

Supplier Self Release & Supplier Funded Programs

Supply Chain Management Services

The Unitek Supplier Self Release Program was originally developed as a Supplier Funded Program to offer the opportunity to utilize a variety of our services in a structured program aimed at reducing risk and increasing product reliability while placing the responsibility for quality with your supply base.

Unitek initially developed these programs in partnership with General Electric Aviation almost two decades ago as a means to reduce quality costs, increase the reliability of product, enhance efficiency and reduce risk. The program was initially focused on source inspection, but it has since evolved to include supplier training to Designated Supplier Quality Representative (DSQR) self-release and the continued evaluation of DSQR's at the supplier locations. We currently manage these services for GE at over 1,000 suppliers annually. Over the years the interest in these programs has increased, and as such, we have implemented these programs with other key customers as well.

What is the Unitek Supplier Self Release Program?

- A program designed to assist suppliers in obtaining self release status based on customer requirements
- Rewards outstanding suppliers for producing consistent quality products
- Turnkey program that reduces the cost and management of your self release program

How does the Supplier Self Release Program work?

- Unitek manages all aspects of your Self Release Program (i.e. training, logistics and monitoring)
- Record Management (i.e. visual exams, stamp control and certifications)
- System Integration
- Reporting

What is Supplier Funded?

- The "Next Step" in transferring the responsibility, cost and accountability of quality to suppliers
- Inspection of product at suppliers that falls short of our customers' quality standards and/or new suppliers qualifying to obtain self-release approval
- Support development of Self-Release Program at the supplier

Why Supplier Funded?

- Motivates suppliers toward process control and performance improvement
- It reduces our customers' non-value added costs
- Places the responsibility for supplier quality on suppliers

How does the Supplier Funded Program work?

- Our customer provides a list of suppliers
- An introduction package is sent to those suppliers from the customer
- Unitek secures a contract for services directly with the suppliers
- Unitek schedules and coordinates the activities directly with the supplier based on customer requirements.
- Unitek reports the results of the activity to our customer and the supplier
- Unitek invoices the supplier for services performed

Key Benefits

- Up front planning and coordination
- Clear and timely notification of the requirements to suppliers
- Detailed performance criteria
- Well documented technical requirements
- Improved quality and delivery performance

Supplier Funded Services include but are not limited to:

- First Article/Source Inspection
- PPAP Review
- Quality Systems Audits
- Process/Product Audits
- Production Monitoring/Expediting
- Training
- Process Review and Analysis
- Supplier Development