

Defence Support Strategy Launch 10 December 2020

Defence Support Strategy - an SME perspective...

Paul Casson
Allan Webb Limited

Who are the SMEs?!



As exemplar (but not an advert!):

- Allan Webb established in 1960, providing to the Ministry of War.
- 200+ staff and growing, Government secure, supplier across the Defence landscape (BAES, Babcock, MoD, Thales et al), but not tethered to Defence
- Contracts held for 30 yrs and update directly into MoD databases (RLI)
- A strong reputation.... and Family/employee owned!
- The SME community is critical, confident, energetic and proud to be part of the Defence enterprise...
- We are both Small Medium Enterprises AND Subject Matter Experts..!













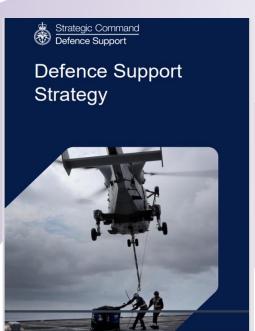


Defence Support Strategy



As a Strategy... it hangs together!

- Strategic Outcomes: where Support needs to be by 2025 (5-year waypoint to 2035 Vision)
 - A capable and resilient Defence Support Enterprise
 - Enhanced decision making across the Defence Support Enterprise
 - Effective Support delivery, integrated across the complex
 - A step change in Support Force Development and experimentation
 - Defence Support people enable future performance
- Establishes waypoints within the 5 year waypoint:
 - Consolidate UK Strat Base:
 - Modernise and transform business processes:
 - Instil and exploit through-life asset management:
 - Experiment to accelerate Support Advantage:
 - Recognise and professionalise Support People:
- The detail has a delightful use of 'Ends, Ways and Means'
- The challenge for the MoD is how to deliver on an 'Enterprise' basis, and how it will survive post-COVID?







QU: How do we most expeditiously deliver the emerging policy ambition for a persistent, sustainable, global forward presence that is both effective and efficient?

Ans: Effective?!... A political question but almost exclusively revolves around HNS and standardisation.

Technology holds the key – simplicity, resilience and ease of maintenance in both peacetime and action states

Qu: What could we do more of by way of Partnership with Industry in maintaining a capable and resilient Support Enterprise?

Ans: The SME can provide innovation, because the Status Quo is not in our interest, agility of response and agility in governance will mean the SME will be a valued risk taker – but often stymied by finance.

Contracting mechanisms are a challenge to the SME: 'Lumping Up' of (say) 10 contracts under a single dominant SME is commercially expedient for a SQEP strapped DE&S, but causes unlevelling and reduces the SME count, which reduces Enterprise resilience.





Strategic Outcome 2: Enhanced Decision Making Across the Defence Support Enterprise

Qu: Fragmented and incomplete data resulting from IPR constraints compromises effective strategic asset management and therein effective Through Life Capability Management; what steps does Industry need to take to remove such constraints and create value for both parties?

Ans: Data is power! The answer is Collaboration... but which company here is prepared to give up IPR?!

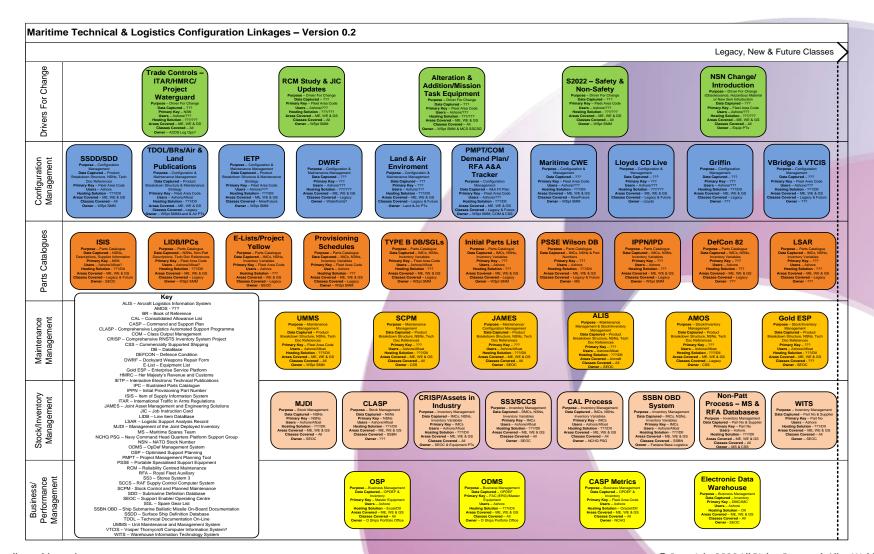
DE&S need to drive this in contracting mechanisms and Policy for new platforms and equipments.

What is equally apposite is the Data itself... There are huge variations in Data sources.





Current As-Is Data Position (well, 2018...)





Strategic Outcome 3: Effective delivery of Defence Support, integrated and secured across the military-industrial complex

Qu: How do we support the DSS in the desire to: 'Designing in' through life availability, and increasing availability of existing platforms:

Ans: Many critical engineering initiatives, but one sticks out - the management of Obsolescence. Obsolescence is probably one of the biggest risks to the through-life support of complex high risk defence projects – we in industry must do better.



"Thank you for calling Tech Support. Your computer is one month old. We no longer support that model. Good day."

planned obsolescence

Definition of planned obsolescence

noun

[mass noun]

 a policy of producing consumer goods that rapidly become obsolete and so require replacing, achieved by frequent changes in design, termination of the supply of spare parts, and the use of non-durable materials.



Strategic Outcome 4: Step change in Support Force Development and experimentation

Qu: Assuming data ownership, data sharing and IP issues can be addressed, what are the key technologies in the Support domain which are most likely to accelerate the delivery of a paradigm shift in platform availability and environmentally sustainable logistic services in the next 5 years?

Ans: Artificial Intelligence will start to rise, but there are waypoints. Improved Technical Maintenance and assisted Technical Documentation by using Augmented Reality will be near term.

But.... The challenge will remain that the Data needs to be clean! Remember, without Clean data the 'Digital Twin' will be just another ugly kid...



Strategic Outcome 5: Defence Support people enable future performance



Qu: Where do you see scope to exploit the MOD's Enterprise Approach and STEM Future Programme to better share Engineering and Logistic Support skills across our respective boundaries? And how do we better operationalise those opportunities?

Ans: The SME perspective on People is clear.... It is a challenge – and a big one. We intend to develop our people and sometimes 'buy' our way out of it...

The DE&S paucity of SQEP will endure unless they do the same.

MoD SQEP drives another challenge – namely who drives Defence Decision Making in the future? It MUST be a Crown Employee. Beware the Snake Oil salesman in a Pinstripe suit telling you how to kill the enemy...!





Parting words from the SME...

- This SME feels enlightened by the DSS it reads well and is a technically competent piece of staffwork (!)
- The MoD must jealously guard the decision making function, so hold the Strategy as your own and exercise bold leadership and judgement in the highly innovative and high-risk-Tech environment of Defence.
- Will it withstand the impact of Realpolitik? Will Support will always feed last from the trough?
- SQEP is a key issue for the SME, and we will fight tooth and nail for our people - - and an SME is not constrained by large corporate structures and HR policies!
- Key challenges will be data sharing, IPR, Obsolescence and the management of new technologies such as Al and AR. 'Shiny New' vs 'Legacy' will also be a challenge – can we get the support budget balanced?

