Aligning Incentives on DOE Contracts

Initial EFCOG Analysis





Susan G. Stiger
Vice Chair
Energy Facility Contractors Group

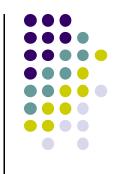


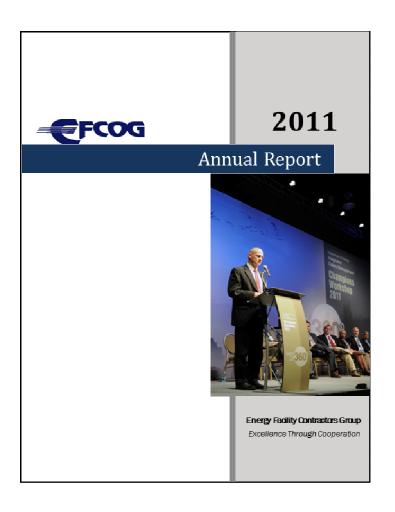
Charter & Objectives

An EFCOG Task Group was chartered at the request of the DOE Deputy Secretary to identify best practices, evaluate lessons learned and develop model approaches to:

- Improve the effectiveness of performance incentives for capital asset and other major DOE projects with tangible deliverables
- Support alignment of government and contractor interests
- Ensure that the parties appropriately bear the benefits and accountability for their respective actions and performance
- Ensure that incentives are linked to and effectively support project outcomes







Promote excellence in all aspects of the operation, management, and integration of DOE and NNSA facilities in a safe, environmentally sound, efficient and cost-effective manner



Background

DOE has explored and applied alternative contract types and incentive approaches, incorporating best practices and benchmarks from other government sectors.

- Performance-based contracting with incentives tied to achieving end objectives
- Conditional payment of fee for safety and security
- Award Term incentives



Background

DOE's Management Reform and Contract/Project Management Improvement actions complement a focus on incentives:

- Enhancing implementation of peer reviews
- Line management accountability for project funding and priority
- Rules of Thumb and related actions to clarify roles, responsibilities and expectations
- Clear federal project team accountability for project success
- Focus on federal and contractor project leadership qualifications and experience

EFCOG Observations

- Contractors support performance measures that are challenging but achievable
- Incentives are a complex subject. A perfect solution is difficult to achieve.
- DOE's missions, contracts and projects are varied; one incentive approach will not be effective for all
- Even well-intentioned incentive structures can have unintended consequences.
- Contract incentives alone do not yield successful project outcomes. Discriminators for success include
 - A clear value proposition for project completion
 - Commitment to lifecycle funding
 - Comprehensive agreement on scope
 - Proven technology



Lessons Learned

- **#1. Align Incentives with Project Goals**
 - Misalignment arises when lifecycle incentives are locked in before project scope, design, schedule, estimated cost and funding are adequately defined.
- #2. DOE/Contractor Partnering Enhances Project Success Most successful projects reflect strong partnerships between DOE and contractors across the IPT and support organizations.
- #3. Establish Project Authority, Accountability and Risk Allocation Contract types, DOE requirements, and incentive structures do not always apportion risk commensurate with project/contract responsibilities and authority.
- **#4. Simplify Incentives**

In some cases, contract incentive structures are overly complex, distribute fee ineffectively, and may not optimally motivate the contractor.



Lessons Learned, cont.

#5. Incentives Must Be Tied to True Value and End Results

Gain Share/Pain Share

- Can be an effective incentive approach if applied appropriately and consistent with project management structures, risk profile, and authorities/accountabilities.
- Not effective if there is misalignment in the key factors (e.g., accountability without appropriate authority, downside risk that is disproportionate with upside potential)
- Needs to be aligned with fee pool
- Consider appropriate limits to both gain and pain
- It is important that contractors always be incentivized







7-Step Process to Achieve Incentives Alignment



- Identify what is known, and what is not known, by the respective parties
- 2. Evaluate what is known, and what is not known, about variables that may affect desired project outcomes
- 3. Perform comprehensive, thoughtful risk analysis
- 4. Assign risk to the appropriate party, with clear alignment to defined responsibilities and authorities

7-Step Process to Achieve Incentives Alignment, cont.



- 5. Align contract structure with the project characteristics and risk profile
- 6. Select incentive structure (and fee) appropriate to the risk, responsibilities and authorities
- 7. Select specific incentives and/or disincentives most likely to motivate the type of performance desired.

