Lean Aerospace Initiative Plenary Workshop

Policy Economic Incentives: C-17 Case Study



March 31- April 1, 1998

Presented By: Wes Harris MIT

Research Sponsored By LAI



Economic Incentives Presentation Outline

Motivation

- Key questions
- Why the C-17?
- C-17 Parameters

Setting the Stage

- Data sources
- Defense Science Board C-17 Review
- C-17 Should Cost Exercise
- Primary environmental factors

Data Analysis

Barriers, enablers, incentives

Results

- The gains
- Lessons learned
- Key findings



Motivation



Motivation for Study

- Cost-based pricing results in reduced profit levels when costs are reduced
- In the production of major weapon systems, cost reductions achieved through the implementation of lean practices are frequently "captured" by the government customer
- Cost reductions often occur before the contractor received adequate return on investment (ROI)
- Evidence: VECP and IMIP



Key Questions

- What are the primary strategies, barriers, enablers and relationships of economically incentivized procurement of weapon systems in production?
- When production costs are reduced, how can contractors share in the benefits?
- What practices motivate defense aircraft contractors to invest more of their resources to become lean?
- What are the lessons learned in this study and are they transferable to other procurements?

Identify practices, strategies, enablers and barriers related to companies' investments and sharing of cost savings



- Considered to be a model of acquisition reform
 - Innovative contract
- High Visibility
 - Congress
 - USAF
 - DoD
 - Public sector
- System complexity and maturity
 - Airframe, engine, spares
- Major weapon system in production phase
 - Aircraft in service



C-17 Parameters

Scope

- More than 22,000 drawings
- More than 9,000,000 individual parts
- 1,800 assembly workers at Long Beach, CA

Investment

US Government \$37.3 billion

Contractor \$ 1.5 billion

Total \$38.8 billion

Production

- 1,300 suppliers / 42,000 workers
- More than 100 major assembly tools (\$1.0 billion)
- Assembly time: 17 months
- 120 aircraft (FY88-FY03)
- Average unit flyaway cost of P41-P120: \$172 million



Setting the Stage



Case Study Data Sources

- Literature review
- Background interviews (more than 150 people interviewed)
 - Airframe, engine and electronics sectors
 - SPO, SAF, OSD
- Case study specific (more than 45 people interviewed)
 - SPO
 - DPRO
 - Contractor



Defense Science Board C-17 Review

DSB C-17 review, 12/93 - Fuhrman/Fain Report

- "Extremely negative management environment" between the contractor and the U.S. government
- Omnibus Agreement recommendation: Combine all issues, claims, deficiencies into a single settlement (12/94)
- C-17 is basically a sound design
- Detailed specific recommendations relating to:
 - Range/payload
 - Engineering processes and deficiencies
 - Financial incentives
 - Unit cost
 - Management Information Systems (MIS)
 - Application of CAD/CAM
 - Organization
 - Realistic production and testing schedules



C-17 Ground Breaking Procurement

Year	Event
------	--------------

1993 Defense Science Board

C-17 Review

1994 Omnibus Agreement

1995 Should Cost Exercise

1996 Multi-Year Contract

Net Unit Cost Reduction: \$100 m/unit

Fundamental change in relationship between contractor and customer concomitant with extraordinary sharing of information and risk



C-17 Joint Should Cost Exercise

- Should Cost Exercise initiated Summer-1994
- Directed by the Service Acquisition Executive
- Purpose: determine lowest most probable cost and how to obtain same
- Senior Leadership Team
 - MGEN Scofield, Chairman
- Executive Review Council empowered to apply results of SCE
 - SAEs, IG, DCMC Commander, DCAA Director, USAF/CO
- Buy-out profile established
- Joint cost model developed
- Three (3) contract-strategy recommended
 - Production
 - Process improvement
 - Logistics/sustainment



Primary Environmental Factors

Stabilization of the C-17 aircraft design

- Positive impact on manufacturing processes
- Positive impact on suppliers
- Limited changes to the program management directive (PDM)

Non-Developmental Airlift Aircraft (NDAA) program competition

- Modified Boeing 747-400 freighter
- Technical advantages, unit prices compared

Omnibus Agreement

- DSB recommended
 - Rebaseline program
 - Release parties from liabilities
 - Waive CCPD requirement



Data Analysis



C-17 Program Vision and Key Goals (1995 and Beyond)

- Price reduction and affordability
- Open communications
- Mutual trust and respect
- Approval to produce aircraft beyond unit 40
 - Undersecretary of DoD mandated C-17 price reduction
- Completion of reliability and maintainability assessment
 - IOC and milestone IIIB realigned to June 1995
 - Retrofit and evaluate design changes in support of reliability, maintainability and availability evaluation



