

## Sourcing Optimization Portal Delivers Supply Chain Solutions For DLA Parts Acquisition



As part of the AMC's Casting for Solutions Readiness (CSR) Program, the Non-Ferrous Founders' Society (NFFS) is developing a source optimization portal to eliminate procurement challenges for cast metal part acquisitions. The objective of the web 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

<u>Problem</u>: Procuring high quality, cost-efficient spare parts for DoD weapons systems, particularly legacy systems, is a challenge for DLA. This can be attributed to factors such as small quantity orders, infrequent buys, fragmented supply chains, and a diminishing manufacturing base. Furthermore, the administrative and production lead times (ALT & PLT, respectively) required for these components can be particularly challenging in allowing the DLA to provide parts on a timely basis to the requesting agencies.

<u>Solution</u>: The Integrated Casting Order Network (ICON) portal provides casting suppliers a better method to identify defense related solicitations for which the supplier already has tooling, or may have parts in inventory. This allows suppliers to dramatically reduce the ALT and PLT for defense related orders by eliminating tooling development, or by providing components that are readily available within the supplier's existing inventory.



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<u>Benefits</u>: Reduced the First Article Testing (FAT) lead time by 19%, from 98 to 80 days. Reduced the Production Lead Time (PLT) 66%, from 126 days to 42 days after FAT approval. It also allowed for a single source supplier to provide a machined and primed component, simplifying the legacy supply chain and allowing the vendor to reduce inventory levels at the same time.

"Thank you for working with Solidiform and assisting us with registering with the ICON portal. We have seen opportunities that we might have missed using other search methods. The most recent success involved castings we have had in stock since 2010 that we will now machine, prime and sell for a much greater value added than the casting itself. Plus the inventory relief is an added benefit. I look forward to working with NFFS as you continue to refine the capabilities of this worthy program."

—Kevan Todd, Solidiform, Inc.











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