



Acquisition Excellence

Monthly newsletter of the DASN (Acquisition Management)

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DAU CLC Offers Course in COTS

The Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Continuous Learning Center (CLC) is providing an online course in Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS) Acquisitions for Program Managers. The course is for program managers who are responsible for the acquisition and sustainment of a single program. The course is designed to assist managers as they acquire and support COTS products. It provides an overview of the fundamental challenges that organizations face when they integrate commercial items to form a system. It then addresses the issues involved in buying from the commercial marketplace, summarizes lessons learned from programs that have made extensive use of commercial items, and offers suggestions. Value in the course may also be found for members of integrated product teams and contractors who support the program manager. The module is available to all users of the DAU CLC at clc.dau.mil.

Continuous Learning Policy Revised

The Director, Acquisition Career Management (DACM) has issued a new DON continuous learning policy. The new policy extends the continuous learning standard to all acquisition workforce members, whether certified or not. All acquisition workforce personnel must earn a minimum of 80 continuous learning points every two years, with a goal of earning at least 40 continuous learning points each year. There are no "grace periods" or extensions to the two-year time period; points may not be "carried over" from one cycle to the next. To read the policy, see www.ar.navy.mil/reflib/110402clcacq.pdf. For additional information, contact Richard Graham, POC, on 757-425-0500.

Acquisition Award Nominations

OSD recently announced the "open season" for nominations for the David Packard Acquisition Excellence Award in December. The request for Navy nominations has been forwarded to the acquisition community. Acquisition organizations should consider program nominations and begin documentation of program accomplishments for calendar year 2002. Program offices will be issued a password, which authorizes them to enter nominations directly into the acquisition award database found at www.ar.navy.mil/arawards. DASN (Acquisition Management) action officers for the Acquisition Award Program are Kathy Llewellyn and Ebony Benton, who may be reached at 703-602-9948 and 703-602-2369, respectively; or via e-mail at Llewellyn.Kathy@hq.navy.mil or Benton.Ebony@hq.navy.mil. Submissions are due no later than **31 Dec 02**.



PROGRAM FOCUS: UMM

The Universal Modular Mast (UMM) team led by PMS435 has completed a long-term effort to design, build, test and deliver an innovative modular sensor hoisting mechanism for the VIRGINIA Submarine Class. The UMM provides the shipbuilder a modular capability of installation consistent with modern submarine construction methods, providing both cost effective and efficient mast installation. In addition, the UMM design goals included ease of maintenance and reduced life cycle cost which will be demonstrated as the VIRGINIA Submarine Class enters fleet service. The basic UMM design supports multiple sensor types including, imaging, communications and electronic warfare sensors. The UMM team consisting of Government and industry partners worked together utilizing Alpha Contracting Integrated Product Teams to ensure that the technical and the contractual requirements resulted in a product that fully meets the needs of the fleet and streamlines shipyard installation. The focus of design was commonality and the resulting product's 80% common parts meeting the interface requirements of four different sensor systems. By focusing on procurement efficiency, the UMM team was able to deliver UMMs that meet all specification requirements to the VIRGINIA Class Submarine construction program on schedule and within budget. The UMM team continues to reduce costs by applying lean manufacturing techniques to UMM production resulting in a unit cost reduction of 39%. The UMM Team is working to expand the application of the UMM to SSGN ship conversions and the SSN 688 Class submarines. For more information, call Peter Karounos, POC, at 202-781-1376.

KUDOS

NAVSEAs Shipyard Conservation Team recently received the Presidential Award for Leadership in Federal Energy Management. The Chief of Naval Operations Directorate for Fleet Readiness sponsored the team. Members of the team were NAVSEA and NSWC, Carderock Division detachment Philadelphia. The team was recognized for outstanding performance in energy expenditures. (For additional information, www.navsea.navy.mil/newswire_content.asp?txtDataID=6882&txtTypeID=2.)

Upcoming Events

3 Dec 02 RTOC Quarterly Forum, Institute for Defense Analysis, Arlington, VA

6 Dec 02 Risk Management Community Meeting, Ft. Belvoir Campus, DAU, Ft. Belvoir, VA
(www.pmcop.dau.mil)

31 Dec 02 David Packard Acquisition Excellence Award Submissions Due (www.ar.navy.mil/arawards)

For an expanded list of the upcoming events and additional details, visit www.ar.navy.mil/events.cfm.

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