Result: Optimum Contract Incentives Alignment



Performance Evaluation/Award Fee Survey

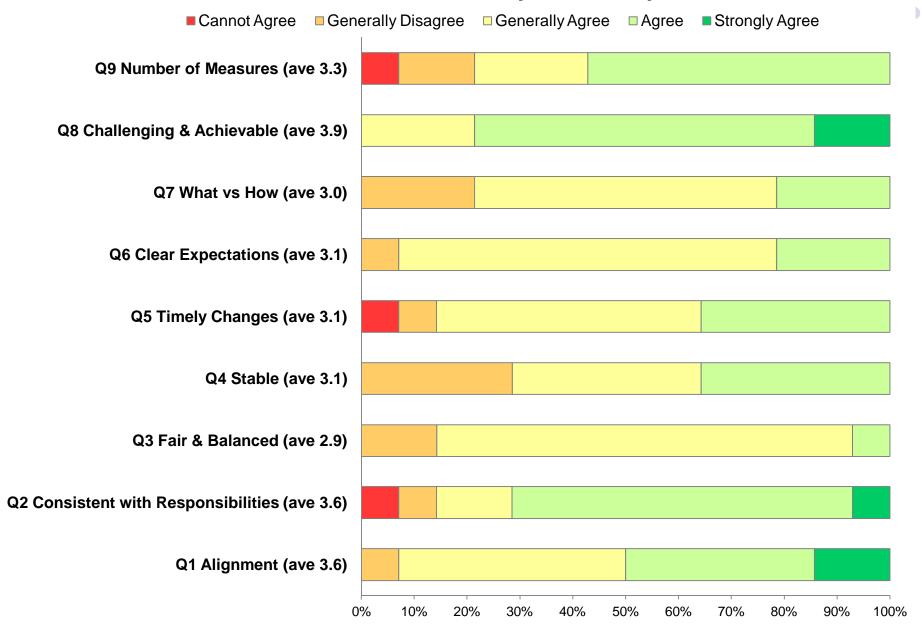


Desired Attributes

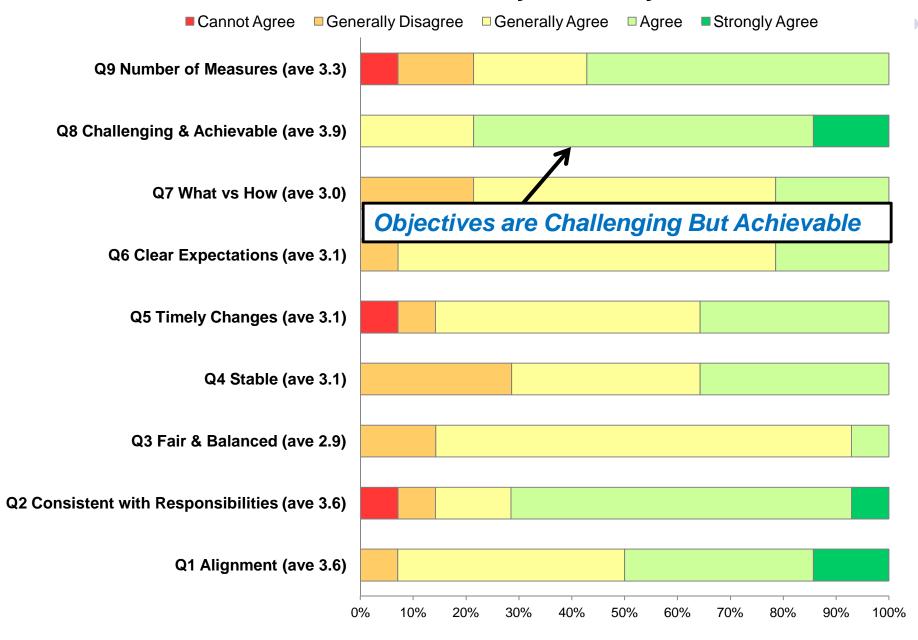
- Performance plans and evaluation processes *align well* with contract and mission objectives
- Performance plan is *consistent with responsibilities and accountabilities*
- Performance plan and evaluation process are fair and balanced and structured to promote excellent performance
- Once established, DOE's performance expectations remain stable through the evaluation period
- The *change process* is defined and utilized in a timely manner
- DOE's expectations are clear and honored through the evaluation process
- The plan and DOE's evaluation *focus on "what"* is to be achieved, not "how"
- We view our performance objectives as challenging but achievable
- The *number of performance measures* is about right for our contract

