

33rd Annual

# GCMS

Government  
Contract  
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Symposium

NOVEMBER 3-4, 2014  
WASHINGTON, DC

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## BUILDING CONTRACTING EXCELLENCE FOR CONTINUED BUSINESS GROWTH

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# Applying Agile Methodology to Acquisition and Contracting Support

## *Breakout Session # A04*

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November 3rd, 2014

11:15am – 12:30pm



# Agile Acquisition Support Overview

- What is Agile Acquisition Support?
- What are the Benefits?
- How Does it Work?

# The “Agile” We’ve Heard Of

- The Agile Manifesto, introduced in 2001
  - Four Values:



# Government Support for Agile

- Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports a growing number of federal agencies use Agile to develop and purchase software
  - See July 2012 [“Effective Practices and Federal Challenges in Applying Agile Methods”](#)
- Office of Management & Budget (OMB) recommends Agile be part of overall effort to promote modular development
  - See June 2012 [“Contracting Guidance to Support Modular Development”](#)
- Says Agile practices align with strategic planning, organizational commitment and collaboration, preparation, execution, and evaluation

# What is Agile Acquisition Support?

- Definition - the use of agile methodologies to support federal requiring activities, acquisition management teams and contracting activities.

# When is Agile Acquisition used?

- Any stage in the acquisition life cycle
- Stand-alone methodology
- Not dependent on IT Agile
- Can be used for small and large acquisitions

# Why Use Agile Acquisition?

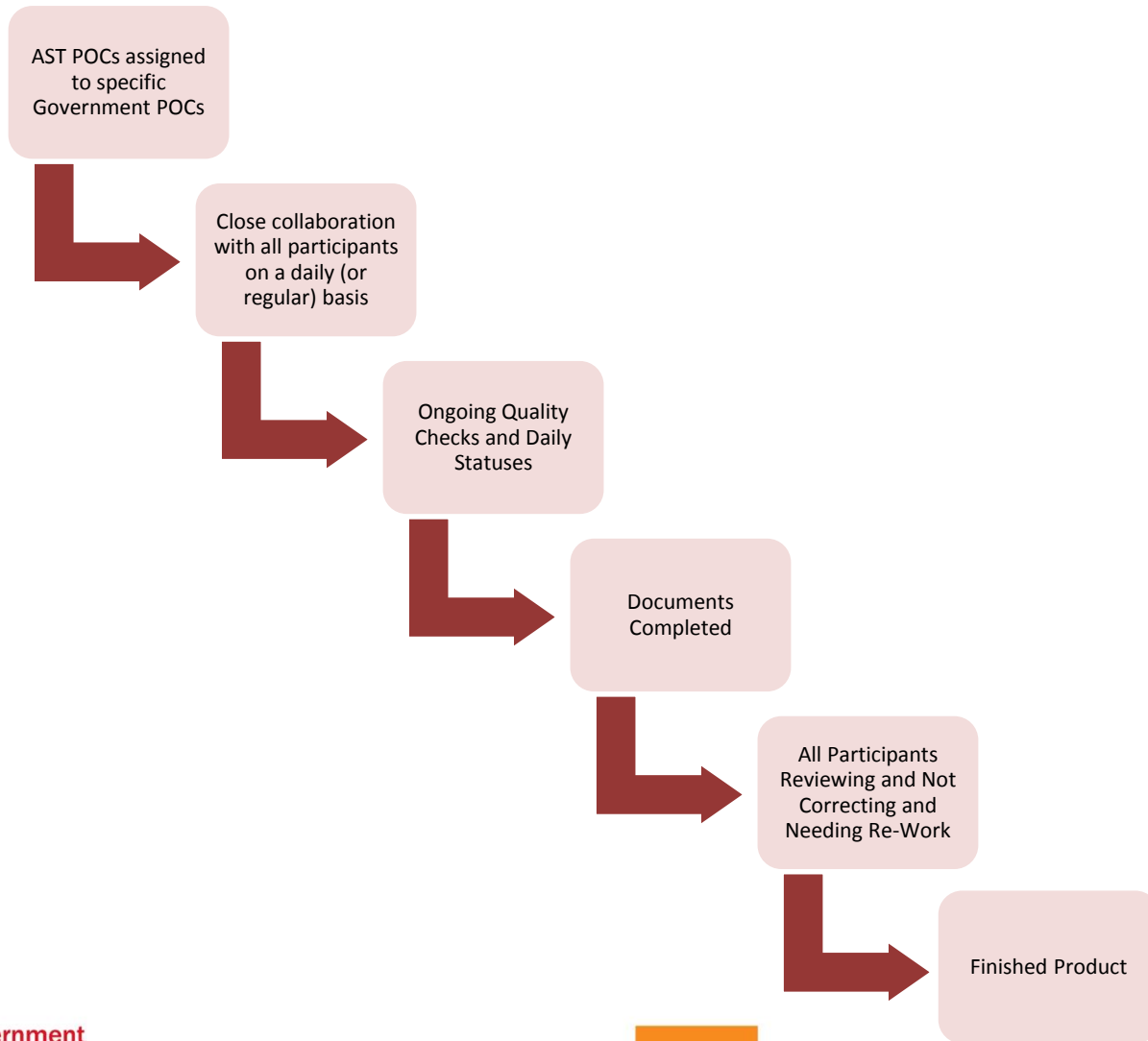
- Enables project teams to:
  - Capitalize on flexibility and speed to deliver needed solutions
  - Reduce investment risk
  - Respond to challenges in real-time
  - Mitigate delays



