

TENTNET PARTNERS QUARTERLY MEETING SUMMARY

Hosted by the Defense Logistics Agency
Clemson University's Center for Apparel Research (CAR), Pendleton, SC
14 MAY 2009

BACKGROUND

The Tent Network for Technology Implementation (TentNet) Partners meeting is held quarterly at revolving locations. This 3rd quarter FY09 meeting was hosted by Clemson University. Attachments 1 and 2 contain the meeting agenda and list of attendees. The TentNet point of contact list is provided in Attachment 3; please review and send any updates to cflint@lmi.org. This summary and meeting presentations can be found at www.tentnet.org.

INTRODUCTION

Leo Plonsky, the TentNet Program Manager set the agenda and thanked our hosts at Clemson University, Bill Kernodle and Chris Cole, for their support. Leo noted that Clemson's shop floor automation project could be used as a model for future projects – led by a university with multiple partners, including a tent manufacturer.

Matt Ryan is the new contracting officer for TentNet, Matthew.Ryan@dla.mil.

The next meeting will be held on 11 August 2009, tentatively scheduled at USIFI in Minneapolis. The November 2009 meeting is set to coincide with JOCOTAS (2-4 Nov) in Panama City, FL. Details will follow in the coming months.

Clemson University Overview

Ms. Chris Cole provided an overview of Clemson University and the CARs participation in textile research for DOD.

DLA R&D Process and Governance

Donna Davis, DLA HQ, discussed a new R&D project governance structure recently implemented at DLA. The goal of the new structure is to create sponsorship at every level of the process and each R&D project must have a senior-level executive sponsor. The hierarchy of governance currently includes the R&D council (J-Code Directors, Field Commanders, R&D Office) and the subordinate R&D Board (DLA J-Codes Deputies; Deputy Field Commanders, R&D Office).

All R&D projects are required to have a project charter, responsibility matrix, communications plan, project plan, and key performance parameters.

STP UPDATE-BUFFER STOCK MODEL

Dr. Rupy Sawhney, University of Tennessee presented an update to the UT Buffer Stock Decision Tool STP. The initial simulation model developed with Camel and Bondcote data has

been expanded since the last meeting to include the entire supply chain. Trips are being planned to validate the updated model. Upon completion of this task, the goal is to work with DLA to run scenarios for this model.

Jerry Reeves requested access to the modeling software so that AC Industries may use it to model their own facilities. Luis Villareal and Leo will review whether or not the finished product can be forwarded to manufacturing partners from a contractual perspective. (Subsequent to the meeting Luis and Leo agreed to allow UT to expand the model to include AC Industries.)

SURGE MANUFACTURING OPTIMIZATION

Bill Kernodle, Clemson University, presented an update of Surge Manufacturing Optimization project. There are two major tasks; the first is to gather baseline metrics, complete a production setup, and order equipment. It should take about 4 months to get the equipment once it is ordered. The second task is to set up, run, and refine the tent section production module to maximize RF welder output.

Leo mentioned the importance of establishing key performance parameters (KPPs) for projects and used the RF welding equipment as an example for establishing measures of success (i.e. what measures of success define the thresholds for transitioning RF welding to industrial partners – modularity, increased throughput, decreased material handling cost, etc.). Bill, Leo, and Cindy will work to finalize the KPPs for this project.

WARSTOPPER PROGRAM UPDATE

Luis Villareal provided background on the Warstopper Program and an update of the C&T policy analysis study. The study includes an industry survey that was released on April 7th; the survey open will be kept open beyond the original 4/30 deadline. Luis also discussed how the strategic metals buffer contract was established to make it attractive to industry and relevant to the warfighter for industry's consideration on how buffer contracts could work within C&T.

USIFI

Ruth Stephens provided an overview of the United States Industrial Fabrics Institute. The Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI) Expo'09 will be held in San Diego, 23-25 September; all are welcome to attend regardless of membership status.

The USIFI Specification Committee, in conjunction with military governing bodies, provides means to update, develop, and maintain select military specifications pertaining to the technical fabric industry. Ruth indicated the committee is having difficulty finding the correct organizational element to “sanction” specification changes; Robert Harding took the action to help USIFI with this issue. Ruth indicated USIFI will consider a specification update successful when the information is available to all end-users through ASSIST.

