



SUSTAINMENT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3500

MEMORANDUM FOR SUSTAINMENT EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE
ORGANIC INDUSTRIAL BASE COMMANDERS

AUG 07 2025

SUBJECT: 2025 Maintenance Innovation Challenge – Call for Submissions

I am pleased to announce the highly anticipated Maintenance Innovation Challenge (MIC) as part of the 2025 DoD Maintenance Symposium. The Symposium is the premier DoD event for the exchange of ideas from the greatest maintenance and logistics minds in the country. Aligning with that purpose, the MIC seeks innovative solutions with potential to improve and integrate DoD sustainment operations with the goal of improving materiel readiness. 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 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 and innovative processes that potentially present the best opportunities to positively impact DoD sustainment.

From the field of submissions, five finalists will be selected and the overall winner will be determined by senior DoD leadership. The five finalists will present their new technologies, processes, or business practices to the symposium audience during a breakout session on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at the 2025 DoD Maintenance Symposium in Louisville, KY. Attendees at the MIC breakout session will select the MIC People's Choice Award from the finalists based on their live demonstrations and presentations. The five 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 submitted will be published in the annual MIC publication.

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 2025 MIC. Additionally, the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences (NCMS) is willing to support the demonstration of the winners' innovations by making available \$50,000 of in-kind labor to the associated commercial technology provider for the MIC and the "People's Choice" winners, to the extent permitted under the existing Commercial Technologies for Maintenance Activities Cooperative Agreement. Reference herein to any non-federal entity, process, service, or technology does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favor by the DoD or U.S. Government.

Please assist me in disseminating the call for MIC submissions and encouraging your communities to submit abstracts. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 30, 2025. Additional details are available at: <https://ncms.org/maintenance-innovation-challenge/>. My point of contact is Mr. Dana Sanford, (571) 256-7052, dana.j.sanford4.civ@mail.mil.

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Materiel Readiness