



 [Sign Up for Our Ideas Newsletter POV](#)
[SubscribeSubscribe](#)



Search...



Sections

- [Home](#)
- [U.S.](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [World](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Climate](#)
- [Future of Work by Charter](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Tech](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Ideas](#)
- [Science](#)
- [History](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Magazine](#)
- [TIME 2030](#)
- [Next Generation Leaders](#)
- [TIME100 Leadership Series](#)
- [TIME Studios](#)
- [Video](#)
- [TIME100 Talks](#)
- [TIMEPieces](#)
- [The TIME Vault](#)
- [TIME for Health](#)
- [TIME for Kids](#)
- [TIME Edge](#)
- [TIMECO2](#)
- [Red Border: Branded Content by TIME](#)
- [Coupons](#)
- [Personal Finance by TIME Stamped](#)
- [Shopping by TIME Stamped](#)

Join Us

- [Newsletters](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Give a Gift](#)
- [Shop the TIME Store](#)
- [TIME Cover Store](#)
- [Digital Magazine](#)

Customer Care

- [US & Canada](#)
- [Global Help Center](#)

Reach Out

- [Careers](#)
- [Press Room](#)
- [Contact the Editors](#)
- [Media Kit](#)
- [Reprints and Permissions](#)

More

- [About Us](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Your Privacy Rights](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)
- [Modern Slavery Statement](#)
- [Site Map](#)

Connect with Us



Presented By

- [Politics](#)
- [Trump Administration](#)
- State Department Removes Tesla's Name From Planned \$400M Contract Amid Musk Scrutiny

State Department Removes Tesla's Name From Planned \$400M Contract Amid Musk Scrutiny

4 minute read



Elon Musk, chief executive of Tesla and head of DOGE, in the Oval Office on Feb. 11, 2025. Aaron Schwartz—CNP/Bloomberg/Getty Images

By [Chad de Guzman](#)

Updated: February 13, 2025 7:40 AM EST | Originally published: February 13, 2025 1:55 AM EST

The State Department was planning to buy \$400 million worth of “Armored Tesla” later this year, according to its 2025 procurement forecast, a document outlining projections of anticipated contracts, which was published in December. But after reports emerged on Wednesday of the potential for conflict of interest given Tesla CEO [Elon Musk's prominent role in the Trump Administration](#), the document was updated, removing mention of Tesla and changing the line item to “Armored Electric Vehicles” instead.

As of late Wednesday, both versions of the 2025 procurement forecast remained available on different State Department webpages. The [earlier version](#) that mentions Tesla also lists the planned procurement under NAICS Code 311999, an industry code for miscellaneous food manufacturing, while the [newer version](#), which says it was modified at 9:12 p.m., Feb. 12, lists the revised “Armored Electric Vehicles” procurement under NAICS Code 561613 for “Armored Car Services.” No other changes were made in the document, which contains 319 other line items.

The State Department [website](#) says it issues annual procurement forecasts pursuant to the Business Opportunity Development Reform Act of 1988, which “requires agencies to compile and make available projections of contracting opportunities small and small disadvantaged firms may be able to perform.” It is meant to give “small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, women-owned small businesses, HUBZone small businesses, and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses” opportunities to compete for direct contracts with the government or subcontracting opportunities.

In response to questions about the change and whether Tesla remains the intended awardee for a contract that is anticipated, according to the procurement forecast, to be awarded on Sept. 30, a State Department official tells TIME that no government contract has been awarded to Tesla or any other vehicle manufacturer to produce armored electric vehicles for the Department, but the previous administration did ask the Department to explore interest from private companies to produce armored electric vehicles. The Department then did a public Request for Information, the official said, for an armored electric vehicle to solicit interest and received interest from only one company at that

time. As a next step in that process, an official solicitation would be sent out to vehicle manufacturers to bid, the official said, but the solicitation is on hold and there are no current plans to issue it.

Tesla has not responded to a request for comment.

“I’m pretty sure Tesla isn’t getting \$400M. No one mentioned it to me, at least,” Musk [posted on X](#), the social media platform he also owns, early Thursday.

Musk, who leads the new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) that has begun to wield influence across a number of agencies’ budgets and who also owns and runs multiple companies that have significant interests in federal regulations and government contracts, including Tesla and SpaceX, responded to questions about potential for conflicts of interest on Tuesday during an appearance at the White House, insisting that DOGE is transparent about its actions. “Transparency is what builds trust,” he said, citing DOGE’s account on X. “You can see: Am I doing something that benefits one of my companies or not? ... I fully expect to be scrutinized.”

Trump suggested there would be some oversight of Musk: “If we thought there was a lack of transparency or a conflict of interest,” he said Tuesday in the Oval Office beside Musk, “we would not let him do that segment or look in that area.” However, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt previously suggested that the President is OK with Musk self-policing, saying: “If Elon Musk comes across a conflict of interest with the contracts and the funding that DOGE is overseeing, then Elon will excuse himself from those contracts.”

[Drop Site](#) first reported on Tesla appearing in the State Department’s 2025 procurement forecast, while [Bloomberg](#) first reported on the updated forecast.

More from TIME

More Must-Reads from TIME

- Inside [Elon Musk’s War](#) on Washington
- Why Do More [Young Adults Have Cancer?](#)
- [Colman Domingo](#) Leads With Radical Love
- [11 New Books](#) to Read in February
- How to Get Better at [Doing Things Alone](#)
- [Cecily Strong](#) on Goober the Clown
- Column: The Rise of [America’s Broligarchy](#)
- Introducing the [2025 Closers](#)

Contact us at letters@time.com

✍ [Edit Post](#)



- [Home](#)
- [U.S.](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [World](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Tech](#)
- [Personal Finance by TIME Stamped](#)
- [Shopping by TIME Stamped](#)
- [Future of Work by Charter](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Ideas](#)
- [Science](#)
- [History](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Magazine](#)
- [The TIME Vault](#)
- [TIME For Kids](#)
- [TIMECO2](#)
- [Coupons](#)
- [TIME Edge](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Masthead](#)
- [Newsletters](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Digital Magazine](#)
- [Give a Gift](#)
- [Shop the TIME Store](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Modern Slavery Statement](#)
- [Press Room](#)
- [TIME Studios](#)
- [U.S. & Canada Customer Care](#)
- [Global Help Center](#)
- [Contact the Editors](#)
- [Reprints and Permissions](#)
- [Site Map](#)
- [Media Kit](#)

- [Supplied Partner Content](#)
- [About Us](#)

© 2024 TIME USA, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [Terms of Service](#), [Privacy Policy](#) ([Your Privacy Rights](#)) and [Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information](#).

TIME may receive compensation for some links to products and services on this website. Offers may be subject to change without notice.