LEAN ACCOUNTING

Bill Kernodle provided an introduction to Lean accounting. Lean accounting principles ask questions that traditional accounting principles do not, most significantly, what are the constraints in the system. In summary, Lean accounting costs for the future, not the past.

FINAL DISCUSSION

Upon conclusion of the presentations, Mr. Plonsky thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. An optional tour of the Advanced Materials Research Lab and Scanning Electronic Microscope facility was conducted following.

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Thursday, 14 May 2009
Clemson Apparel Research (CAR)
500 Lebanon Rd., Pendleton, SC 29670
864-646-8454

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)
0800-0815	Welcome and Update	<i>Leo Plonsky, DLA</i>
0815-0845	Clemson University Overview	<i>Bill Kernodle, Clemson University</i>
0845-0915	DLA R&D Process and Governance	<i>Donna Davis, DLA HQ</i>
0915-0945	Buffer Stock Decision Tool Update	<i>Dr. Rupy Sawhney, University of Tennessee</i>
0945-1015	BREAK	
1015-1045	Automation Project Update	<i>Bill Kernodle, Clemson University</i>
1045-1115	Warstopper Program Update	<i>Luis Villareal</i>
1115-1145	USIFI Update	<i>Ruth Stephens, USIFI</i>
1145-1215	Lean Accounting	<i>Bill Kernodle, Clemson University</i>
1215-1300	LUNCH	
1300-1315	Travel to tour (POV)	
1315-1430	Optional Tour of the Advanced Materials Research Lab and Scanning Electronic Microscope facility*	<i>Bill Kernodle, Clemson University</i>
1430	Meeting adjourned	

Attachment 2. List of Attendees

TentNet Quarterly Meeting May 14, 2009 List of Attendees	
Name	Organization
Chris Cole	Clemson University
Donna Davis	DLA HQ
Cindy Flint	LMI
David Hammond	Northrup Grumman
Robert Harding	DLA
Bill Kernodle	Clemson University
Leo Plonsky	DLA
Jerry Reeves	AC Inc.
Joe Ruffin	Anchor Inc
Rupy Sawhney	University of Tennessee
Terri Scheetz	DSCP
Ruth Stephens	USIFI
Michael Tharpe	Top Tec Tent
Luis Villarreal	DLA
Jim Vitrano	DSCP
Bill Wiley	University of Tennessee

