JOINT LOGISTICS COMMANDERS
JOINT AERONAUTICAL COMMANDERS' GROUP
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS CENTER (AFMC)
1865 FOURTH STREET, ROOM 208
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE OHIO 45433-7126

2 May 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR THE AIR FORCE ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE
NAVY ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE
ARMY ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: Strategy for Product Data throughout the Life Cycle

1. Last year, we evaluated the benefits of standardizing on common product data exchange requirements. In particular, we were interested in standards that would allow engineering data developed under one automated design tool to be read and manipulated by design teams using different automated tools. We determined the existing ISO 10303 (STandard for Exchange of Product model data – STEP) met our military aeronautical requirements and that it was widely used by the commercial aerospace community. As a result, we have approved the use of STEP throughout our commands. Since STEP is a standard with many applications beyond aerospace (e.g., it is required in Navy shipbuilding), we encourage you to consider its use in other sectors.

2. Our implementation approach will be to use STEP in new aerospace system designs and major modifications to existing systems unless either the cognizant PEO or Systems Commander approves a waiver. The services have agreed and hence its use should be considered mandatory. Where a business case supports this, we are also encouraging the use of STEP for legacy systems.

3. The use of STEP will give us the greatest flexibility to take advantage of new computer design and support tools, but the real benefit to our services will be seen in reduced cost and cycle time, and in improved supportability. I would be pleased to arrange a briefing on STEP and our intended implementation, if you would like.

4. My point of contact for this subject is Mr. James Arnold, ASC/ENSM, DSN 785-9883, email: **James.Arnold2@wpafb.af.mil**.

- Signature on file -

RICHARD V. REYNOLDS
Lieutenant General, USAF
JACG Chairman