



OpenAI and the Pentagon: A Strategic \$200 Million Partnership

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Washington, June 17, 2025 – OpenAI, the company led by Sam Altman and creator of ChatGPT, has signed a **\$200 million contract** with the **United States Department of Defense** to develop and test advanced **artificial intelligence (AI)** technologies aimed at supporting both military and administrative activities. This contract marks an important step in the evolution of OpenAI, which is now opening up to the field of U.S. national defense.

The contract, which involves the development of **cutting-edge AI prototypes**, will be operational until July 2026 and will be managed in collaboration with the Pentagon's **Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO)**. The work will be conducted primarily in Washington DC.

Evolution of OpenAI's Approach: From Civilian to Military Defense

The agreement represents a significant shift for OpenAI, which until 2023 explicitly prohibited the use of its technologies in the military field. However, in January 2024, the company updated its **usage policies**, removing the general ban on use in "military or war" contexts. Despite this change, the use for weapon creation, surveillance, asset destruction, and the development of potentially harmful tools remains excluded.

In an **official blog post**, OpenAI announced the launch of the "**OpenAI for Government**" program, designed to bring its most advanced technologies to serve the U.S. public sector, aiming to reduce bureaucracy and improve processes through artificial intelligence.

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Prospects and Implications for National Security

The contract will initially be a **pilot program**, aimed at identifying how AI can:

- Improve access to healthcare for military personnel and their families;
- Optimize data analysis related to programs and acquisitions;
- Support **proactive cyber defense**;
- Enhance the efficiency of the Department of Defense's administrative processes.

OpenAI has already initiated collaborations with other American government agencies, including the **National Laboratories, NASA, NIH**, the **Department of the Treasury**, and the **Air Force Research Laboratory**.

The agreement with the Pentagon comes at a strategic time for OpenAI, which is also facing internal pressures related to corporate restructuring and tensions with its main partner, **Microsoft**. Meanwhile, the company is positioning itself as a key player in the **AI & Defense** sector, responding to the growing demand for advanced digital tools for public administration and national security.

News link: <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/jun/19/openai-scores-200-million-contract-pentagon/>