USTRANSCOM Science and Technology

CONTRAIL Cargo System

Project Summary: CONTRAIL is a cost effective method of transporting and storing military cargo for rapid deployment using conventional container ships. The primary focus of the implementation of this technology is to relieve large, medium speed roll-on/roll-off (LMSR) ships currently pre-positioned throughout the world for alternative service to meet surge requirements. The cost associated with this approach is fractional compared to the construction of new LMSRs to meet current and future needs of the United States (US) Military.

Return on Investment: Capital costs for acquiring self-sustaining container ships and CONTRAIL units will be much lower than the costs of building a roll-on/roll-off (RORO) vessel of equivalent capacity.

Duration of project: Finalize and present the Phase Five deliverable, a comprehensive report and presentation to US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) that provides a detailed operational analysis of the CONTRAIL ocean transportation test and summarizes the results of the study by FY09.

Participants: USTRANSCOM, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), ITLT Solutions, Inc.

Project advocacy (funding or otherwise): USTRANSCOM

Transition: Interfaces with existing systems: We do not anticipate an interface with any existing systems in the fielding of CONTRAIL. We do not anticipate the involvement of any Department of Defense (DOD) laboratories or testing facilities. The office within the Department of the Navy that is responsible for procuring sealift vessels for DOD (N-42) has expressed interest in the CONTRAIL technology.

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