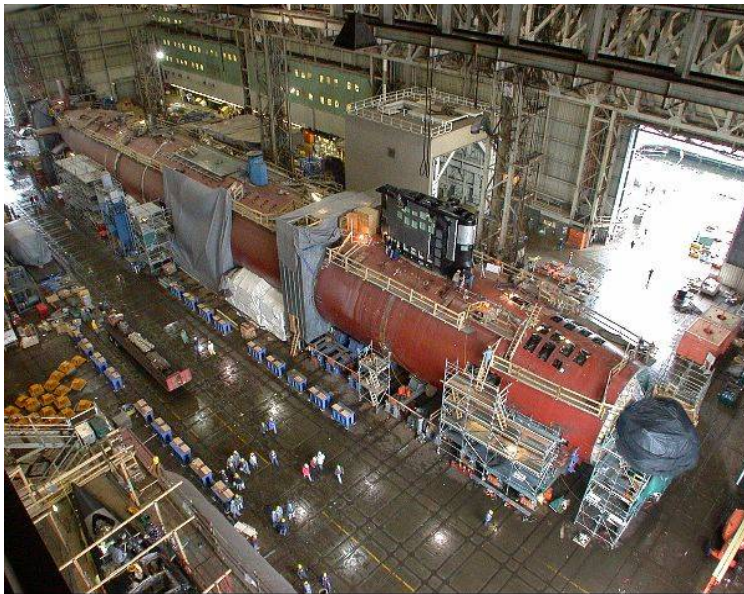


CNST Awards Material Logistics Project in Support of VIRGINIA-Class Submarines

The Center for Naval Shipbuilding Technology (CNST) – through its partnership with the Office of Naval Research and Navy ManTech – recently awarded an \$893K project to Electric Boat Corporation (EB) to implement a world-class material flow system in support of VIRGINIA-Class Submarine (VCS) construction and program acquisition goals.

Reducing VCS construction costs to \$2B per submarine and cycle time from over 80 months to 60 months are critical to achieving the Navy’s goal of procuring two submarines per year by the year 2012. However, material flow management challenges at the shipyard contribute to high cycle times, excess inventory, low material availability rates, and re-manufacture/re-procurement of rejected, damaged, or



The nuclear powered attack submarine Virginia while under construction at Groton Shipyard, Conn. (Apr. 15, 2003)

lost parts. The new system seeks to improve multiple facets of the shipyard’s material management operation, including procurement, scheduling, storage, handling, tracking, and delivery. This includes point-of-use storage, material kitting, electronic tracking, and could include a material distribution center to optimize the receiving, inspection, storing, and delivery functions.

This manufacturing technology issue, once resolved, has the potential to save an estimated \$3M annually in labor costs and avoid an additional \$150K of lost/damaged materials for each VCS hull constructed. Findings from this effort will benefit both EB yards (Groton, Quonset Point) and their VCS co-build partner, Northrop Grumman Newport News.

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.