

Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture Futures

Hybrid Acquisition for Proliferated Low Earth Orbit (HALO)



Mission

Speed. Delivery. Agility.

The Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture (PWSA) Futures program develops, launches, and evaluates new technologies and concepts of operations (CONOPS) in space to reduce risk and determine readiness to proliferate in future tranches or other programs. Futures’ Hybrid Acquisition for Proliferated LEO (HALO) effort is a novel acquisition approach to rapidly build and launch prototype demonstrations within 12 to 18 months from the award to reduce risk for future tranches of the PWSA.

HALO - Hybrid Acquisition Approach

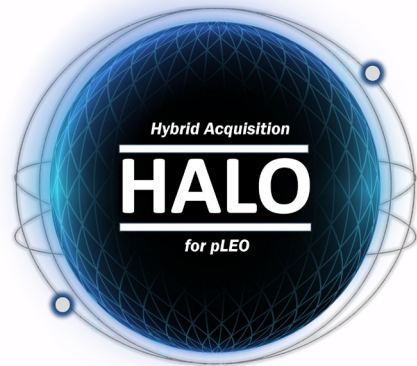
HALO is an Other Transaction (OT)-based agreement modeled after an indefinite-delivery-indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) contract.

- Pool members can compete for prototype orders to demonstrate new capabilities for the warfighter and reduce risks to proliferation on future SDA tranches
- Provides flexibility to award one or more prototype orders each year
- Pool members gain experience and credibility to compete for future SDA tranches
- The HALO pool will grow over time and helps to prevent tranche vendor lock

How HALO Differs from a PWSA Tranche?

SDA HALO	VS	SDA Tranche
~ Two space vehicles per prototype order		~ 20 space vehicles per vendor (2-3 vendors per order)
End-to-end mission led by one vendor		Separate contracts for major architecture segments (e.g., Space, Ground, Launch)
1-year operational life		5-year operational life
Quick, low complexity with single, focused mission area		High complexity to deliver a capability against a warfighter need
Stand-alone, isolated mission data		NOVA/SUPERNOVA networking compliance
Commercial rideshare launch for speed and cost savings		Dedicated launch with launch service provider co-engineering

NEBULA: Network Established Beyond the Upper Limits of the Atmosphere
NOVA: NEBULA Operations – Vendor Agnostic
SUPERNOVA: SDA Unified Planning Environment and Resources for NEBULA Operations – Vendor Agnostic



T2DES - Tactical Demonstration SVs

The first HALO prototype orders are planned for the Tranche 2 Demonstration and Experimentation System (T2DES) projects focused on future tactical data links and optical communication missions.

Leveraging Non-Traditional Defense Contractors and Engaging New Space to Enable the SDA Mission

Why Non-Traditional Defense Contractors* (NDCs)?
NDCs are not subject to the sometimes-cumbersome cost accounting standards that can hinder a company’s values of speed, lower costs, and flexibility – values that align with the mission of SDA.

By awarding NDCs for HALO:

- SDA can preserve the business practices, company culture, and flexibility that come with working with these types of companies.
- SDA met the initial goal of HALO by bringing 16 new-to-SDA companies into the vendor pool.
- The HALO vendor pool was established while maintaining a competitive solicitation process without imposing additional requirements.

2024-2025 HALO Member Pool



*Companies may do business with the government on a firm-fixed price basis and still be considered a non-traditional defense contractor.