



ARMY ACQUISITION REFORM



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CRUSADER: Main Armament Development Challenge

The use of Integrated Product and Process Development (IPPD) arrangement in the main armament development is another example of how Acquisition Reform has become an integral part of the Crusader Artillery System acquisition effort. Large caliber weapons like this are normally considered government furnished equipment (GFE), but the Army directed that the main armament would not be GFE. United Defense Limited Partnership (UDLP), as the prime contractor, has total system responsibility for Crusader development, now in the Program Definition and Risk Reduction Phase. UDLP's evaluation of potential sources for the main armament led to the selection of the TACOM-ARDEC design based upon the XM297E2 155mm cannon. This is an actively cooled, fully chrome-plated system, including an innovative propellant laser ignition system. Law prohibits TACOM-ARDEC from selling its services to a contractor, yet it was critical to be able to bring their experience and expertise in the development of large caliber weapon systems into the program. Thus, a unique relationship, through a Memorandum of Agreement, had to be established that would allow the command to provide design and development engineering services to the contractor.

