



Ministry
of Defence

Defence
Suppliers Forum

Defence Suppliers Forum Newsletter



May 2022

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Welcome to the May 2022 Defence Suppliers Forum (DSF) Newsletter. In addition to updates covering the huge range of work that is ongoing across the DSF, we also have an exciting opportunity to support the hugely influential and important work that is going on in **the People and Skills Group** – more details are included on page 9.

People & Skills

As the COVID restrictions have now eased and business is settling into the new norm, the People and Skills Steering Group took the opportunity to hold a face-to-face workshop in Westminster. The main objective was to **'regroup, re-energise and re-align'** the collective efforts of the group to tackle the people and skills challenges faced across the Defence sector. The workshop was led by co-chairs Anna Keeling (Boeing UK) and RAdm Paul Marshall in his role as the Defence Head of Profession (Engineering) and attended by Steering Group members (senior executives from across the sector).

The workshop was highly successful, addressing issues including how we 'broaden the aperture' of Defence to enable a diverse workforce and promotion of the Defence Industry as an exciting and attractive career choice. The fact that so many senior members attended demonstrated a clear commitment to take collective action and speak with a common voice on the skills challenge facing UK defence.

Recent meetings

- 04 May - Digital Steering Group
- 04 May – People & Skills Workshop
- 09 May – Defence's Digital Industrial Strategy Working Group
- 11 May – Data Sharing Group
- 13 May – Climate Change & Sustainability Aviation Group
- 13 May – Climate Change & Sustainability Steering Group
- 18 May – SME Working Group
- 18 May – Social Value Working Group
- 18 May - CMII Innovation Working Group
- 19 May – Supply Chain Resilience Working Group
- 19 May – CCS Building & Construction Working Group
- 20 May – Commercial Enterprise & Acquisition Steering Group
- 20 May – People & Skills Steering Group
- 24 May – Commercial Working Group
- 25 May – DSF Executive Group

Upcoming meetings

- 06 Jun – Security Group
- 13 June – Defence Digital Industrial Strategy Group
- 15 June- Climate Change & Sustainability Steering Group
- 15 June- Social Value Working Group
- 15 June- Commercial Enterprise & Acquisition Steering Group



Following this workshop, the team has agreed to reorganise, refocus and rebrand into 4 main, interconnected work strands with a clear focus on delivery: **Demand Signal, Skills Passport, Communication, and Diversity and Inclusion**. The latter two groups will provide support to the first two groups and act as ‘delivery vehicles’ recognising there are interdependencies between the work strands.

Commercial Enterprise and Acquisition

The Commercial Enterprise & Acquisition Steering Group, chaired by Andrew Forzani and Jon Hall (Babcock) has continued to evolve and develop its deliverables over the last year with the addition of a **Social Value Working Group**. With a wide range of diverse stakeholders involved, both in the Working Group and various subgroups, the aim is to identify and action areas related to implementation of the government’s Social Value Model as applied to MOD procurements.

The **SME Working Group** continues to unblock challenges – a recent highlight being endorsement of JOSCAR ‘lite’ which allows companies to register for JOSCAR for free without the requirement to be sponsored by a Prime. The SME Action Plan was published in January and the group will now measure progress against the plan.

The **Commercial Working Group** is progressing work on the Single Source Contract Regulations, Intellectual Property Rights and DefCon work with topics covering Inflation, Procurement Reform Regulations and Industrial Participation Policy now coming into focus. The **Supply Chain Resilience Working Group** has recently been addressing issues in relation to the Ukraine conflict.

Digital

The **Digital Steering Group**, chaired by Maj Gen Tom Copinger-Symes and Richard Franklin (Airbus) has established new working groups including **Defence’s Digital Industrial Strategy Working Group**. The groups’ diverse membership, including SMEs, have been co-creating a Digital response to DSIS, a first draft of which is on track to be released for senior stakeholder review this Summer.

The **Data Sharing Working Group** is exploring data interoperability challenges on various Programmes and establishing a baseline which can be actioned and improved on. The **Defence Cyber Protection Partnership**, which has recently undergone a restructure, is focussed on joint challenges such as Secure By Design which will make positive differences in the Cyber space.

