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Welcome to the May edition of the DGP Newsletter!

Last month, I stressed the importance of the Modernising Defence Programme and the Philip Dunne Review to the Defence Sector in the UK. The DGP and individual organisations have provided excellent support to these programmes through this month. I think this is a clear measure of the progress our sector has made in providing coherent sector positions whilst maintaining the integrity of our individual company and department viewpoints. I look forward to the outputs of this process in the coming weeks.

The Steering Committee of DGP met last week to look at the future priorities across the partnership. Once again the emphasis focused on export led growth as our key enduring objective. I was heartened by the partners enthusiasm to look for further collaboration topics and opportunities to bring Team UK to market. We will be putting more emphasis on developing and using our market intelligence to do just that. This is vital to ensuring that we make the best use of the work that is going on across our skills, technology development and value chain activities.

Looking forward to next month we will be in full preparation mode for Farnborough International Airshow – FIA - and the notable events that build up to it. We will also be working across Government, with our industrial partner organisations and with other sectors to position Defence appropriately in the UK Industrial Strategy. Thank you for your continued enthusiasm for this vital work.

Key Progress Update

Strengthened-DSO

April has been a busy month for us as we held our quarterly DSO Industry Liaison Board (DILB) which oversees the work of the DGP country strategies. The Board heard of the progress and planned next steps for our DGP strategic markets from the seconded industry strategy leads. The team are now focused on working through the implementation plans for the individual markets.

Key Progress Update

Value Chain Competitiveness

20 How-to improvement guides have been developed in the first phase of activity and these are linked to the self-assessment tool; currently the guides are being reviewed in Roll-Royce and once reviews are completed, the basis for deployment will be agreed between the DGP and Rolls-Royce plc. A pilot group of companies may be invited to try-out the framework in their respective businesses, the learning from these trials will then be reviewed by the DGP partner companies to assess potential improvements, training needs and a practical timeline for roll-out.

Key Progress Update

UKDSC

Focus on the Customer: The Market Intelligence Cell (MIC) on boarded three new team members to replace those finishing successful secondments with the UKDSC: Ed Merry, from Cobham, joined as the Market Intelligence Lead: India, Ahmed Omar Ali, from Atkins, joined as Market Intelligence Lead: Saudi Arabia and Rachel Hutchison, ADS direct hire, joined as a Market Intelligence Analyst. The new team members are already heavily engaged on maturing the UKDSC's market intelligence information, with particular reference to combat air activities. Work has also started on the process of refreshing the country and capability analyses that were undertaken in 2016; this will lead to the publication of a revised projection of opportunities in June. The new Shared Information System (SIS) has been demonstrated and is now being piloted with DGP founder members and government departments. Once the 'pilot' is completed successfully the roll out of the full capability should take place mid-year. Finally a number of successful engagements were held with key stakeholders in government and industry.

Develop UK Capability: There were several signature events for the Capability Development team during the month. Firstly, the team participated in **Defexpo**, Chennai, (11-14 April) in support of UK defence business and enhancing the Team UK initiative that was launched in 2017. Secondly, there was a very positive defence industry dialogue with Japanese industry and government representatives in Tokyo. A number of areas of common interest were identified during both engagements and steps were agreed to take these forward through a number of means. The UKDSC also supported MoD in determining how it could expand collaboration in Capability Research and Development with another international partner. Positive progress is being made with the UK MoD to jointly progress this particular relationship. In addition, the UKDSC is working with MoD and DSO to progress a number of actions from the DSF-CM&I. Finally, the Capability team also supported activity within the NATO sphere and participated in a wide ranging seminar hosted at Reading University.

Innovations and investment: Within the innovations investment team in April we've had two new starters, Tony Smith joined as Head of Innovation Air and Rob Rolley joined as Head of Innovation for Land. Work has continued to progress on the Future Combat Air study work package 2, with a number of workshops taking place with the DGP member companies to look at future innovations and disruptive technologies and their impact on future air capability. Engagements have also continued with DIU / Innovate UK and DST on future innovation themes. Finally the innovations investment team supported pitch@palace 9.0 and the final event which took place at St James Palace in April.

Key Progress Update

Skills

The Defence Enterprise Export Programme (DEEP) is progressing well with a first cohort expected to start in January 2019, following a robust application and selection process scheduled to take place throughout the second half of 2018. The Academic element of DEEP will have an emphasis on developing leadership and management skills with specific modules focusing on export in the context of Defence. A mentor programme is being developed in parallel to support the candidates, with work continuing on a secondment model that is aligned with existing DGP opportunities (in the UK DSC and DSO) supplemented by further opportunities in Government, adjacent sectors and the broader value chain.