



Ministry
of Defence

Defence
Suppliers Forum

Defence Suppliers Forum Newsletter



March 2021

Defence Suppliers Forum

The Defence Suppliers Forum (DSF) enables strategic engagement between Government and the Defence Industry to facilitate the effective sharing of information, aligning our objectives and optimising the delivery of Defence capability from the Defence budget.

Within the Defence landscape we expect the future to bring continued and significant change, including in technology, military doctrine, and the economic environment. The Joint Industry 2025 Vision recognises that there is a need for improved pace and agility and for the joint approach to defence capability to be markedly different. The DSF is central to delivering the Joint Vision and its work therefore aims to create a more collaborative, but also demanding approach to MOD's relationship with Industry in order to deliver more within the funding envelope.

The DSF is co-chaired by the Right Honourable Ben Wallace MP, Secretary of State for Defence, and Charles Woodburn, Chief Executive BAES. Across the DSF groups membership includes senior officials from MOD and other government departments and representatives from MOD's strategic and mid-tier suppliers, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This monthly newsletter provides an overview of the key discussions and outputs from the various DSF groups.

March 2021 Issue

The Integrated Review and its supporting MOD publications

The full outcomes of the Integrated Review will be published on 16 March. The Defence Secretary will set out the implications for Defence in greater detail on 22 March, with the publication of a Defence Command Paper, which will shortly be followed by the publication of the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy.

MOD-Industry Special Interest Groups

The MOD Commercial Policy Team are holding joint MOD-Industry Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to consult on improving current Defence contract conditions related to Transparency, Disclosure of Information, Protection of Personal Data, and the Commercial Exploitation Levy.

We would like to invite Industry Subject Matter Experts to contribute to the SIGs. If you are interested please contact DefComrcIPol-2DMultiuser@mod.gov.uk and providing your job title, role and the reason for your interest in attending.

Please see below upcoming dates for SIGs:

- **Protection of Personal Data (DEFCON 532B) SIG – 16th March 2021** - A review of the condition is taking place in light of the EU transition changes and to take into account the Cabinet Office Model Services Contract conditions.
- **Disclosure of Information (DEFCON 531) SIG** - to be decided

Recent meetings

- 17 Feb – Digital Steering Group
- 22 Feb – Capability Management, International and Innovation Group
- 24 Feb – People and Skills Steering Group
- 25 Feb – Commercial Enterprise and Acquisition Steering Group
- 02 Mar - Supply Chain Fragility Group
- 10 Mar – Executive Group
- 11 Mar – SME Working Group

Upcoming meetings

- 23 Mar – Commercial Working Group
- 24 Mar – Digital Steering Group
- 25 Mar - Commercial Enterprise and Acquisition Steering Group

- **Commercial Exploitation Levy SIG** - to be decided

Digital Steering Group

Work is well underway to establish the 'New Military Capability' and 'New Ways of Working' digital working groups, which will shortly start identifying key areas of focus including deliverables. MOD and Industry membership is currently being finalised with initial exploratory groups to be set up in each area within the next month.

Powering Future Operations: Net Zero Challenges and Opportunities

The DSF's Research Technology and Innovation Group (RTIG) have set out a view of the challenges and opportunities for future energy and power provision and use for deployed Defence systems, in the wider context of the UK Governments Net Zero 2050 target.

Defence accounts for approximately 1% of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions, with carbon emissions from defence capability (vehicles, platforms and associated logistics) accounting for the majority of annual defence CO₂e emissions.

The paper, which can be found [here](#), provides an analysis of the energy and power needs across the different Commands and offers a number of recommendations for Defence Science and Technology, which are currently being considered for inclusion in, and development of, forward plans.

Multi-Domain Integration Industry Day, 24 June 2021

Strategic Command will be hosting a Multi-Domain Integration (MDI) Industry Day on Thursday 24 June 2021 to update Industry on the aims of the MDI concept, how the change programme has been constructed and offer operational insights to the benefits of MDI.

The event will discuss Defence's vision of MDI following the Integrated Review and how investments meet the dependencies of MDI. The day will include workshops for constructive engagement between Industry and MOD on opportunities to pursue Defence goals as part of the lead up to DSEI.

The core event is planned to take place at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham with COVID-19 restrictions potentially requiring a networked event at multiple sites. More details will be provided in subsequent editions of Defence Suppliers Forum Newsletter and through other Industry media routes.

People and Skills

The new People and Skills Working Groups continue to make progress in defining their areas of focus.

The Diversity and Inclusion group is working to address the imbalances within the Defence sector, thereby widening the talent pool and tackling skills shortages.

The Tackling Negative Perceptions group aims to address the perception problem within the Defence sector that makes it difficult to attract people.

The Academic Interface group is developing a Skills Passport, to provide a common lexicon across the Defence Enterprise, and developing a demand signal to academia to ensure future skill needs are accounted for.

If you are interested in being involved in these areas, please contact Emma.Booth108@mod.gov.uk.