The **Agile Operating Model Working Group** are currently finalising membership and plan to hold an inaugural meeting in the Summer.

Capability Management International and Innovation

The Capability Management, International and Innovation (CMII) Group aims to enable Defence and Industry to solve together the capability challenges for the future. Air Mshl Richard Knighton has recently departed, and Lt Gen Robert Magowan has taken over as the CMII MOD Co-Chair.

Capability Management

The **Capability Management Working Group** has developed a paper on the Defence Capability Framework (DCF) in response to the DSIS commitment to “discuss with industry/academia where we can do more to clarify and communicate defence & security requirements and forward plans...”. The framework supports greater transparency about MOD’s ideas and plans, articulating future priorities and likely decision points to Industry, including where there is financial room for change within the current Equipment Plan.

The aim of this paper is to provide;

1. Narrative that explains Defence Capability Challenges (R&D pipelines), including where we are already investing (building upon the Equipment Plan 21), and future capability priorities.
2. Coherence in FLC and HO messaging to Industry/market on future priorities.
3. Encourage direct investment by industry into capability areas we want to prioritise and R&D that we will be able to exploit in 10-15 years’ time.

Once the paper has received Ministerial endorsement we will publish it on the Defence Suppliers Portal.

The DCF will be briefed at a joint MOD and Industry workshop planned for 28 June at IET London. The workshop will start to look at how we Defence and Industry collaborate

across the system and ways this could be improved to deliver the objectives outlined in the DCF.

International

The **International Working Group** Co-Chairs met on 27 Apr to review progress and decide next steps on two current CMII taskings:- to develop a framework for sharing priorities for international cooperation; and consider how to bring coherence across the various fora that already exist.. This will help inform the Defence Solutions Centre work on developing an industry facing version of the information contained in the MOD International Capability Dashboard. The group will focus on opportunities for international R&D cooperation, while also strengthening its connections with the Defence Industry Liaison Board.

Innovation

Since the previous CMII Steering Group, the **Innovation Workstream** has focussed on Innovation enablers between MOD and Industry. The long-term vision for industry is to enable an industrial base which is willing to take risk and which is optimised for innovation, scaling up good ideas at the pace of relevance. For 2022 this work will focus on placing the MOD and Industry Innovation Operating Model (MIIOM) at the centre of our industrial work. The Defence Innovation Directorate intends to put a number of pilots through the MIIOM to test and develop it including, potentially, a 'push-pilot' from industry to balance the 'pull-pilots' from MOD.

Next steps: aspiration for next 12 months and road map for achieving this

Currently, the MIIOM is being tested and developed through a series of pilots. The aim is to have developed an operating model to the point where we no longer talk about the MIIOM independently but deliver

work strands through it by proxy. Having the right level of oversight is essential as is having the right representation. The aim is to have all elements of the involved communities of interest working together to form one large community of interest; all working towards a common goal: enabling Innovation between MOD and Industry.

Climate Change and Sustainability

The **Climate Change and Sustainability Steering Group** was launched last year and has undertaken several projects, including the development of a Code of Practice to offer guidance for measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. While many organisations have been measuring and reporting their Scope 1 and Scope 3 GHG emissions for some time, Scope 3 is still relatively new and for many and poses some challenges. In March, a workshop on Scope 3 was led by Dr Sam Healy, Group Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability Director QinetiQ, providing an opportunity for Defence organisations to develop a more detailed understanding of Scope 3. The 30+ attendees discussed the maturity of their approach, shared their challenges as well as usefully discussing guidance and tools. Further workshops will be held to look at different aspects of Scope 3 in more detail. The code of practice will be updated regularly, using workshops like these to share and agree best practice and inform the guidance.

The Steering Group are now focusing on setting up several fora to focus on delivering net zero for different parts of Defence. Three priority workstreams have been identified including **Aviation, Shipping, Buildings and Construction** (and further groups will be launched in the coming months). Individual Sector Fora will be led by a senior level representative from the Front-Line Commands (FLCs) or enabling organisations to provide clear direction and accountability. Membership

will also draw on the resources and expertise from wider MOD business areas and industry representatives.

