

CNST Awards Internal Supply Chain Project in Support of Littoral Combat Ship Program

The Center for Naval Shipbuilding Technology (CNST) – through its partnership with the Office of Naval Research and Navy ManTech – recently awarded a \$500K project to Marinette Marine Corporation (MMC) to make improvements to the shipyard’s internal supply chain.

MMC (a subsidiary of The Manitowoc Company Inc.) currently designs and constructs vessels for the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard and commercial customers. Its Navy contracts include Improved Navy Lighterage System and the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) prototype. It also plans to produce Flight 0+ of LCS, which may require the delivery of two to three ships per year.



Marinette Marine Corporation’s ship construction facility in Marinette, WI.

As a result of the volume of work, the mix of customers and the need to contend with design changes typical of a naval combatant, substantially improved material management processes and systems are required. The support of Navy ManTech, through CNST, will enable MMC to move forward rapidly and meaningfully with this effort.

MMC will collaborate with LCS prime contractor Lockheed Martin Corporation and use established Six Sigma process improvement methods to achieve project goals. One objective is to investigate various business system and material control solutions successfully used in similar environments, including other shipyards. Potential solutions will be benchmarked, options will be examined, and the most promising will be tested in pilot

implementations. The project will culminate with a detailed plan for full implementation, to be carried out by MMC.

These re-engineered material management systems and processes are projected to save \$3.1M per Littoral Combat Ship.

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.