.

NAICS Code and Title: 541990 - All Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services
Small Business Size Standard: \$16.5 Million
TRAINING POOL
Function: All training (the providing of instruction) services required for successful execution of a product, program, project, or process regarding platforms and/or robotics for land, air, sea, or space.
NAICS Code and Title: 611699 – All other Miscellaneous Schools and Instruction
Small Business Size Standard: \$12 Million

14) QUESTION: What contract types are available under the ASTRO contracts?

RESPONSE: All contract pricing types in FAR Part 16, (fixed-price with and without incentives, cost-reimbursement (C-R) with and without incentives, time-and-materials (T&M), and labor-hour (L-H) contract as well as hybrids of these types, are permissible for orders. OCO's may also utilize more than one contract type in an order by identifying a CLIN for F-P, C-R and/or T&M, as appropriate.

15) QUESTION: What is the preferred contract type for ASTRO? Do orders have to be firm-fixed price, performance based?

RESPONSE: No. Choosing an appropriate contract type for each order is essential to successful performance. The type of contract determines the pricing methodology as well as the cost and performance risks placed on the contractor. If appropriate, the order should be firm-fixed-price. However, the goal is to select the contract type and acquisition approach that will optimize risk sharing between the parties and result in the most favorable outcome.

The FAR 37.102 based order of precedence is:

- (i) A firm-fixed price performance-based task order.
- (ii) A performance-based task order that is not firm-fixed price.
- (iii) A task order that is not performance-based.

16) QUESTION: What part of the FAR governs the ordering process? Do I follow FAR 15.3 source selection procedures when issuing an order under the ASTRO contracts?

RESPONSE: The streamlined procedures found at FAR 16.505 govern the **ASTRO** ordering process. In accordance with FAR 16.505(b) (1) (ii), the contracting officer may exercise broad discretion in developing appropriate order placement procedures and the policies in Subpart 15.3 source selection are not applicable.

17) QUESTION: Can an order be protested?

RESPONSE: In accordance with FAR 16.505(a)(9) and Subpart 33, No protest under Subpart 33.1 is authorized in connection with the issuance or proposed issuance of an order under a task-order contract or delivery-order contract, except for—

(A) A protest on the grounds that the order increases the scope, period, or maximum value of the contract; or

(B) *A protest of an order valued in excess of \$10 million.* Protests of orders in excess of \$10 million may only be filed with the Government Accountability Office, in accordance with the procedures at 33.104.

18) QUESTION: How do I place an order or issue market research?

RESPONSE: OCOs must use the ASTRO Ordering Portal at <https://astro.app.cloud.gov/> for distributing all ASTRO solicitations, market research, and communicating with ASTRO Industry Partners.