C-17 Barriers and Enablers to Economically Incentivized Procurement

Barriers

- Budget instability
- Non-value added oversight
- Color of money
- Excessive profit
- USAF spares system
- Acquisition reform

Enablers

- Open communications
- Mutual trust and respect
- Lean leadership
- Should Cost Exercise
- Integrated process teams
- Acquisition reform



C-17 Economic Incentives

Multi-year contract

- Reasonably-firm government commitment to 120 aircraft
- Additional contractor-funded investment to reduce cost

Award fees

- Joint cost model
- Incentive for cost reduction and sharing of cost savings

Performance based payments

- Reduced contractor debt service
- Reduced government oversight burden

Three-contract structure

- Moved risk to field support
- Isolates flyaway cost to production contract



C-17 Economic Incentives (cont)

NDAA competition

Incentive to reduce cost

Economic order quantity (EOQ) funding

- Solidify supplier base, reduce cost
- Government investment to become more lean
- Commitment of contractor resources to reduce costs through process improvements

Future liability limits

- Variation in quantity
- Supplier mortality
- Program discontinuation reopener

Economically incentivized contract based on extraordinary sharing of information and risk



Results





U.S. Government

- Technically sound aircraft
- Reduced cost
- Most competitive product
- More complete understanding of contractors goals and constraints
- Potential for additional cost reduction

Contractor

- Resonably-firm government commitment
- Reward for accepting additional risk
- Enhanced corporate reputation
- Reduced debt service
- Government assistance in becoming more lean
- Share in cost reduction savings



C-17 Lessons Learned

- High level senior commitment and support enhance program success
- Information and risk, openly shared, precede development of economic incentives
- Reasonably-firm customer commitment, over a finite time period, to the production program reduces mutual risk
- Contractor investment of its resources to reduce unit cost enhance program success
- Innovative use of U.S. government of the following concepts can form foundation of risk-reward balance
 - Multi-year contract
 - Waiver of Certified Cost and Pricing Data (CCPD)
 - Performance Based Payments (PBP)
 - Economic Order Quantity (EOQ) Funding
 - Join Cost Model (JCM)
 - Variations in Quantities (VIQ) options

C-17 unique, ground breaking usage

"From Uncontrolled Chaos to a Win-Win Environment



Key Findings

- Leadership and use of IPTs increased communication and information flow
- Mutual trust and respect enabled <u>internalization</u> of strategic goals and visions
- Incentives preceded by risk-reward balance
- Specific incentives determined through delicate negotiations

Economically incentivized procurement is possible in today's environment

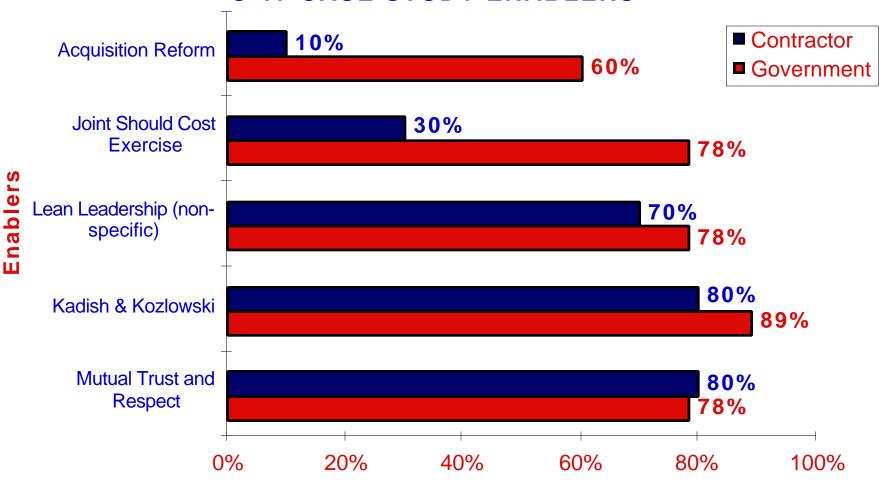


- Interview stakeholders to determine status of C-17 Acquisition
 - DSB review
 - Should Cost Exercise
 - Joint cost model
 - Lean practices
 - Risk-reward balance
 - Affordability
 - Quality
- Report, briefings to LAI, C-17 stakeholders (10/98)
- LEM datasheets
- "How-To" model for economically incentivized procurement



Economically Incentivized Procurement: Enablers





Percent of interviewees identifying an enabler



Economically Incentivized Procurement: Barriers

C-17 CASE STUDY BARRIERS