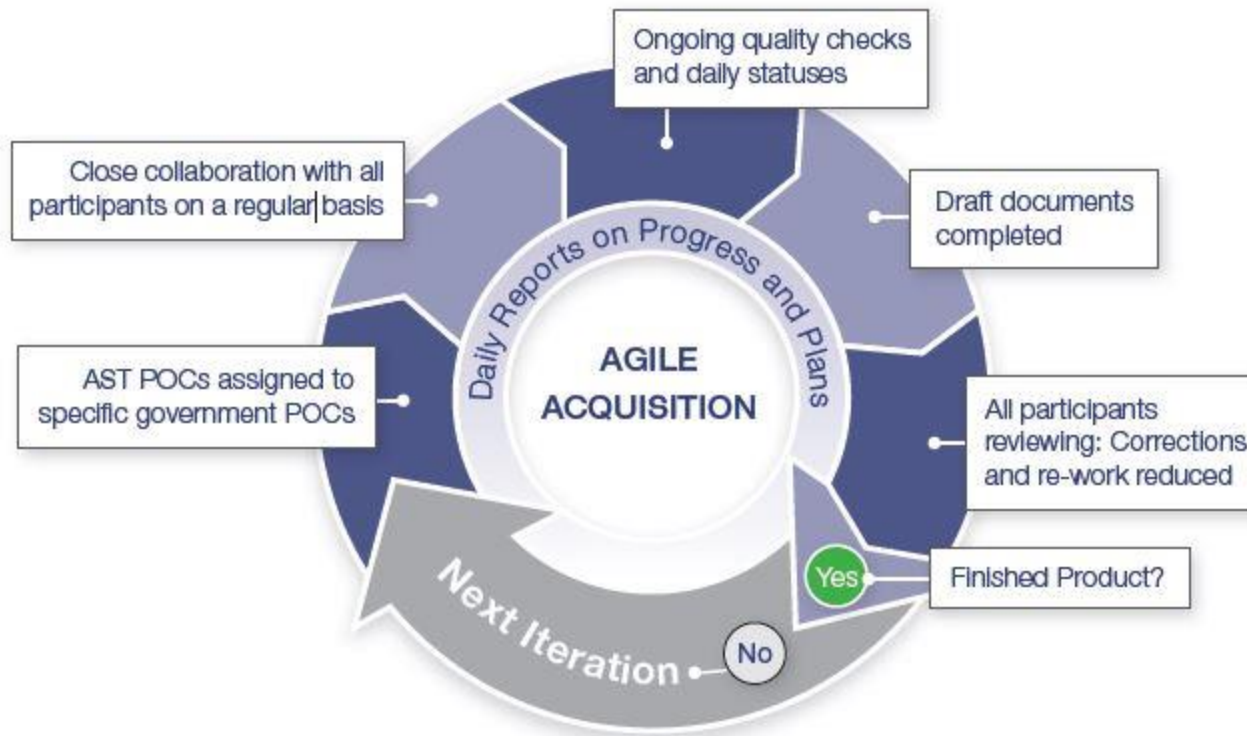
# What are the Benefits?

