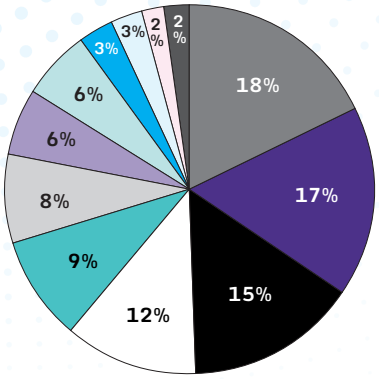
MARITIME MANUFACTURING INNOVATION CHALLENGE

ATI HORIZONS

The United States faces a national imperative to strengthen American shipbuilding, expand maritime industrial capacity, and improve naval readiness. Advanced manufacturing, automation, digital engineering, materials, and industrial innovation can help modernize how ships are built, maintained, repaired, and sustained.

The Maritime Manufacturing Innovation Challenge identified transformative solutions that can modernize shipbuilding, sustainment, maintenance, logistics, workforce capability, and industrial resilience while supporting the U.S. Navy's advanced manufacturing strategy.

SOLUTION TOPICS



- Additive Manufacturing and 3D Printing – 18%
- Coatings and Surfaces – 17%
- Digital Twins and Smart Shipyards – 15%
- Other Key Manufacturing Innovation – 12%
- Digitalization and Connectivity – 9%
- Modeling, Simulation and Design – 8%
- Robotics and Automation – 6%
- Sensing and Measurement – 6%
- Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) – 3%
- Characterization and Visualization – 3%
- Advanced Machining and Joining – 2%
- Subtractive Manufacturing – 2%

EXPERT EVALUATION PANEL

Timothy Barnard, Deputy Chief Technology Officer, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)
Jamie Brookfield, Technical Director, Naval Shipbuilding and Advanced Manufacturing Consortium
Ambre Cauley, R&D Portfolio Manager, Ingalls Shipbuilding
Dale Grogan, Managing Partner, Michigan Capital Network

CHALLENGE SNAPSHOT

APPLICATION PERIOD
May 25 – June 23, 2026

VIRTUAL SEMIFINALIST PITCHES
July 31, 2026

LIVE FINALIST PRESENTATIONS
September 23 at Defense TechConnect Innovation Summit

LONG-TERM ENGAGEMENT
Innovator tracking and KPI monitoring

PRIZE POOL

$50,000 total awards

IMPACT

The challenge provided an opportunity to identify breakthrough solutions in maritime manufacturing, increasing visibility for innovators, and connecting solution providers with government, defense, industry, investment, and technical stakeholders.

By combining technology scouting, expert evaluation, virtual and live pitching, and ecosystem engagement, ATI Horizons surfaced solutions across advanced manufacturing, automation, digital engineering, smart shipyards, materials, sensing, inspection, and industrial operations with the potential to strengthen American shipbuilding, expand production capacity, improve lifecycle efficiency, and support naval readiness.

average readiness **TRL 5**

20 countries represented

16 semifinalists

25 U.S. states represented

80% non-traditional defense innovators

107 qualified applications

10 finalist pitches

OUR ROLE

ATI Horizons designed and managed the complete challenge lifecycle, including:

- Challenge development and administration
- Innovation outreach and recruitment
- Application management
- Technical and commercial assessment
- Review panel coordination
- Semifinalist virtual pitch coordination
- Live pitch event production
- Finalist showcase execution
- KPI tracking and post-challenge engagement