

TENTNET PARTNERS QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY

Sponsored by the Defense Logistics Agency
Held in conjunction with the JOCOTAS biannual meeting
5 NOVEMBER 2009

BACKGROUND

Tent Network for Technology Implementation (TENTNET) partners meet quarterly at revolving locations. This 1st quarter FY10 meeting was held in conjunction with the JOCOTAS meeting in Panama City Beach, FL. Attachments 1 and 2 contain the meeting agenda and list of attendees. Attachment 3 contains the TENTNET contact list; please review and send any updates to cflint@lmi.org. This summary will be posted on the TENTNET website - www.tentnet.org.

INTRODUCTION

Leo Plonsky, the TENTNET Program Manager, opened the meeting. Leo queried the group about their familiarity with DLA's Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program; most attendees were familiar with the program but this might be a topic to discuss in more depth at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on 11 February 2010, hosted by JTE Machine Systems in Jacksonville, FL.

ACTION for STP teams – All STP update presentations should include a milestone/project plan and budget charts.

STP UPDATE - BUFFER STOCK MODEL

Bill Wiley, University of Tennessee, presented an update on the UT Buffer Stock Decision Tool STP on behalf of Dr. Rupy Sawhney. Upon completion of this task, the goal is to work with DLA to run scenarios for this model; Rupy will be talking to Luis Villareal regarding task 2. The model is completed and the team is currently inputting industry data. Rupy and Bill need to schedule meetings with additional industry members to collect data; they will meet with tent manufacturers to develop a list of the most common material suppliers and will include these suppliers in the data call. Leo suggested that the model should include DLA-owned inventory and Rupy/Bill should discuss this with Luis.

Bill explained that the Rockwell Arena software license they have been working with is not a commercial license but they are applying for the commercial version. They are operating with a conditional commercial license as they await final license processing.

STP UPDATE - EMALL TENTNET SPECIALTY STORE

Jerry Reeves, AC Industries, presented an update of the EMALL TentNet Specialty Store project. Jerry said the project is well underway and that they are working well with the DLIS personnel managing EMALL. The team is currently working with DLIS to resolve some data processing issues. Jerry indicated there is a problem with accessing EMALL (passwords) and he

is working with Mr. Barnes at DLIS. Leo wants this addressed on a future team telecom. Jerry explained that part of the STP is to develop web training to help assist users in understanding how to navigate EMALL.

This STP addresses MILSPEC tents and not commercial tents. Terri Scheetz explained that commercial tents are managed by the Construction and Equipment (C&E) supply chain. C&E will work with EMALL to post all prime vendor information.

STP UPDATE - SURGE MANUFACTURING OPTIMIZATION

Bill Kernodle, Clemson University, presented an update of the Surge Manufacturing Optimization project. Bill reviewed the production module layout and project objectives. Additionally, Bill reviewed key performance parameters (KPPs) the team developed to measure the success of the project and the project schedule.

JTE Machine Systems, Inc.

Traci Evling, JTE Systems, provided background information on JTE and the flexible, programmable RF welder being used in the Surge Manufacturing Optimization project. The RF welder requires a minimal skill level to operate (familiarity with basic PC interface and product measurements). The unit has a Windows-based touch screen and has simple recall ability - can create a "recipe".

PHOTOVOLTAIC TECHNOLOGY

Robert Lerner, FTL Solar, presented uses of photovoltaic technology. Thin film photovoltaic panels can be applied to tent flies, tent roofs, backpacks, etc. to provide alternative power to troops.

WARSTOPPER PROGRAM UPDATE

Adam Barford presented a Warstopper Program update on behalf of Luis Villareal. Adam indicated the program management is looking at adding tents to the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) that will be issued in December; there will be a separate BAA for raw materials. FY10 proposals will be awarded in FY11. The supply chain investment for any proposed effort must be lower than the cost of keeping Warstopper "inventory" to indicate a positive return on investment.

POTENTIAL EQUIPMENT_BASED PROJECTS

Bill Kernodle presented a list of potential equipment-based STPs. Ideas included:

- Fabric Usage & Cutting Optimization.
- Movement from Cutting to Joining Processes.
- Small Parts Production Cells.

