UR Hosts Cybersecurity
READINESS EVENT

Preparing Suppliers to Meet New Regulations

United Rotorcraft recently hosted a first-of-its-kind event called "UR Supplier CMMC Readiness" for 14 suppliers. The aim of the one-day conference was to help key suppliers work towards compliance with an upcoming new cybersecurity regulation. It will be used as a pilot program for training other Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) offices across the country.

While UR is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, it has been an essential partner supporting military operations for over 20 years, providing proprietary MEDEVAC solutions directly to defense manufacturers who produce aircraft and ground vehicles. These contracts come with the responsibility for protecting the government's sensitive information, and that responsibility extends to the suppliers we do business with.

"To make sure contractors like UR adhere to stringent guidelines to protect their sensitive data, the government has created and incorporated federal regulations. The new Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program is anticipated to make its first appearance in contracts later this year," said Carlos Hernandez, contracts administrator and CX services manager with UR. "The sensitive information we receive from our customers doesn't end with UR, but continues down the chain to our subcontractors who support pieces of our contracts. Therefore, we must flow down this new requirement. But first, we educate our suppliers on this upcoming regulation so they understand the business expectation to help safeguard sensitive information not meant for the public."

The event provided a general overview of the CMMC program developed by the Department of Defense and outlined its expectations. In collaboration with partner Manufacturer's Edge (ME), UR connected attendees with resources and experts from the field to support them in reaching and maintaining compliance.

"With assistance from ME, this pilot program will bring synergy by connecting UR suppliers with experts on the subject from around the country," said Hernandez. "When our suppliers onboard our program, ME will lead an assessment to identify each supplier's current posture with the existing cybersecurity controls. Each supplier assessment will likely yield different results, so the program is designed to provide each supplier with a customized plan and timeline to reach compliance."

UR's program is expected to be adopted in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.