Attachment 3. TentNet Partners POC List

Name (Last, First)	Organization	Email	Phone
Abbott, Dave	RFD Beaufort	dabbott@rfdbeaufort.com	
Bailey, Gary	Johnson Outdoors (BEC Corp.)	gbailey@bailey-engineering.com	(210) 495-5110
Barnett, Justin	BondCote	justin.barnett@tehata.com	
Bergman, Al	Johnson Outdoors	abergman@johnsonoutdoors.com	(607) 779-2222 ext 303
Braden, Anita	Outdoor Venture Corporation	AnitaBraden@Outdoorventure.com	(606) 376-5021
Burke, Kevin	Defense Logistics Agency	Kevin.Burke@dla.mil	
Burns, Jesse	Defense Logistics Agency	jesse.l.burns@dla.mil	(215) 737-7436
Carman, Dan	Defense Logistics Agency	daniel.carman@dla.mil	(215) 737-2459
Colcolough, Thad	TopTec Tent	tcolcol@prtcnet.com	(864)575-9936 ext 230
Criswell, Andy	Bearing Point	andrew.criswell@bearingpoint.com	(703) 253-2261
Croley, Steve	Camel Manufacturing	scroley@cameltent.com	(423) 562-0527 Ext 222
Dalland, Todd	FTL Design Engineering	tdalland@ftlventures.com	(212) 951-6360
Daugherty, Lynn	Camel Manufacturing	ldaugherty@camelmfg.com	
Davis, Donna	Defense Logistics Agency	donna.davis@dla.mil	(703) 767-4317
Delaloye, John	Diamond Brand	jdelaloye@diamondbrand.com	
Duncan, Bill	Camel Manufacturing	bduncan@cameltent.com	(423) 562-0527
Egnew, JC	Outdoor Venture Corporation	jcegnew@highland.net	
Fields, Joe*	Outdoor Venture Corporation	jwfields@highland.net	(606) 376-5021
Flint, Cindy	LMI (support to DLA)	cflint@lmi.org	(703) 917-7234
Funk, Stu	LMI (support to DLA)	sfunk@lmi.org	(703) 917-7277
Gay, William	Diamond Brand	wgay@diamondbrand.com	(828) 684-9848
Gordon, Peter	RFD Beaufort	pgordon@rfdbeaufort.com	
Graham, LouAnne	Defense Logistics Agency	LouAnne.Graham@dla.mil	(215) 737-7948
Graves, Hunter	US Marine Corps	graveshl@jpmoip.org	(540) 657-5228
Griffiths, D	RFD Beaufort	dgriffiths@rfdbeaufort.com	
Hammond, Dave	Northrop Grumman Corporation	dave.hammond@ngc.com	(978) 749-2118
Harding, Robert	Defense Logistics Agency	robert.harding@dla.mil	(703) 767-3753
Harris, April	Camel Manufacturing	aharris@cameltent.com	(423) 562-0527
Jones, Darell	USMC (MARCORSYSCOM)	darell.jones@usmc.mil	(703) 617-2393
Kernodle, Bill	Clemson University	kernodl@clemson.edu	(864) 646-8454
Kosta, Frank	US Army	frank.kostka@us.army.mil	
Leitch, John	BondCote	jleitch@bondcote.com	
Lerner, Robert	FTL Studio	rlerner@ftlstudio.com	(212) 951-6371
Lester, Mark	Camel Manufacturing	mlester@cameltent.com	(423) 562-0527
Lindquist, Dave	Air Force	Dave.Lindquist@HILL.af.mil	(801) 777-7726
Marcelino, Mike	NFELC	michael.marcelino@navy.mil	(805) 982-5995
Molter, Chad	Bearing Point	chad.molter@bearingpoint.com	
Montrastelle, John	Anchor Inc	John_Montrastelle@anchorinc.com	(812) 867-2421
Murphy, Barbara	Air Force	barbara.murphy@dla.mil	(215) 737-3855
Nelson, Michael	US Army Aberdeen Test Center	michael.nelson@us.army.mil	(410) 278-4446
Nelson, Trent	Johnson Outdoors	tnelson@johnsonoutdoors.com	
Nunley, Al	AC Incorporated	anunley@acincorp.com	(256) 536-2444

O'Brien, Don	Defense Logistics Agency	Donald.OBrien.ctr@dla.mil	(703) 362-4185
Plonsky, Leo	Defense Logistics Agency	Leo.Plonsky@dla.mil	(215) 737-4210
Reeves, Jerry	AC Incorporated	jreeves@acincorp.com	(251) 246-1709
Ridgway, Thomas	Defense Standardization Program Office	thomas.ridgway@dla.mil	(703) 767-6882
Ruffin, Joey	Anchor Inc	joey_ruffin@anchorinc.com	(812) 867-2421
Ryan, Matt	Defense Logistics Agency	matthew.ryan@dla.mil	(215) 737-2253
Sawhney, Dr. Rupy	University of Tennessee	sawhney@utk.edu	
Scheetz, Terri	Defense Logistics Agency	Terri.Scheetz@dla.mil	(215) 737-3274
Stewardson, Donald	US Army RDECOM	Donald.Stewardson@us.army.mil	(508) 233-5251
Tharpe, Michael	TopTec Tent	Miket@toptecproducts.com	(864) 575-9936 ext 224
Villarreal, Luis	Defense Logistics Agency	Luis.Villarreal@dla.mil	(703) 767-1427
Vitrano, James	Defense Logistics Agency	James.Vitrano@dla.mil	(215) 737-3046
Webb, Sherry	BondCote	swebb@bondcote.com	
Wiley, Bill*	University of Tennessee	bill.wiley@tennessee.edu	(865) 974-8464
Yowell, Lindsay	US Army Aberdeen Test Center	lindsay.yowell1@us.army.mil	(410) 278-0294