

DCMA takes a deep look at drilling rigs

Patrick Tremblay | DCMA Public Affairs

Matt Stone, a quality assurance specialist with Defense Contract Management Agency Philadelphia, inspects hydraulic components on a Navy drilling rig at the Schramm factory in West Chester, Pa. The rig is one of twelve built by the contractor to meet the Navy's requirements for water well drilling in remote locations. (Photos by Patrick Tremblay, DCMA Public Affairs)

In the small town of West Chester, Pa., about 20 miles west of Philadelphia, Defense

Contract Management Agency personnel worked for the past year in assisting the Navy in being a “Global Force for Good.”

The Navy requested bids in early 2010 for a small fleet of truck mounted drilling rigs. The contract was ultimately won by Schramm, a long-standing Pennsylvania company, which was able to produce a modified version of an existing commercial model.

Because of the relatively quick deadlines and tight military requirements, the contract required the involvement of a cross-section of DCMA Philadelphia production and quality personnel.

The contract was solicited and awarded by Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support. Located in northeast Philadelphia, DLA Troop Support supplies America's armed forces with \$14 billion annually of food, uniforms, protective equipment, medicine and medical supplies and construction equipment.

Stanley Brown, DCMA Philadelphia administrative contracting officer, was involved in the extensive post-award work between the agency, customer and contractor.

“The customer requested a post-award conference which gave the administrative contracting officer, industrial specialist and quality assurance representative from DCMA a chance to provide the necessary input to better define the contract requirements,” said Brown. “Along with the Navy, we were able to define the corrective actions necessary to ensure the end user received exactly what was needed.”

“DCMA contract professionals were essential in getting all the specifications down,” said Fred Slack, Schramm's vice president for business development. “The process was good, and at the end of the day, the Navy got what it wanted, and we built what it needed.”

Once the customer and contractor were comfortable with the terms of the contract and the specifications of the new rigs, DCMA quality assurance personnel made frequent trips to the facility to ensure the Navy's requirements were being met.

The Navy rigs weren't the company's first defense contract. It had produced winches for World War I aerial observation balloons and air compressors for World War II Navy divers earlier in its 111 year history. After the Vietnam-era, the



company also produced smaller numbers of drill rigs for defense department clients. Technical details of modern defense contracting, however, were new to the company, and required extensive cooperation with DCMA to implement.

David Lyons, chief of DCMA Philadelphia's quality assurance technical team south, said Senior Quality Assurance Specialist Ronald Foster and Quality Assurance Specialist Andrew Jarosz made major contributions to the success of the contract.

"This included process proofing all manufacturing testing requirements, truck modifications, functional testing, accessory inventory control, first article requirements, wide area workflow set up and detailed instructions on each shipment," said Lyons.

"The contractor had little experience working with wide area workflow for payment," said Foster. "I worked with Schramm on how to input the information properly into WAWF and, at the same time, track the progress of line items in the system to assure the invoices would be processed for payment in a timely basis." Foster said the process required help from the buying command, the administrative contracting officer at DCMA Philadelphia and Defense Finance and Accounting Services Columbus.

After shipment to Port Hueneme, Calif., and Gulfport, La., these machines will ultimately be put to work by Navy construction battalions, the Seabees, drilling wells in remote locations overseas, providing much needed water for military and humanitarian missions. The ability for the rigs to be flown to remote sites became a hallmark of the project. One of Schramm's commercial rigs was close to the Navy's specification, but the footprint had to be altered, and size and weight had to be balanced.

Matt Stone, a quality assurance specialist who worked on the drilling rig project, said the contractor had to make changes in their stock rig designs to meet the customer's needs. "Many of these were necessary so the vehicles could be air-transportable by a C-17, something that's

essential to the Navy."

Slack said 2010 was a big year for the company, which made international news when its drilling rigs were used to locate and rescue Chilean miners trapped following a mine collapse. The Navy

contract was another positive for the company. "We're thrilled to be working with DCMA," said Slack, "and proud to be helping the U.S. military meet humanitarian needs." 



Jeff Muse (front right), Defense Contract Management Agency industrial specialist, talks with John Little, Schramm sales manager, about Navy drilling rig requirements at the contractor's West Chester, Pa., plant. In the background, Stanley Brown (back right), DCMA administrative contracting officer talks with Schramm Vice President Fred Slack.



(Left to right) Stanley Brown, Defense Contract Management Agency administrative contracting officer; Matt Stone, DCMA quality assurance specialist; Fred Slack, Schramm vice president of business development; and Jeff Muse, DCMA industrial specialist; discuss the completion of the Navy's drilling rig contract at Schramm's West Chester, Pa., plant.