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VIVACE METHODS - IMPLICATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THIRD TIER COMPANIES

Executive Summary

The VIVACE programme is defining a range of technical, business, supply and support processes, supported by management techniques and IT network based approaches to enable a virtual collaborative supply chain for Aeronautics. These approaches are identified with the objective of creating significant efficiency in the development of new aircraft and engine products, and considerable reduction in the development time to market.

The approaches cover a range of activities that would be critical to the prime contractors and product integrators, but that will also be applied within the supply chain.

This report assesses the methods that may be most suitable in a supply chain environment, based on the research completed up to mid 2006 (M30 of the programme), and considers them in relation to smaller/third tier suppliers.

The report identifies four typical categories of supplier and assesses the methods in relation to the typical functions and characteristic of these organisations. It also notes the requirements identified previously within VIVACE for 3rd tier suppliers, and tries to identify the issues faced with this type of business, and the issues that the VIVACE methods may raise.

The report recognises all suppliers are different and that it is not possible to provide a single set of answers.

However in order to provide some advice and recommendation, the report identifies some critical points within the methods and how smaller suppliers may have to consider them. Finally the report generates a range of questions for consideration by smaller suppliers, as a means of providing some framework to consider their role and means of integration within a virtual collaboration environment.