

HYP\_Link

## US Department of Defense Revamps Major Cloud Procurement

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### RECENT DEVELOPMENT

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Two weeks ago, the US Department of Defense officially [canceled](#) its Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) cloud solicitation and contract, ending a long period of uncertainty and controversy. Originally, the contract, which designated \$10 billion to support cloud computing capabilities for a variety of workloads and departments across the DoD, had been awarded to a single vendor, Microsoft Azure, in 2019. However, after appeals from other vendors, the process was reevaluated. Ultimately Microsoft was awarded the contract a second time. After nearly two years into the JEDI solicitation and award process, the DoD stated that their needs had evolved, and the original contract no longer aligned with the requirements of the department. A new solicitation was issued, the Joint Warfighter Cloud Capability (JWCC) contract, which indicated a plan to use multiple vendors to fulfill the needs of the contract. Currently, the DoD is seeking proposals from Microsoft and Amazon Web Services but will likely evaluate other qualified U.S. based CSPs.

### ANALYST COMMENT

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Although the JEDI contract and follow-on JWCC contracts do not explicitly state the need for HPC capabilities in the cloud, HPC will be necessary to address some of the key application areas noted in the solicitation. Artificial intelligence and data-intensive workloads rely heavily on HPC technologies at scale, and as such HPC resources will likely be required to accelerate and serve the needs of the JWCC. As the DoD works through the JWCC to understand how and where the cloud can fit in their overall compute needs, the contract and subsequent utilization of cloud resources for some of these applications may ultimately enable more HPC work to move to the cloud for various groups within the DoD. This is especially true if the cloud providers can meet the security needs spelled out in the solicitation relating to the privacy of the identity of users, the data they are transferring, and the constant monitoring of potential threats. The JWCC may very well serve as impetus for more DoD cloud utilization as well as more cloud utilization from organizations worldwide that have similar strict security requirements and diverse applications.

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