



A R M Y

ACQUISITION REFORM



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Modernization Through Spares (MTS)

An Army Response to Affording Modernization

The Army's *Modernization Through Spares (MTS)* initiative responds to a **top priority** of Defense Systems Affordability Council (DSAC) -- **initiate new integrated Acquisition and Logistics approaches to reduce systems' life cycle costs.** MTS responds also to the reality that we will not have enough funds for timely modernization of our weapon systems. MTS provides a means to leverage the billions of dollars spent annually on spare parts in order to accomplish insertion of commercially available technologies to reduce the cost of the spares and their support. The MTS spares acquisition strategy is applied throughout the materiel acquisition life cycle and is based on technology insertion and use of commercial products, processes, and practices to extend a system's useful life. MTS means no longer buying spare parts based on outdated specifications and detailed drawing packages. The emphasis is on form, fit, and function which allows a supplier greater design and manufacturing flexibility to exploit technology in the marketplace. All Army managers who develop systems or buy spares are responsible for implementing MTS.



The **ABRAMS Track System** is an example of an innovative method to achieve modernization with concurrent cost savings. The track life of the ABRAMS tank increased from an early life expectancy of about 1,200 miles to its current life of approximately 2,000 miles. The ABRAMS program office is considering track life improvements that would provide a track life of 5,000 miles and further reduce O&S costs. The plan is to develop a competitive performance specification for the M1 Follow on Vehicle (FOV) Track System that addresses the durability and performance aspects of the track, roadwheels, sprockets, hubs, support rollers and idlers as a system. The goal of the specification is to define system operational requirements in performance terms for the competitive procurement of the track system without adverse impact on automotive performance. The specification will also address the noise and vibration effect/influence of the track system on the vehicle system as a whole. The MTS initiative is an integral part of the ABRAMS Track System improvement program. Production and spares procurements are linked within the performance based procurement approach.

For additional information on MTS, visit the AMC Specifications & Standards Homepage at <http://amc.citi.net/amc/rda/milspec> or contact Mr. Lynn Mohler at (703) 617-9870 or email lmohler@hqamc.army.mil.