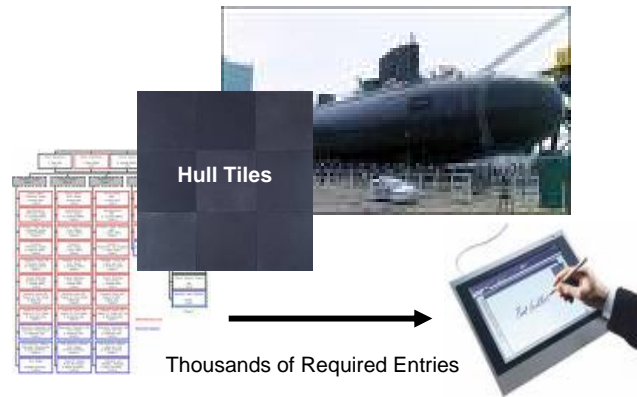


Paperless Data Capture *Capturing Real-Time Quality Evidence Data*

CNST recently awarded a \$420K project to develop and implement an improved methodology for documenting installation of Mold-in-Place (MIP) Special Hull Treatment on the VIRGINIA-Class Submarine, specifically to collect the associated Objective Quality Evidence (OQE), in real time. The project kicked off 18 March 2008 at General Dynamics Electric Boat's (EB) Groton facility.

The MIP process is critical to ensure full VCS capability, but its current inspection and documentation process is not optimized for efficiency. The legacy process requires transcribed information on material tags, which causes foremen to leave the worksite during their shift. Automating the data entry of MIP OQE and capturing real-time data will reduce end-of-shift downtime, increase productivity, eliminate data transposition errors (and the time taken to correct them), and allow foremen to spend more time on the production floor. Data collection time alone could be reduced by as much as 33%, which equates to more than \$120K per hull based on installation history at EB.

Various technology solutions, such as handheld devices, wireless mobile computers, and kiosks will be evaluated. A prototype of the most viable solution will be integrated with the current production management system at EB to evaluate system hardware and software. At the project's conclusion, the prototype system will be fully operational and compatible with the existing production management system at EB. Findings should benefit construction activities at other major shipyards as well.



Job-Site Data Capture Will Save Labor Hours and Improve Efficiency

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.