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SUPPORTING LEGACY AVIATION WEAPONS SYSTEMS WITH THE INTEGRATED CASTING ORDER NETWORK (ICON) PORTAL

Project: ICON, through the American Metalcasting Consortium's Innovative Casting Technologies (ICT) program, is a procurement tool used by the Defense Logistics Agency. Procuring replacement parts for DoD weapon systems, particularly for legacy systems, is a challenge. The objective of the ICON portal is to establish a marketplace that facilitates linking DLA procurement manufacturing requirements for critical components to a qualified supply base that is both responsive and capable of delivering high quality parts in a timely and cost-effective manner.

SUCCESS STORY

Problem: Since 1957, the KC-135 Stratotanker has provided aerial refueling to the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and allied-nation aircraft. The last KC-135 was delivered to the Air Force in 1965. Keeping the fleet of over 400 aging aircraft in the air until 2040 depends upon cost-effective replacement components such as the Leading Edge Flap Control Housings. The last purchase of this component was in 2005, and prior to ICON, no casting source or tooling location was available, indicating an unhealthy supply chain for this badly needed item.

Solution: An aluminum sand casting foundry viewed the solicitation for the Leading Edge Flap Control Housings via the ICON portal and prepared the winning bid.

Benefits: Previous procurements of these parts cost \$8,800 each. After the use of ICON, the cost per unit dropped to \$6,225 for a significant 30% cost savings.



“On a daily basis, I analyze the DIBBS open cast metal aircraft part solicitations for what I call “health of supply chain.” The objective is to determine if the manufacturers are still in business, and who has supplied the part to DLA in the past five years. I then look at the potential supply chain and find ways to increase competition and number of valid bid responses to DLA. ICON makes this analysis quick and simple, because of its complete data compilation. Without ICON, this analysis could take days, and now I can do it in hours.”

-Keith Sturgill, CAST-IT Application Engineer, Aviation Forging and Casting Assistance Team

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