



PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Pearl Harbor Shipyard workers test corrosion control prototypes in innovation contest

By Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard workers tested prototypes of new equipment under actual work conditions during the First Submarine Corrosion Control Applied Innovation Challenge Contest April 16-20.

The initiative, sponsored by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Team Submarine R&D Office, featured products by four companies in the areas of ballast tank communications, personal protective equipment cooling, and work area lighting.

Coatings and Services Shop workers tried out the equipment aboard a submarine in dry dock and in the sandblasting facility and then filled out evaluation forms. Their comments will be used by the companies to further refine their equipment designs to meet worker needs, according to Dr. James Fabunmi of AHDC, the vendor hired by NAVSEA to coordinate the initiative.

“(Pearl Harbor) is the first shipyard to embrace the vision of this approach,” he said.

“It’s a way to get the technology with less guesswork,” he explained. The contest is about “engaging the end user while competing who has the best ideas as expressed in the form of prototypes. ... (And) if the prototypes aren’t good enough, it’s determining what needs to be improved.”

Sandblaster Jesse Kruse, one of the workers who evaluated products, was asked what he thought of the innovation contest. “I think it’s a good idea,” he said. “As technology gets better, we can do the job quicker, faster, more efficiently and safely.”

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is a field activity of the Naval Sea Systems Command and a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy's surface ships and submarines. It is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,850 and an economic impact of \$925 million. For more information on the Shipyard, go to www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/pearl/default.aspx.