- Increase communication and collaboration
- Promote knowledge-sharing for all components of acquisition process
- Produce templates, lessons-learned, repeatable procedures to make government more efficient
- Promote team accountability

# Does Agile Acquisition Look Like This?



# Or This?



# How does Agile Acquisition Support Work?

- Hold daily meetings aka “scrums”
- Collaborate closely with all participants and stakeholders, and
- Align with specific program/project areas for as long as possible

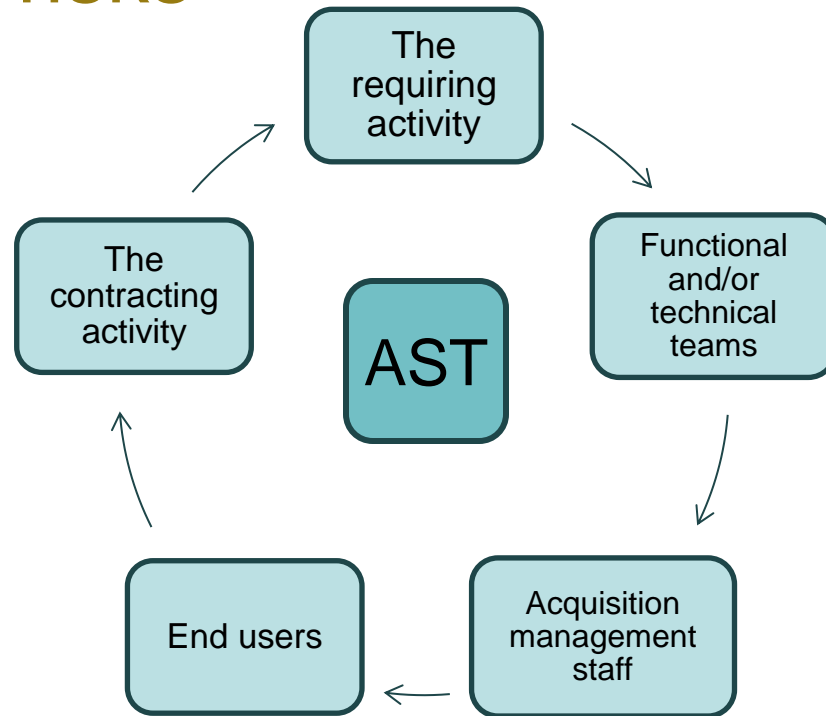
# Daily Scrums

- Daily short meeting – 15 minutes
- Each participant describes status of tasks, plans for that day, potential hurdles
- Each participant keeps daily log
- Tracking prevents duplication
- Lessons learned are shared and solutions are implemented quickly



# Collaboration

- Close collaboration through an Acquisition Support Team (AST) helps identify roadblocks, risks



# Cradle-to-grave Support

- Align with specific program/project areas for as long as possible
- One AST point of contact (POC) is the primary POC for contract actions
- Three benefits:
  - Saves government time; no need to re-explain history of contract
  - Prevents loss of information, files due to transfer/transition
  - Encourages assigned staff to know their accounts fully

# Benefits to Acquisition

- Encourages efficiency and productivity
- Minimizes duplication of effort
- Fosters version control of documentation
- Mitigates repeated mistakes/fosters repeat successes



# Benefits to Acquisition

- Helps in the Management of Team Members' Workload
- Facilitates the gathering of information
- Prevents inaccuracies
- Promotes full accountability and traceability among team members

# Agile Acquisition in the Future

- Continued desire to reduce investment risk and speed delivery of needed solutions
- Could see increasing use of Agile in IT and in acquisition support
- Promotes efficiency and frequent communication
- Reduces risk by identifying and solving problems early

# Questions? Comments?



# Contact Information

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