Jim O’Brien  
Director, Facilities  
Newport News Shipbuilding

“Facilities has implemented a drone program. We’re taking drone footage from the air. We’re also using the tugboats to take drone footage along the bulkheads to check for things there.

“We will be surveying areas near our in-service carrier berth, where we’ll be looking at areas for material lay-down and where we will be able to store material as we bring two carriers here in the future to do an overhaul.

“Another area we’re using it in is parking assessments. We’re looking at parking across the shipyard, looking at our utilization rates.

“The future of the program is bright. There’s technology out there that we’re going to be utilizing in the future. One is internal tank inspections. Another area we’re looking at is 3-D photogrammetry. So we can take 3-D photographs of buildings and construction sites that we’re going to be building new buildings on.

“We are developing a facilities master plan so we can track the shipyard’s future needs for material as well as buildings, and we’ll be using the drones to take pictures as we develop that plan.”