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T3.15.1 Systems and Parts Obsolescence Management

A Systems and Parts Obsolescence Management

1 Objective

The intent of this document is to recommend procedures and methods, which should provide program managers, logistical support managers, and any individuals involved with National Airspace Systems (NAS) acquisition and transition planning options to manage systems and parts obsolescence.

Systems obsolescence relates to commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) product obsolescence. Sample guidelines contained in the Forms Section C of this document may be used for COTS-based systems acquisitions.

Parts obsolescence is referred to as diminishing manufacturing sources and material shortages (DMSMS) for custom developed electronic modules. DMSMS is defined as the loss or pending loss of manufacturers or suppliers of critical items and new materials due to discontinuance of production. The following sections of this document relate to DMSMS.

2 Statement of Issue

Rapid changes in technology and the move from Military Specification (MIL-SPEC) parts to industrial and commercial grade parts have caused the semiconductor industry to experience a tremendous turnover in the market. This is due in part to congressional mandates and the shrinking military influence for MIL-SPEC parts brought on by the reduction in defense weapon systems. This has had a profound effect on agencies like the FAA because many of the systems were procured using Military Standards to establish logistics requirements. Today many of the systems are still operational and form a vital part of NAS. Changes in microelectronics in 2-year or less time frames are creating a continuous DMSMS issue which impacts system's cost, and maintenance requirements.

It is advantageous for FAA to initiate, or join an existing program that performs parts obsolescence and material shortage projections and analysis at the onset of a program and through its life cycle. Parts obsolescence and DMSMS impacts design considerations, cost, scheduling, supply, support cost, and maintenance resources. A coordinated management implementation strategy should be implemented to deal with the issues that affect the reliability and availability of NAS systems and equipment.

There are methods, procedures and tools designed to give early identification of DMSMS to assist program managers and logistical support managers with decision related to cost and schedule. Program managers and logistical support persons should consider the utilization of these techniques and tools.

3 Planning

In accordance with Section 6.1 of the Federal Aviation Administration Acquisition System Toolset, Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) is a critical functional discipline that establishes

and maintains a support system for all FAA products and services. The principles of ILS include ensuring active participation of all project management teams.

DMSMS and parts obsolescence issues are important parts of the life cycle acquisition process. Item managers should be included as part of the acquisition process from onset of a program.

4 Logistics Center

Long-term planning is an integral part of logistics. Before new NAS equipment is installed, detailed logistics support life cycle requirements are analyzed by the Federal Aviation Administration's Logistics Center's (FAALC) provisioners, engineers, Logistic Integrator(s), and Logistics Management Specialists. New systems may demand new repair techniques that require special test equipment and procedures. The requirements, as well as replacement items and the components needed to repair failed equipment, should be analyzed and included in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) plans for a modernized NAS.

As new NAS equipment is fielded, tested and declared operational, it is "commissioned." In order for a facility, system, sub-system, or equipment to be considered commissioned it must be formally accepted, supportable, and placed into operational use or service as part of the NAS, and its controlling Airway Facilities sector has assumed formal maintenance responsibility. The Logistics Center provides the supply support to keep older and often obsolete systems and equipment in continual operating condition until "decommissioning."

5 Requirements Organization's Role And Responsibility

The requirements organization should include DMSMS provisions in procurement planning documents, screening information request (SIRS), specifications, engineering requirements, purchase descriptions, work statements, work orders, and procurement request necessary to meet the DMSMS objectives set forth in paragraph A.1. See Section C for Sample Contract Data Requirement List and Sample Data Item Description.

6 Contracting Organization's Role And Responsibility

Prior to issuance of the SIR, the contracting officer ensures appropriate DMSMS provisions are included in the documentation.

7 Logistics Integrator(s) Role And Responsibility

The function of a Logistics Integrator(s) should include making part availability projections, performing part and materials analysis, and interfacing with one or more of the already established part obsolescence systems.

Some available systems already on line that manage computerized parts obsolescence and DMSMS programs are: the United States Air Force Material Command's Diminishing Manufacturing Sources and Material Shortages program; the Defense Supply Center, Columbus; the Government Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP) and commercial companies.

8 GIDEP Coordinator's Role And Responsibility

The FAA GIDEP Coordinator's function is assigned to the Procurement Support and Information Services Branch, ASU-110. The GIDEP coordinator's responsibilities include:

a. Serves as the focal point for coordination of users of the GIDEP system in FAA Headquarters, Regions, and Centers.

b. Serves as the source for obtaining information on DMSMS parts via the GIDEP's Urgent Data Request (UDR) system. See section C for UDR form. Additional information on the UDR system and GIDEP is available on the internet (http://www.gidep.org)

B Clauses

view contract clauses

C Forms

view procurement forms

D Appendix

Sample 1 – Contract Data Requirement List for Commercial Product Management Plan

Sample 2 – Data Item Description for Commercial Product Management Plan