

**SUBJECT: Windows 10 Vulnerability Notification and Direction**

To SBIR/STTR Contract/Program Managers:

The National Security Agency (NSA) has discovered a critical vulnerability (CVE-2020-0601) affecting Microsoft Windows. The vulnerability impacts Windows 10, Windows Server 2016 and 2019, and applications that rely on Windows for trust functionality; impacted systems must be patched immediately to maintain compliance with continuous monitoring and correct system flaws as required by the National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication (NIST SP) 800-171 Rev. 1.

Microsoft released a set of patches for the Windows platform on January 14, 2020. All Prime Contractors are directed to take immediate action to patch their affected systems, and are instructed to flow this requirement down to all subcontractors.

Further detail on the vulnerability can be found in the NSA Cybersecurity Advisory “Patch Critical Cryptographic Vulnerability in Microsoft Windows Clients and Servers” located at <https://media.defense.gov/2020/Jan/14/2002234275/-1/-1/0/CSA-WINDOWS-10-CRYPT-LIB-20190114.PDF>.

Within five business days of receipt of this letter, your company shall provide status to the Government confirming installation of the patch in all unclassified prime and subcontractor systems, or information on the number of systems impacted, timeline for implementing the patch, and identification of any potential issues that may prevent resolution of this issue.

The Missile Defense Agency believes this effort to be within the terms and conditions and cost or price of the subject contract per DFARS 252.204-7012, and as such, does not constitute a contract change or basis for an increase in contract value or fee. Request your immediate action to patch your systems as described above. If you disagree regarding whether the effort is within the terms and conditions and cost or price of the subject contract, notify the Contracting Officer in writing promptly after receipt of this direction and identify the impact on the contract.

Please forward responses to the undersigned email.

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