Supporting these Sector Forums will be a cross-cutting working group which will encourage cross pollination of ideas and enable a consistent approach. In addition, this group will be leading the Scope 3 programme, and looking at tools, climate resilience and skills.

Security

The newly established **DSF Security Group** has been developed as the focal point for collective security issues. The group will feed, and be fed by, the **Praesidio Group** in Defence which has been established to bring together all strategic level Defence interests and ensure that Defence presents a coherent and common picture to industry on each area of security. The Security group will facilitate action on areas of mutual benefit and align with the Joint Industry Vision 2025.

The group is co-chaired by Krishna Dhanak and Glynn Phillips (BAES Maritime and Land). The Group's initial meetings have provided an opportunity to generate discussion, brief on threat, and collaborate on joint challenges. As the group matures it will seek to address common security challenges, covering topics such as Supply Chain Resilience, Security Culture and Secure by Design.

DPRTE

The Defence Suppliers Forum Programme Management Office attended DPRTE for the first time on the 05 May 2022 to engage the wider stakeholder community. The day was full and exciting with extremely valuable engagements where the team increased awareness of DSF activities with a wide variety of interested individuals. Key note

speeches throughout the day recognised the value these collaborative groups have for Defence, throughout the supply chain including Minister of Defence Procurement in his opening speech and Andrea Hough (Atec Solutions) who delivered awareness on DSF SME Working Group activities.

We look forward to meeting you at future events.



New Support Charter outlines UK Defence and industry's joint commitment to achieving Support Advantage

At the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) trade exhibition in September 2021, Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw, Chief of Defence Logistics & Support (CDLS), invited industry to propose a MOD/Industry Support Advantage Charter to reinforce their joint commitment to the Defence Support Strategy (DSS) and its vision of Support Advantage.

The definition of Support Advantage is: 'The ability of UK Defence to deter and, if necessary, outcompete its near peer enemies by our key capabilities being more available, more of the time, where and when we need them, and possessing support chains which are more resilient than those who oppose us.'

To secure competitive Support Advantage we must focus on Support Performance: '... a paradigm shift in platform and equipment availability; the development of superior, assured, environmentally sustainable and cost-effective logistic services; the exploitation of data and technology; and a culture of interoperability that places NATO at the heart of Defence.'

Building on the cooperation and transparency commitments within the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy (DSIS), a joint-team from Team Defence Information (TD-Info) and MOD, with support from the Defence Suppliers forum (DSF) and the trade organisations ADS and Tech UK, set about creating the Support Advantage Charter.

On 28 April 2022, The Support Advantage Charter was formally signed by:

- Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw, CDLS, on behalf of the MOD Support Function,
- Adrian Baguley, Deputy CEO & Director General Strategic Enablers Defence Equipment & Support, on behalf of MOD Enabling Organisations, and
- Dr Jon Hall (Chief Innovation & Technology Officer Babcock International Group on behalf of the Defence Suppliers Forum).

You can read the full Support Advantage Charter [here](#).

Opportunity to get involved: People and Skills Group

We currently have a unique opportunity for a talented and willing project manager, from either industry or MOD, to support the collaborative Industry and Government D&I group for the next 6-12 months. The role would suit individuals who are seeking to develop their understanding of the DSF and wider strategic defence issues, and who would like to take an influential role in developing a vital defence output.

Member organisations of the DSF commit where possible to support our collective activity, and we would be delighted if members could nominate and sponsor individuals from their organisations who would benefit from this opportunity and who could benefit the work of the DSF with their skills.

The Defence Suppliers' Forum People and Skills Group is a collaboration between Defence and Industry that aims to tackle key issues on the people and skills agenda. The group, chaired by Anna Keeling (Boeing) and RAdm Paul Marshall is focussing on 4 key issues: the academic demand signal, Skills profiles, Diversity and inclusivity and clear communication of the benefits of a career in the Defence sector.

