

Meeting Summary

Parts Standardization & Management Committee (PSMC) Conference

LMI
McLean, VA
April 29 – May 1, 2008

All documents referenced in this summary are located at http://www.dscc.dla.mil/Programs/psmc/psmc_library.html.

Tuesday – April 29, 2008

The Industry Lead kicked off the Spring 2008 PSMC Conference with a welcome, followed by the PSMC Chair (Director, DSPO). The Military Lead then facilitated introductions among those present and provided an update and review of the Charter Subcommittee, the organizational structure of the PSMC, described the various subcommittees and their mission. The Industry Lead then reviewed action items from the previous meeting. The Marketing Subcommittee Chair provided a review of the responses from participant surveys, noting that the strongest reason for participants not being able to attend PSMC conferences is lack of funding from their organizations.

A PSMC Overview briefing was presented by a PSMC industry participant. He described his experience with the PSMC, provided background regarding the parts management reengineering initiative, which involved participants from industry and government working together. He outlined the PSMC objectives, citing some key benefits of PSMC participation.

A discussion followed of upcoming conferences. The DMSMS 2008 conference is being held in September, and the GIDEP workshop/clinic will be held in conjunction with this conference. The Fall 2008 PSMC Conference will be held the week of October 27-31, in Burlingame, California (near San Francisco), at the Embassy Suites - Airport.

The Director, DSPO, who chairs the PSMC, provided an update from his perspective. He noted the NATO conference, to be held in Leesburg, VA will bring together NATO member nations to discuss standardization. Attendance is limited so participants are encouraged to sign up early. He said that DSPO has been involved with the PSMC for many years, and they are a logical group to work with, which is why he offered to charter the PSMC. He noted that the PSMC is an advisory group to DSPO – a sounding board to ask, “Are we doing things right?” The PSMC has moved to become a very proactive group, and parts management is one of the main strategic issues within DSPO. He said that parts management needs to be mandatory, and that this does not mean a return to parts control. The memo for the Under Secretary of Acquisition Technology & Logistics is ready to be signed. Because of the upcoming presidential election, organizational changes are underway within OSD and it is not yet clear where DSPO will reside under the new administration. Also, he noted that the key to success is for parts management to be included in Systems Engineering. The Director, DSPO, discussed establishing a sense of urgency with regard to the initiatives and products from the PSMC. These products include:

AT&L Memo – this will tie together efforts with the changes to the 5000.2 contract language (DFARS group.)

Defense Acquisition Guidebook (DAG) – appropriate parts management language insertions and edits. No need to wait on the memo to move forward on this.

SD-19 – this critical tool for showing how to execute parts management policy is currently under revision.

Executive DAU course – this is under development. This course needs to be in place when the memo is signed. We may need additional courses later on.

Portal (DPMP) – We need to decide on the business plan for the portal, how much funding is needed, and how to proceed.

The DSPO's Automation Lead briefed the group on three online tools managed by DSPO: Acquisition Streamlining and Standardization Information System (ASSIST), the Qualified Products Database (QPD), and the Weapon System Impact Tool (WSIT). One does not have to register to search the ASSIST database for milspecs, milstds, non-government standards, etc. He noted that ASSISTDOCS.com and ASSIST "Quick Search" provide most of what people are searching for and require no user id or password. ASSISTDOCS.com is even up when the ASSIST database is down for routine maintenance. Users can perform numeric searches to locate data in ranges. Additional functionality is available to registered ASSIST users, including: collaboration features for document editing; alerts on projects, documents and drafts; access to QPD and WSIT; and reports or exports of data to Excel or PDF formats. A supplier who wants to be listed as a qualified source in QPD must be registered in the Central Contractor Registration (www.ccr.gov) in an active status. CCR updates are automatically reflected in QPD. WSIT is available to all registered ASSIST users, and uses XSB's "Coherent View" technology to show relevance and relationships between search items. WSIT is capable of showing the number of parts connected to a specification on a specific weapon system.

A PSMC participant from Lockheed Martin presented "Engineering Process Improvement." This is a corporately funded effort, including newsletter, forum, and more, created to allow Lockheed Martin personnel to comment or provide alerts on parts that have issues. The newsletter currently has 55,000 recipients, and these individuals are broken out by topic and working groups. One working group is the Component Technology Issues (CTI-WG) and this group has developed plans and guidelines for DMSMS and parts management, CTI-WG lexicon (that includes hierarchy of parts selection.) Lockheed Martin has approved the demonstration of their internally developed "MyParts" tool to DSPO.

