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By definition, a BPA is not actually a contract, but an agreement between, in this case, the U.S. military and a private company to allow for “a simplified method of filling anticipated repetitive needs for supplies or services.” Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), 48 C.F.R. § 13.303-1. In contrast, an IDIQ contract is a binding contract, with a stated minimum and maximum quantity of supplies or services. FAR, 48 C.F.R. § 16.504. This difference between a BPA and an IDIQ was designed to allow the military to hold contractors accountable under the IDIQ contract for problems of the type that arose under the BPA. In reality, such accountability was absent.

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