



SUSTAINMENT

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MEMORANDUM FOR MILITARY DEPARTMENT SUSTAINMENT TECHNOLOGY
EXECUTIVES
ORGANIC INDUSTRIAL BASE COMMANDERS

SUBJECT: Call for Submissions for the 2026 Maintenance Innovation Challenge

I am pleased to announce the highly anticipated Maintenance Innovation Challenge (MIC) as part of the 2026 DoW Maintenance Symposium. The Symposium is the premier DoW 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 DoW sustainment operations with the goal of improving materiel readiness. The MIC's objective is to elevate and expand sustainment innovations beyond new technology, to also 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 DoW sustainment.

From the field of submissions, five finalists will be selected, and the overall winner will be determined by senior DoW leadership. The five finalists will present their technologies, processes, or business practices during a breakout session on Tuesday, December 8, 2026, at the DoW Maintenance Symposium in Fort Lauderdale, FL. 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 asking individuals and organizations to submit their innovative capabilities and forward-looking sustainment enablers for the 2026 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 Overall 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 DoW 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 15, 2026. 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