A Professor from the University of Maryland (UMD) Center for Advanced Life Cycle Engineering (CALCE) briefed the group on the Electronic Part Total Cost of Ownership (EPTCO) model they developed. The model addresses the question of "Is there an optimum number of products to use a part on?" The EPTCO tools track all types of dollars in currencies and separately so one can track the cost of money separately. The activity-based model outputs all costs in "(annual) effective cost per part site," which equates to one place a part goes in a specific product. The user can designate a part by preferred part, maturity, number of suppliers, and can also include inflation/deflation rates. He noted that in some cases design reuse of a part can sometimes lead to a single point of failure. There are plans for extensions to this project, to include multi-concurrent source models and applications to addressing counterfeit parts.

A representative from the Army Materiel Command presented a briefing on SYSPARS – Parts Management Plan Builder. SYSPARS was previously called LOGPARS, and was updated in October/November 2007. DMSMS and SEP were included in the last release of the software. SYSPARS can be used at any time during the lifecycle. Key benefits of using SYSPARS: document templates save time for the user developing a document and use of the tool is free.

A representative from OUSD (AT&L) SSE Enterprise Development Division discussed Parts Management in Systems Engineering. The website address is: www.acq.osd.mil/sse. He updated the group on OSD Systems Engineering's effort to include parts management language in appropriate documents, to ensure it will be considered during weapon system design. He said the new version of the DAG has a stronger parts management section.

- PSMC to look at the parts management language submitted to SSE earlier for inclusion in DAG Chapter 4 (Systems Engineering) to see if it needs further revision before going final, and see how the proposed 5000.2 language could impact parts management.

He also indicated that soon there may be a new process for the 5000.2, where changes will be much easier to incorporate over time. One major change in the next proposed revision is that milestone B would occur later in the lifecycle.

Wednesday – April 30, 2008

The PSMC Subcommittees provided updates.

- The Policy and Contracts and Systems Engineering Subcommittee reported that a draft memo for AT&L signature had been edited, the new MIL-STD-3018 was successfully implemented in a contract, and the Parts Management Executive course is in the Alpha version. The SD-19 is being updated. Default language for the Parts Management Plan builder in SYSPARS needs to be developed, and the insight of Industry participants would be helpful. Chapter 4 (Systems Engineering) of the DAG needs to be reviewed to ensure language submitted to OSD Systems Engineering earlier still fits well. Chapter 5, Life Cycle Logistics, needs to be reviewed and parts management language updated.
- The Parts Management Tools Subcommittee reported that the DPMP is under development, in the Beta phase. All PSMC participant organizations were encouraged to create viable bridge pages during this phase as the intent is to launch the DPMP before the DMSMS conference in September 2008. The business rules for the DPMP need to be reviewed and vetted, the “go live” criteria set. The subcommittee plans to invite the DMSMS and Aging Aircraft lists of members/participants to become active participants in the DPMP. The group also addressed the importance of promoting the new portal.
- The DMSMS Subcommittee reported that the DMSMS 2008 conference will have a Parts Management focus/track with plans for a plenary session, and multiple technical sessions. In addition, DMSMS cost metrics were discussed, including a survey to industry, the Department of Commerce statutory requirement, and the case history data sharing in the Obsolescence Data Repository at GIDEP.

- The Charter and Marketing Subcommittee Chairs for the PSMC updated the group. The charter could have a living appendix that addresses roles, responsibilities, active subcommittees, areas of interest, goals and accomplishments. Also, the PSMC wants to provide useful information for new participants seeking to understand where they fit in the PSMC, what activities are ongoing, and what each Subcommittee hopes to accomplish. Suggestions for redesigning the website were discussed.

A demonstration of the Defense Parts Management Portal (DPMP) showed participants what “the portal” looks like, what functionality is presently active, and where the overall effort is headed. The template bridge pages for organizations were shown, and a walk-through of how to tailor a bridge page was presented. All bridge page links should have a parts management focus, and the pages should state what each organization is going to offer the community. It is up to each organization to determine what its bridge page will look like, the content it will provide to the community, and how to tailor the template bridge page to make it their own.

A briefing was presented on Weapon System Sustainment, a proof-of concept prototype that included five weapon systems. The results proved to reduce Engineering Support Activity Form 339 (Request for Engineering Support) workload, and showed that providing more information regarding weapon systems related to a part up front can enable decision support, save time and allow engineers to make better decisions. Feedback about the effort included that it would be useful to know the number of instances of a part in order to assess the total impact of an issue or failure. DLA strives to provide a better package to the ESA at each Service in order to assist everyone who is involved with 339’s and enable better parts management.

