PinPoint II R Helps NAVAIR Move Forward with Test and Repair Program

Substantial cost avoidance per month projected with Diagnosys PinPoint II R.

The US Navy's NAVAIR is projecting a substantial cost avoidance for several fiscal years due to the addition of the PinPoint II R tester. To date, 37 units have been upgraded from the PinPoint II to the PinPoint II R and 37 additional PinPoint II R's have also been purchased, according to NAVAIR project management.

The testers are making it cost-effective to diagnose and repair circuit card assemblies (CCAs) from weapons replaceable assemblies (WRAs), where failures typically occur in components for which test programs or schematics are generally not available.

NAVAIR is using the PinPoint II R's reverse engineering capabilities as one of the major factors to move the program forward.

“We are able to build schematics and more easily write test programs, and that capability increases the accuracy of our troubleshooting while avoiding the costly time developing a standard TPS for a card,” the project manager said.

“Developing a standard TPS manually is not intuitive, and it was done by technicians who had both the time and ability to figure it out. With PinPoint II R, test and repair is process-driven, so there is now a way to test certain legacy CCAs where a CASS (Consolidated Automated Support System) TPS, a procedure mandated by Congress, was financially impractical.”

Technicians are using the PinPoint to improve the accuracy verification of functional tests. The PinPoint II R auto-learn mode allows the technician to clip onto a component to determine how the device is utilized in the circuit. This technique speeds test development time but, as important, allows the technician to test components for functionality when a TPS is not available.

“Once a program for a CCA is already built, a technician can learn how to use and begin troubleshooting CCAs in the same day,” the project manager said. “PinPoint II R's accuracy builds confidence in the technician that the fault has been properly identified.”

In the case of the cards, PinPoint II R may help NAVAIR rethink the whole concept of 'throw aways' because it may be more cost-effective to repair forward-deployed parts and get them back in service faster.

About NAVAIR

Established in 1966 as the successor to the Navy's Bureau of Naval Weapons, the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) is headquartered in Patuxent River, Md., with military and civilian personnel stationed at eight locations across the continental United States and one site overseas.