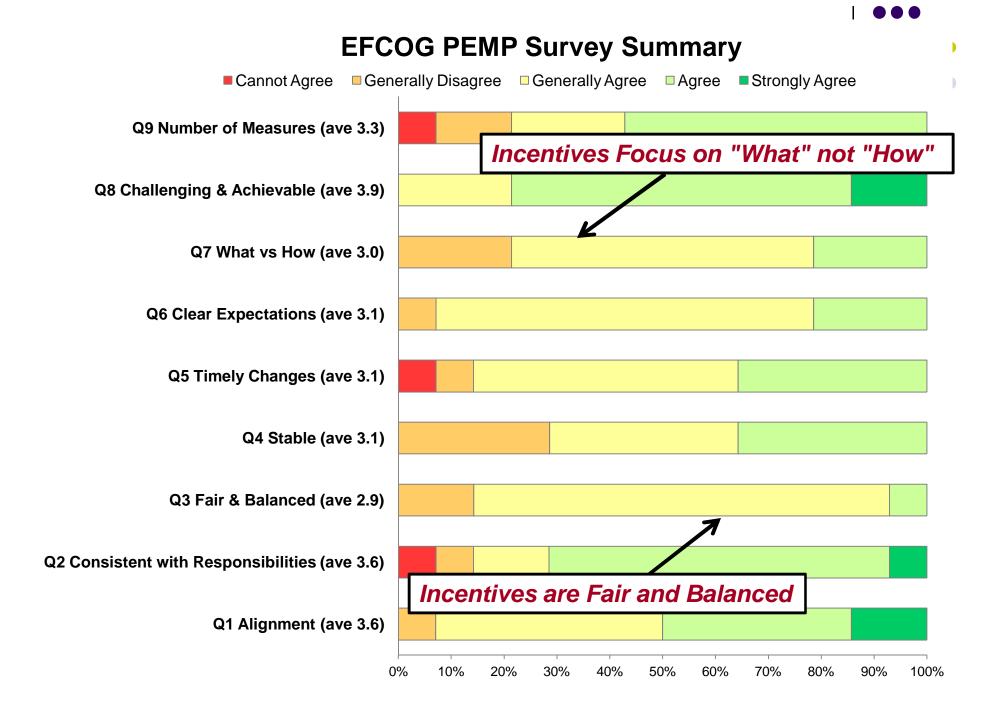


EFCOG PEMP Survey Summary

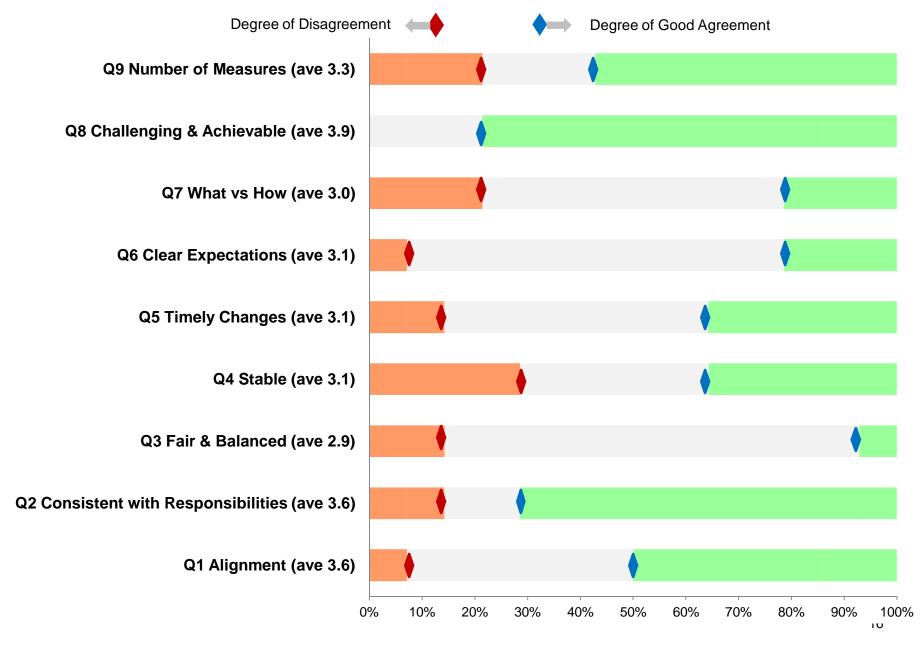


EFCOG PEMP Survey Summary





EFCOG PEMP Survey Degree of Agreement







- For Laboratories, appropriate balance between scientific objectives and management/operations goals
- For cleanup contracts, cost plus incentive fee or performancebased incentives with most fee tied to specific objectives
- Mission-focused objectives aligned with strategic plans
- All personnel, contractor and DOE, working to a common set of objectives and goals
- Recognition that unknown conditions will be encountered
- Frequent, well-documented reviews of performance against plan by senior DOE and contractor personnel