



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

SUSTAINMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR MAINTENANCE EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE JOINT GROUP ON DEPOT MAINTENANCE ORGANIC INDUSTRIAL BASE COMMANDERS

SUBJECT: 2023 Maintenance Innovation Challenge – Call for Submissions

I am pleased to announce the highly anticipated Maintenance Innovation Challenge (MIC) as part of the 2023 DoD Maintenance Symposium. Aligning with this year's Symposium theme "Cultivating Global Integrated Sustainment in a Contested Environment", innovative solutions are needed to improve and integrate sustainment operations in challenging operating conditions. The MIC provides an outstanding opportunity to identify, highlight and exploit promising innovations and technology within the sustainment community.

The MIC's objective is to elevate and expand sustainment innovation beyond new technology, to include value-added partnerships, resourcing strategies, business practices, processes, or any other transformative capabilities that make maintenance more agile, effective, and affordable. This annual competition raises awareness across our community to a myriad of new and promising technologies/innovative processes that potentially present the best opportunities to positively impact DoD sustainment.

From the field of submissions, six finalists will be selected, and the overall winner will be determined by a select group of senior DoD logisticians. The six finalists will present their new technologies, processes, or business practices to the symposium audience during a breakout session on Monday, December 18, 2023, at the 2023 DoD Maintenance Symposium in San Diego, CA. Continuing with tradition, attendees at the MIC breakout session will select the MIC People's Choice Award from the six finalists based on their live presentations. Winners will be announced and formally recognized during the Symposium's plenary on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. The six finalists will also be provided space to showcase their maintenance innovation on story boards in the co-located Defense Maintenance and Logistics Exhibition. Additionally, all qualifying abstracts and quad-chart submissions will be published in the annual MIC publication.

In an effort to recognize and uncover potential game changing innovations, I am challenging individuals and organizations to submit their innovative capabilities and forward-looking sustainment enablers for the 2023 MIC. As an added incentive, the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences (NCMS), has committed to support the demonstration of the winner's innovation and have offered to provide \$50,000 of in-kind support to both the MIC winner and the "People's Choice" winner. NCMS is referenced in this memorandum solely for informational purposes and does not serve as a DoD endorsement.

Please assist me in disseminating the call for Maintenance Innovation Challenge submissions and encouraging your communities to submit abstracts. The deadline for MIC submittals is Monday, October 6, 2023. Additional details are available at: www.sae.org/dod. My POC is Mr. Steve McKee, (571) 969-0662, stephen.e.mckee.civ@mail.mil.

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(Materiel Readiness)