9.505-1 Providing systems engineering and technical direction.

(a) A contractor that provides systems engineering and technical direction for a system but does not have overall contractual responsibility for its development, its integration, assembly, and checkout, or its production *shall* not-

(1) Be awarded a contract to supply the system or any of its major *components*; or

(2) Be a subcontractor or consultant to a supplier of the system or any of its major *components*.

(b) Systems engineering includes a combination of substantially all of the following activities: determining specifications, identifying and resolving interface problems, developing test requirements, evaluating test data, and supervising design. Technical direction includes a combination of substantially all of the following activities: developing work statements, determining parameters, directing other contractors' operations, and resolving technical controversies. In performing these activities, a contractor occupies a highly influential and responsible position in determining a system's basic concepts and supervising their execution by other contractors. Therefore this contractor *should* not be in a position to make decisions favoring its own *products* or capabilities.

Parent topic: 9.505 General rules.