

**Lower price.  
Reduced  
lead time.**

Our solution offers  
sustainment alternatives.



## Overview

Kellstrom Defense has invested in the development of a comprehensive Work Cell for the F-5 and T-38 canopy systems. We offer a cost effective solution to support the F-5 / T-38 canopy system allowing sustainment through the anticipated operational life of both of these aircraft.

## Background

As platforms age, OEM support for sustainment diminishes and end-users tasked with maintaining operational readiness are faced with critical supply chain deficits. Kellstrom Defense (KD) offers its military customer base legacy aircraft solutions that address these shortfalls. We are a global provider of comprehensive support for U.S. manufactured legacy defense platforms including fighters, transports, patrol aircraft and helicopters. Our "Total Support" approach encompasses strategic distribution, repair & overhaul, engineering & manufacturing, modernization solutions and overall program management.

KD's Engineering & Manufacturing Division continues to grow its capabilities in order to keep up with the legacy aftermarket demand for engineering solutions, including the re-design and modernization of aircraft systems.

## Business Need

The contract for the T-Xs which are slated to replace the T-38's continues to move out and as a result, the fleet of T-38's is estimated to be in operation through 2030.

There are currently over 700 F-5's operating globally. With affordable maintenance, advances in avionics and improved Structural Life Extension packages, it is now estimated that the F-5 will remain operational to 2030 and beyond.

Life extension and upgrade packages are vital to maintaining these legacy aircraft operational and relevant.

## Solution

Kellstrom Defense has developed a comprehensive Canopy Work Cell that includes complete OEM tooling and assembly fixtures. We offer complete solutions for the canopy systems on the T-38 Talon and F-5 dual and single seat aircraft including new manufacture, repair and refurbishment capabilities.

We manufacture new canopies to OEM and U.S. government specifications.

For repair and refurbishment, customers have the option of sending their old canopies to us for evaluation and recommended repairs. Our technicians inspect customers' canopies to determine the current condition. We provide the customer with a detailed Recommended Repair Report. Inspections include NDI (Non-Destructive Inspection) of critical components such as canopy rails and locking components. Each canopy is installed onto our fixtures to measure overall fit to the fuselage and overall aerodynamic shape, ensuring the canopy meets basic dimension criteria. All of the rubber and shelf life seals and gaskets are removed and replaced. Canopy transparencies are inspected for thickness and optical clarity as well as a check for compliance with USAF Shelf Life of 15 years in service. Bore-scoping is used to view hard to get to areas to look for corrosion and other damage.

## Benefits

Our comprehensive canopy solution for the F-5 and T-38 addresses sustainment deficits at a lower price and reduced lead time as compared with traditional sources. Our flexible solution offers the customer the option of customizing a contract to accommodate varying budget, time and logistic constraints.



## Kellstrom Defense

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