



LOGISTICS AND  
MATERIEL READINESS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

MAY 23 2018

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

SUBJECT: 2018 Maintenance Innovation Challenge – Call for Abstracts

The 2018 National Defense Strategy contains an objective to establish an unmatched twenty-first century National Security Base that effectively supports operations and sustains security and solvency. The Maintenance Innovation Challenge (MIC), an integral part of the 2018 DoD Maintenance Symposium, aligns well with this strategy.

As in previous years, the MIC continues to be a hallmark event that elicits and shares innovative maintenance capabilities. The MIC elevates and expands maintenance and sustainment innovation beyond new technology, to also include unique partnerships, resourcing strategies, business practices, processes or any other transformative capabilities that make maintenance more agile, effective, and affordable. Industry, Academia, Military Services and Defense Agencies are actively pursuing innovative technologies and processes aimed at improving maintenance effectiveness and I am challenging individuals and organizations to submit their innovative capabilities and forward-looking sustainment enablers for the 2018 Maintenance Innovation Challenge.

We will select six finalists who will be given the opportunity to present their new technologies, processes, or business practices to the symposium audience during a special breakout session on Monday, December 17, 2018 in Tampa, Florida. As in past years, I am requesting the MESC principals select the 2018 MIC winner. Also, continuing with a tradition established two years ago, audience participants at the 2018 MIC breakout will have the opportunity to select the 2018 MIC Peoples' Choice award from the six finalists. Winners will be announced and formally recognized during the Symposium's plenary session on Tuesday, December 18, 2018.

The six finalists will be provided space to showcase their maintenance innovation in the co-located Defense Maintenance and Logistics Exhibition. Additionally, all who submit a qualifying abstract and quad-chart will be published in the annual MIC publication.

Please assist me in disseminating the call for Maintenance Innovation Challenge submissions and encouraging your communities to submit abstracts. The deadline for abstracts is Friday, September 28, 2018. For additional details on submitting an abstract please visit: [www.sae.org/dod](http://www.sae.org/dod). My point of contact is Mr. Greg Kilchenstein, (703) 614-0862, [gregory.j.kilchenstein.civ@mail.mil](mailto:gregory.j.kilchenstein.civ@mail.mil).

Kenneth D. Watson  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Maintenance Policy and Programs