- Sewing, Welding, and/or Stamping.
- Grommet Attachment Unit.
- Fold and Pack Finished Products.

Bill invited anyone interested in pursuing any of these ideas to contact him directly.

Leo Plonsky reiterated that all TENTNET members have equal opportunity to introduce new project ideas and to submit proposals for short-term projects.

USMC SHELTER PROGRAM UPDATE

Hunter Graves, representing Darell Jones, presented the USMC shelter program update. Program initiatives include:

- Combat Tent - reduce weight
- Arctic Tent - increase capability (occupancy size), reduce weight and cube size, introduce a removable, optional fabric floor, and make compatible with the Space Heater Arctic
- General Purpose - To procure for the Marine Corps a GP Medium Shelter that meets the need for a free standing and rapid under canopy/rapid deploying system.
- Consolidated Storage Program - Plan to consolidate Marine Corps Shelters in 2nd/3rd Quarter FY 10
- SHC 60K BTU Heater (Forced Air, Self Powered) – Currently testing in theater.

Army PMFSS

Don Stewardson gave a brief Army perspective on R&D and the status of certain projects. Leo suggested he and Don should speak further regarding DLA energy-related R&D efforts – USMC asked to be included in this discussion.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Leo explained that all R&D programs are held accountable to obligation and disbursement metrics; these metrics have the potential to affect future funding. Leo urged all partners to submit invoices as quickly as possible. There will be future updates regarding the Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) invoicing system.



Thursday, 5 November 2009
Marriott Bay Point Resort
Panama City Beach, FL

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
0800-0815	Welcome and Update	<i>Leo Plonsky, DLA</i>
0815-0845	Buffer Stock Decision Tool Update & Industry Modeling Tools	<i>Bill Wiley, University of Tennessee</i>
0845-0915	E-Mall TentNet Specialty Store Update	<i>Jerry Reeves, AC Industries</i>
0915-0945	Shop Floor Automation Project Update and Module Overview	<i>Bill Kernodle, Clemson University</i>
0945-1000	BREAK	
1000-1025	Thin Film Photovoltaic Products	<i>Robert Lerner, FTL Solar</i>
1025-1045	Warstopper Program BAA Update	<i>Adam Barford</i>
1045-1115	Potential Equipment-based Automation Projects	<i>Bill Kernodle, Clemson University</i>
1115-1145	USMC update	<i>Hunter Graves</i>
1145-1200	Wrap-Up and Next Meeting	<i>Leo Plonsky, DLA</i>
1200	Meeting adjourned	

Attachment 2. List of Attendees

TENTNET Quarterly Meeting November 5, 2009 List of Attendees	
Name	Organization
Adam Barford	Warstopper Program/Deloitte Cons.
Al Bergman	Johnson Outdoors Gear LLC
Jens Evling	JTE Machine Systems Inc,
Traci Evling	JTE Machine Systems Inc,
Joe Fields	Outdoor Venture Corporation
Cindy Flint	LMI
Hunter Graves	USMC
Robert Harding	DLA
April Harris	Camel Manufacturing
Frank Henderson	Henderson Sewing Machine Co.
Herman Hill	DSCP C&T
Bill Kernodle	Clemson University
Katie Leimbach	USMC
Robert Lerner	FTL Solar
Mark Lester	Camel Manufacturing
Rachel Marcy	USMC
John Montrastelle	Anchor Inc.
Leo Plonsky	DLA
Nelson Poventud	USMC
Jerry Reeves	AC Inc.
Joe Ruffin	Anchor Inc.
Andrea Russell	Seaman Corporation
Terri Scheetz	DSCP
Don Stewardson	US Army PMFSS
Jim Vitrano	DSCP
Sherry Webb	BondCote
David Shields	Cooley Group
Clint Warner	Easton Technical Products
Bill Wiley	University of Tennessee

Attachement 3. TENTNET Contact List

Name (Last, First)	Firm/Org	Email	Phone
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