



Multimodal
Systems
Research
& Analysis

Safety
Management
Systems

Environmental
& Energy
Systems

Freight
Logistics &
Transportation
Systems

Physical
Infrastructure
Systems

CNS &
Traffic
Management
Systems

Human
Factors
Research &
System
Applications

Advanced
Vehicle &
Information
Network
Systems

Innovation in Acquisition

**Volpe National Transportation Systems Center
U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Innovative Technology Administration**

Innovation for a Nation on the Move

Trends and Issues

The modern transportation enterprise requires a strategic approach to resource allocation and organizational alignment to comply with a myriad of acquisition-related statutory and policy requirements necessary to maintain the public's trust and ensure public policy objectives are met. This approach encompasses a range of innovative acquisition activities: performance analysis and metrics; program accountability and effectiveness; computer-based procurement data systems to ensure system integrity, data quality, accuracy, and timeliness; and audit oversight for accountability and transparency.

Acquisition Capabilities

The Volpe Center has assembled a highly skilled, responsive, and responsible team of acquisitions professionals, with extensive "cradle to grave" experience in executing and managing large, multifaceted procurements to fulfill technical requirements across a wide spectrum using a variety of procurement methodologies and business process innovations.

The Volpe Center's Acquisition Division serves as a critical element in program and strategic project planning, bridging the technical requirements of projects to external resources of staffing, material, and information. The Acquisition Division contributes significantly to the Volpe Center's value-added capabilities by ensuring that the best value products are acquired to support a multimodal project portfolio. A recognized leader in acquisition innovation, the Volpe Center has a track record of excellence.

Excellence in Acquisition

- A leader in the development and use of multiple award task order contracts, the Volpe Center developed a new strategy to increase use of multiple award contracts.
- Rigorously promotes the acquisition of commercial items and reinforces the use of competition for achieving an effective competitive environment. Competition achieved on 78 percent of contract dollars awarded, with 14 percent of those contract dollars not available for competition and awarded to firms certified under the Small Business Administration's 8(a) set-aside program.
- A U.S. DOT leader in Electronic Commerce, including electronic processing of procurement requests, ONE-DOT PRISM initiative, Markview electronic invoicing, and DOT F 2300.1a automation.
- Continuous operational process improvement utilizing performance measures obtained under the Department's Procurement Performance Management System.
- Vigorous and successful small business outreach and preference program as evidenced by consistent record of meeting or exceeding the Department's goals, including an aggressive Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Campaign.
- Implemented a noteworthy Acquisition Workforce certification program, including both contracting officers and CO technical representatives.
- A U.S. DOT leader in use of performance-based acquisition, the Government's preferred approach for acquiring services, with 63 percent compliance, exceeding the government-wide goal of 50 percent.



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About the Research and Innovative Technology Administration

The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) coordinates U.S. DOT's research programs and is charged with advancing the deployment of cutting-edge technologies to improve our Nation's transportation system. RITA was established as a U.S. DOT Operating Administration by the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act of 2004.

About the Volpe Center

An innovative, Federal, fee-for-service organization, the Volpe Center, part of the U.S. DOT's RITA, is an internationally recognized center of transportation and logistics. The Volpe team represents a world-class transportation resource with multidisciplinary expertise in all modes of transportation. The Volpe Center plays a unique role in looking across the transportation enterprise to anticipate future transportation issues and challenges. The Center also has a highly skilled team of acquisition professionals. For nearly 40 years, the Volpe Center has lent critical support to all U.S. DOT's modal administrations and offices, other Federal agencies, state and local governments and organizations, foreign governments and entities, and the private sector.

The Volpe Center is organized into eight Centers of Innovation (COI). Each COI applies its technical capabilities to U.S. DOT strategic goals and national transportation priorities. The COIs expand U.S. DOT's horizon and show how innovation can arise from creative and collaborative use of internal and external assets. The COIs include:

- **Multimodal Systems Research and Analysis**
- **Safety Management Systems**
- **Environmental and Energy Systems**
- **Freight Logistics and Transportation Systems**
- **Physical Infrastructure Systems**
- **Communication, Navigation, Surveillance (CNS) and Traffic Management Systems**
- **Human Factors Research and System Applications**
- **Advanced Vehicle and Information Network Systems**

For more information

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<http://www.volpe.dot.gov>