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You are no doubt aware that addressing manufacturing issues earlier in the development and acquisition process is critical to a program's ability to achieve cost, schedule, and performance objectives. Over the past decade, the development of Manufacturing Readiness Levels (MRLs) has helped Industry and Government make significant progress toward these objectives by enabling them to identify, manage, and mitigate manufacturing risks as early as pre-milestone A.

One of the major aids in developing and implementing MRLs has been the annual Manufacturing Readiness Level (MRL) Workshop hosted by the Joint Defense Manufacturing Technology Panel's MRL Working Group. The MRL Working Group, established in 2003, has been responsible for developing and updating the MRL body of knowledge (BOK) found at www.dodmrl.com. At the workshop, users from Industry and Government gather to help improve the MRL process and the BOK. You are a key stakeholder in aerospace and defense manufacturing who may be interested in attending this year's workshop and helping improve the MRL process in defense manufacturing efforts.

This year, we will present proposed updates to the MRL BOK and focus on updates to the MRL criteria driven by issues identified by our customers. Issues to address are Environment, Safety and Health (ESH) considerations; MRL 1-4 criteria changes; and the addition of an AS6500/MRL integration description to the MRL Deskbook. The proposed changes to the MRL BOK and workshop information can be found at the www.dodmrl.com website by 8 September 2017 to allow you the opportunity to review the information prior to the workshop. The SAE G-23 Manufacturing Management Committee will hold its quarterly meeting at the end of the MRL Workshop. They will cover the status of AS6500 implementation, integration with other SAE committees, and how the new AS9145 (PPAP) relates to AS6500. The agenda for this two-day workshop is found in Attachment 1.

The workshop will be held 26-27 September 2017 at Engility, located at 80 M Street Southeast Washington DC. 20003, suite 500; Tel (202) 203-3149. Directions and information about this facility are in Attachment 2. Please RSVP by the 19th of September if you plan to attend. RSVP responses and questions can be directed to Mr. Gary Stanley at gstanley@woh.rr.com. Feel free to pass this invitation along to colleagues who may also be interested in attending. Workshop attendance is limited to US citizens. Thank you for the support you have already provided and for your future support.

Jim Morgan, Manufacturing Lead
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