

Pantex NEWS

MAINTAINING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND RELIABILITY OF AMERICA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS STOCKPILE

Contact: Laura Bailey
(806) 477- 3794

August 9, 2010

Pantex Receives Three Awards of Excellence

Pantex received three Defense Program (DP) Awards of Excellence to recognize projects that made a significant contribution to the mission of the National Security Enterprise (NSE).

“B&W Pantex considers these awards to be one of the highest levels of recognition our employees can receive for their work,” said John Woolery, B&W Pantex President and General Manager. “Only a handful of people across the Enterprise are recognized with these awards.”

The Award of Excellence Program was established in 1982 to recognize significant achievement in quality, productivity, cost savings, safety or creativity in support of the weapons program.

The Projects receiving the DP Awards are:

Automated Cable Testing

This project developed an Automated Cable Tester for verifying the functionality/integrity of cables used to interface between weapon test equipment and the war reserve (WR) unit under test (UUT). Prior to use in connecting testers to weapons, all cables must be tested to measure for continuity, low-voltage isolation, and high-voltage insulation resistance. The testing ensures that the test cable is fabricated correctly and meets defined quality requirements.

The previous method used for special tooling electrical inspections required a technician to manually test every pin and signal path in a given cable. This procedure consists of individually touching each pin with a probe several times while working with voltages up to 500 volts. The Cable Tester allows for the same testing to be done automatically with custom circuitry that will switch in and out of the appropriate test points while providing a safe working distance between the technician and the high voltage test circuits.

Quality Evaluation Requirements Tracking System (QERTS)

The Quality Evaluation Requirements Tracking System (QERTS) was developed and implemented to address critical NSE surveillance needs, which were identified as key components of the Surveillance Transformation Project. QERTS bridges the gap between surveillance requirements and tracking of the components and their associated testing.

Development and implementation of QERTS was a significant Defense Program (DP) accomplishment in that it serves as the single NSE integrated electronic planning and execution tracking system for stockpile surveillance. It provides the critical link between surveillance requirements, testing, and assessment data. Use of QERTS for reporting surveillance activities is a requirement for all sites in the DP FY 2010 Multi-Site Targets (MST).

Weapon Trainer Maintenance

A Weapon Trainer Maintenance Program Plan/Schedule was developed to provide the NSE visibility of all programmatic trainer requirements in support of DP weapon activities. The plan identifies all active weapon program trainer units at Pantex Plant that require maintenance to ensure a high level of fidelity and describes the associated tasks for identifying and documenting replacement part requirements. It also documents how B&W

The logo features the word "Pantex" in a large, bold, red, italicized sans-serif font. A white orbital ring with a small grey sphere at its center encircles the letter "P". To the right of "Pantex", the word "NEWS" is written in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font.

MAINTAINING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND RELIABILITY OF AMERICA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS STOCKPILE

Pantex will plan and budget for the requirements and how that information will be communicated and integrated with the NSE parts provisioning process.

This goal was to enable NNSA to direct and coordinate funding and procurement of weapon trainer long-lead-time parts from other NNSA sites and the Design Agencies. The initiative was a cooperative endeavor between B&W Pantex, Honeywell KCP, and the NNSA Pantex Site Office (PXSO).

The Weapon Trainer Maintenance Plan was successfully executed at no additional cost to NNSA, two months ahead of schedule.

NNSA now has a tool to plan, prioritize and budget trainer weapon replacement parts that provide high fidelity weapon trainer units in support of assembly/disassembly of nuclear weapons at the Pantex Plant.

B&W Pantex manages and operates the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. B&W Pantex is a proud recipient of the DOE's Voluntary Protection Program STAR status for safety excellence. The company was also named one of America's safest companies by Occupational Hazards magazine and has received numerous awards from the National Safety Council.