The attendees participated in targeted break-out sessions on various topics.

Thursday – May 1, 2008

The day began with a discussion about the DMSMS 2008 conference agenda. There will be four hours available on Monday for parts management centric training, which can include CLM, DPMP, and other options. Technical sessions will include papers on such topics as MIL-STD-3018, SD-19, and others. The Plenary Session may include an overview of parts management to give participants a good handle on all parts management areas. This may include a brief on the history and accomplishments of the PMRWG, PMRIPT, and PSMC. The “How to Reduce Total Ownership Cost” theme needs to include parts management. Several PSMC participants volunteered to moderate panels at the conference. GIDEP will have a booth at the conference, and the PSMC will have a presence at that booth in the form of a poster and PSMC brochures.

→ PSMC could create a send-ahead announcement to potential attendees on “Gaining a Presence on the Portal (DPMP).”

The Charter Subcommittee Chair facilitated a discussion about the PSMC and website presence. A DSCC participant offered that the PSMC website may be used to provide more accurate and up-to-date information on subcommittee activities, goals, and more. PSMC participation was discussed, and participants asked to identify people who have parts problems or questions and who will use the tools being developed or already in place.

- All participants to provide names and contact information for people they would like to see at future PSMC meetings.
- Identify subject matter experts for the PSMC, and invite them to attend future meetings.
- Subcommittee chairs to provide updates on actions and activities to DSCC participant after each meeting, and more often as updates occur, for keeping the PSMC website current.

The Marketing Subcommittee Chair discussed the ongoing effort to update and redesign the PSMC website. She noted that the website should be consistent with the PSMC's brochure, provide a link to the current charter, and incorporate keywords (such as "parts management" and "parts standardization") so that internet search engines may more easily locate the site. In addition, there should be a participation request option, feedback, and area participants can use to update their contact information.

- Identify keywords for PSMC website.
- Consider other URL's for the website.

The Subcommittees provided out-briefs.

- The Policy and Contracts, and Systems Engineering Subcommittee Chair reported that DSPO (the DoD parts management lead) will finalize the memo based on input from the participants. The proposed changes and restructuring of SD-19 was reviewed and discussed. The SYSPARS Parts Management Plan Builder will be reviewed by three industry subject matter experts who will then provide comments on the tool. The next release of the tool is slated for October 2008. The DAU Executive Parts Management course is being finalized, and a participant from DoD Systems Engineering will review it and provide a crosswalk between the course and the potential modifications to the DoD Acquisition Framework that are under consideration at OSD. The DAG Chapter 4 text that the Subcommittee provided nine months ago need to be reviewed, especially if the proposed changes to the DoD Acquisition Framework are implemented.
 - The Parts Management Tools Subcommittee reported that the DPMP business rules were updated and the group will now work to edit and formalize the document. The guidance document for organizations with bridge pages is being updated. The subcommittee suggested to the group that a draft letter from DSPO/ be distributed describing the DPMP, stating that it is under development, launching soon, outlining why it is important, and encouraging organizations involved in parts management to get involved.
- PSMC participants to return to their organizations and identify the person within the organization to be responsible for their bridge page. Provide contact info to GIDEP.
 - GIDEP to track responses from PSMC participant organizations regarding bridge page creation and administrator login requests.
 - DPMP Team to put out guidance on exploring the beta phase DPMP.
 - PSMC participant organizations to report back on exploring DPMP, including critical feedback on whether navigation seems logical, what organizations should be listed, etc.

- DPMP Team to solidify plan to take the DPMP from beta to live, to include commitments from PSMC organizations to create tailored bridge pages, as well as promotion and public relations activities needed, leading up to taking the DPMP live.

Wrap up:

- All PSMC participants asked to send a list of conferences with participants who should know about the DPMP to DSPO (DoD DMSMS lead).
- One PSMC participant to attend the APMC (GEIA) meeting in Colorado Springs, CO will get on agenda to provide information on the PSMC and DPMP to attendees.
- DSPO (DoD parts management lead) offered to provide briefing material about the PSMC to those attending other conferences or presenting within their own organizations.
- A participant suggested that the PSMC create a template form signed by the Director, DSPO, detailing the benefits of participating in the PSMC, to enable participants to easily communicate these benefits to their organizations.
- The meeting adjourned Thursday afternoon.