

MEETING SUMMARY
TentNet Partners Meeting
1 February 07

MEETING SUMMARY
Hosted by the University of Tennessee
UT Conference Center
Knoxville, TN

Background

The Tent Network for Technology Implementation (TentNet) Partners meeting is held quarterly at revolving locations. This 2nd quarter FY07 meeting was hosted by the University of Tennessee, on February 1, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to provide interim status of the current TentNet short term projects (STP), state of the art information regarding the tent industry, and networking opportunities for the TentNet partners.

Introduction

Leo Plonsky, the TentNet Program Manager (PM) for the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), and Terry Scheetz, DLA's Product Executive for Individual Equipment, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave each person the opportunity to introduce themselves to the group.

Mr. Plonsky explained that nothing stated in the meeting should be interpreted as a modification to any statement of work (SOW).

Ms. Scheetz explained that there will no longer be a limit on the amount of funding an STP can receive. This is a change from prior instruction, which limited individual projects to approximately \$100K.

Mr. Plonsky reviewed a draft briefing that he intended to provide to his management the week following this meeting. He asked for suggestions and corrections from the participants. Several comments were made and subsequently incorporated in the briefing. The updated briefing is attached.

Business Update

- *Johnson Outdoors STP Update – Al Bergman*

Al Bergman, of Johnson Outdoors, presented a briefing on the status of their STP. The briefing is attached. Representatives of the other project team members spoke briefly regarding their respective roles in the project.

It was determined that the final report will include recommendations for implementation.

- *University of Tennessee (UT) STP Update – Dr. Paul Dittman*

Dr. Paul Dittman, Director of the University of Tennessee Supply Chain Forum, presented an update of the UT supply chain STP. No funds had been expended on this project, as of 1 Feb. 07.

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Mr. Plonsky suggested that the supply chain audit should include more suppliers. He hopes that, though the STP was originally focused on Camel Manufacturing, the study can be expanded a bit to look at other companies.

- *Marine Corps Procurement Methodology – Hunter Graves*

Hunter Graves presented information on the Marine Corps' initiative on improving the Marine Corps tent procurement practices, on behalf of Darrel Jones, who did not attend the meeting. This effort will result in full visibility of equipment and minimization of maverick shelters within the Marine Corps.

It is important to note that the numbers presented are estimates, and should not be interpreted as commitments or guarantees.

Training and Education

The following briefings provided educational information regarding supply chain manufacturing. The briefings are attached. The Lean Manufacturing demonstration provided an opportunity for participants to learn about the Lean approach, through hands-on learning. The facilitator led the group in a manufacturing demonstration, using volunteers to assemble "products" out of Lego pieces.

- *Supply Chain Principles – Bill Kernodle, Clemson University*
- *Advances in Supply Chain Management Concepts – Atul Agrawal, Object CTalk*
- *Hands on Lean Manufacturing Demonstration – Chuck Beasley, University of Tennessee*

Other Discussion Points

- *Standardization* – The group discussed the role of the Joint Committee on Tactical Shelters (JOCOTAS) in standardization. There is some disparity in the industry, and within the military, on what is considered a standard tent. This topic should be discussed in a future meeting.
- *Minimum sustaining rate* – Several questions were asked about how the issue of sustaining the manufacturers in non-surge times is being addressed. Luis Villarreal stated that his office is conducting a study on this topic. Please contact Mr. Villarreal for more information. (Luis.Villarreal@dla.mil)
- *TentNet website* – There was some discussion on options for web-based collaboration. There are security issues involved in establishing a website. This issue will be revisited at the next meeting. The materials from this meeting will be distributed via mail on a CD.

Action Items

1. Seek Air Force participation (Leo Plonsky)

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2. Locate previous presentation on surge capability and make available to Omnova (Terry Scheetz)
3. Develop suggestions for topics for future meetings (Leo Plonsky will collect ideas from participants)
4. Locate a presenter to brief on the warfighter program at next meeting (Leo Plonsky)
5. Alter the agenda for future meetings to include more time for networking and breaks. (Leo Plonsky)

Next Meeting

- The next TentNet meeting was scheduled for **3 and 4 May 2007**, in Panama City, FL.

Attachments

1. Meeting agenda
2. Attendee list
3. TentNet PM Briefing
4. Johnson Outdoors STP
5. University of Tennessee STP
6. Marine Corps Procurement
7. Supply Chain Principles
8. Advances in Supply Chain Management
9. Lean Manufacturing