

CNST Conducts Capabilities Assessment and Benchmarking of Mid-Tier U.S. Shipyards

This past summer, ONR's Navy ManTech program, through the Center for Naval Shipbuilding Technology (CNST), commissioned a combined shipyard capabilities and global shipyard benchmarking study to determine Naval shipbuilding capabilities and use of best practices among mid-tier U.S. shipyards. This pilot study of three mid-tier yards, follows from, and is complementary to, the Global Shipbuilding Industrial Base Benchmarking Study (GSIBBS) conducted by the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Industrial Policy) (ODUSD(IP)) in 2004; that study focused on the first-tier U.S. yards.

Two different scales of reference were used to make the comparisons. The capability of the yard was assessed using a tool created specifically for this project by a CNST-led team that also included representatives from the American Bureau of Shipping, NAVSEA Shipbuilding Support Office (NAVSUPSO), mid-tier ship construction specialists and First Marine International (FMI) of the U.K. Benchmarking comparisons were made using the FMI shipyard benchmarking system, which has been used for numerous past surveys, both here in the U.S. and abroad.

The capability analysis provided a measure of the capability of the shipyard to design and build medium-size Navy combatants made of thin steel or aluminum in accordance with U.S. Navy requirements and the recently issued ABS Guide for Building and Classing Naval Vessels.

This first round of surveys was conducted during July/August 2005 by a team from CNST, ODUSD(IP) and FMI. It's preliminary findings were presented at

ONR on November 9th; attendees included representatives from ONR, the Littoral Combat Ship Program Office (PMS 501), NAVSUPSO, ODUSD(IP), NSWC Carderock Division, the Maritime Administration and other ManTech Centers of Excellence. Over the next six months, CNST and ODUSD(IP) will coordinate surveys of additional mid-tier yards in the U.S., Australia and Europe. A final industry report is scheduled for release in late summer 2006.

About CNST

CNST is a Navy ManTech Center of Excellence, chartered by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) to identify, develop and deploy, in U.S. shipyards, advanced manufacturing technologies that will reduce the cost and time to build and repair Navy ships. For additional information on this and other CNST projects, please visit www.cnst.us.