Briefly the role would be involved in the following activities:

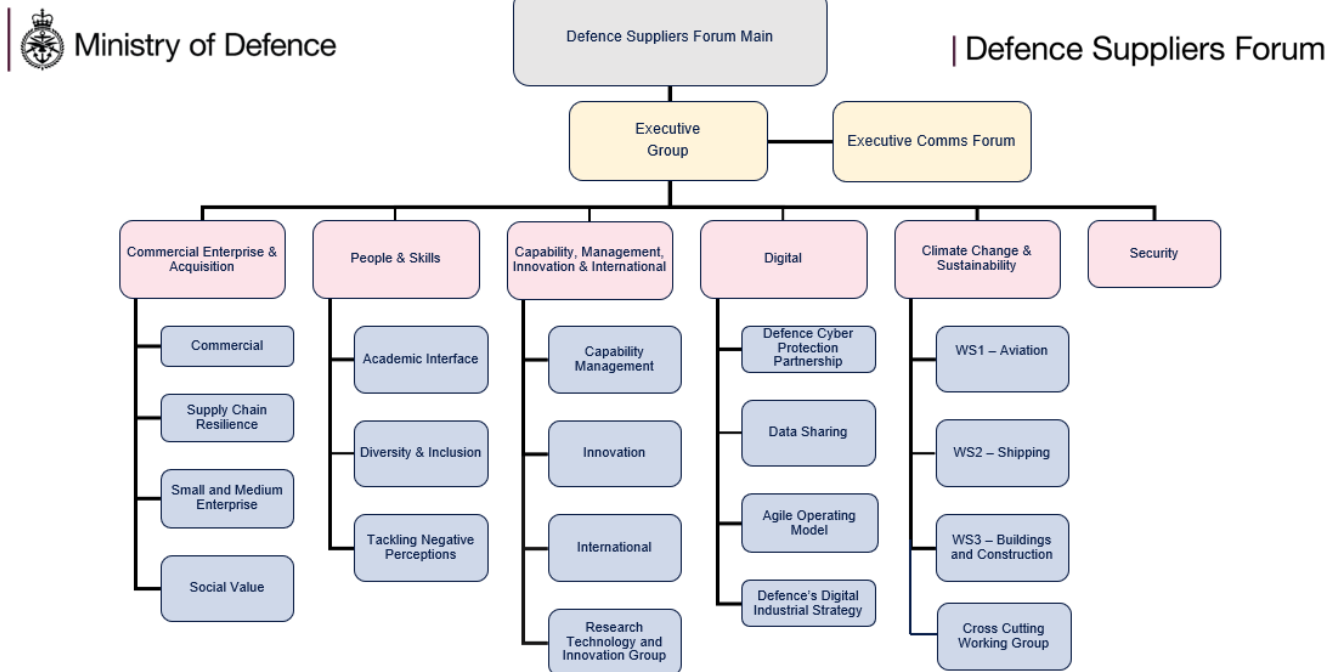
- PM the pilot programme for reverse mentoring;
- Act as Secretary to the WG, agreeing agenda, arranging meetings and providing post meeting reports as required;
- Support the WG engagement with each other and wider stakeholders, supporting the Chairs and Members outreach;
- Support the D&I working group in agreeing initial intervention activities and priorities;
- Communicate priorities and status of progress of the DSF D&I activity to achieve visibility, support and impact.
- Support mapping activity to understand DSF D&I in the context of existing D&I efforts in MOD and industry;

This could be on a full or part time basis and the tasking is likely to change as the project develops.

The DSF community would be very grateful if you can consider this exciting opportunity for an individual to support a group directly and email defcomrcissm-dsf-team@mod.gov.uk with any volunteers by 06 June 22 for consideration.

Please let us know if you need more detail.

The DSF enables strategic collaboration between government and industry through sharing information, aligning objectives and optimising the delivery of Defence capability from the Defence budget. The DSF Structure can be found below.



If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter or more generally about the Defence Suppliers Forum, please contact the DSF Programme Management Office defcomrclssm-dsf-team@mod.gov.uk