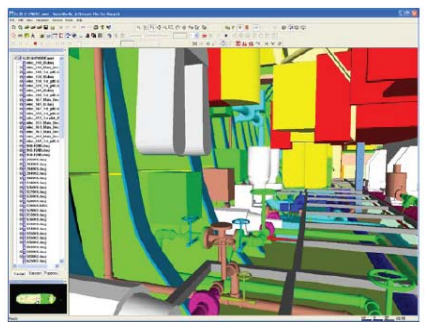


CNST Awards Project to Improve the “Design for Production” Process at Electric Boat

The Center for Naval Shipbuilding Technology (CNST), through its partnership with the Office of Naval Research and Navy ManTech, recently awarded a \$714K project to General Dynamics Electric Boat (EB) to evaluate a new methodology using “design for production” (DfP) process improvement techniques in an effort to reduce the cost and time to construct Virginia-Class Submarines (VCS).

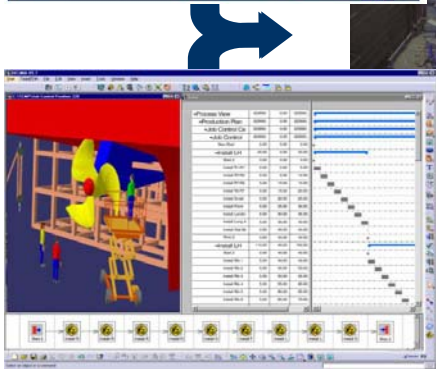
Electric Boat (a subsidiary of General Dynamics Corporation) designs, constructs, and outfits submarines for the U.S. Navy VCS program. Navy ManTech funded this two-year, multi-phase effort to ensure the VCS production workforce receives accurate, configuration-managed, electronic data that meets their information needs in a timely manner. The project will evaluate three targeted areas of the DfP process: cost-based design, design standards/rules, and seamless deliverables.



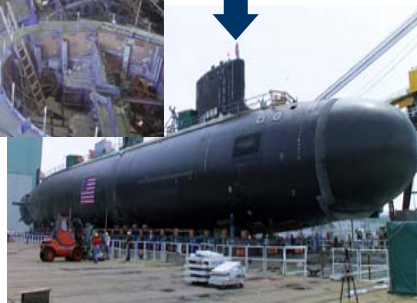
Research activities will employ a knowledge management system to capture the best lean manufacturing capabilities and generate rules/standards for application during design. Additionally,



using 3D product model data, the shipyard will investigate process improvements to produce “on demand” deliverables for clients, subcontractors, and the shop floor. The investigation will also address implementation issues such



as overall process changes necessary to incorporate the new technologies. The project will culminate with a comprehensive plan for full implementation, to be carried out by EB.



Upon successful implementation, these improved DfP processes will reduce design/engineering and production labor hours and eliminate wasteful steps in the manufacturing process. Project results and lessons learned will be disseminated across the shipbuilding industry, as DfP process improvements are not limited to submarines but are applicable to aircraft carriers and other surface combatants as well.

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.