



Andrew Cowdery  
Industry Co-Chair  
of the DGP

## Welcome to the Defence Growth Partnership March Update!

This is the first newsletter since my appointment as Industry Co-Chair of the DGP. I will start by thanking my predecessor Allan Cook for his outstanding leadership and commitment over the last three years as Industry Co-Chair and before that as lead of the DGP Skills programme. We wish Allan the very best in his new role as Chair of HS2.

I am delighted to be joining the central team at a time when DGP is firmly established and has the basis to grow its influence and impact in strengthening our domestic Industry and engaging with our partners around the world. I look forward to working with you all as we take the DGP through its next phase of development.

### Monthly Progress Update

#### Skills

Following the workshop for the senior DGP members, the proposal around reskilling and upskilling our workforces in digital skills was presented to the Steering Committee to ratify. A further refinement of the scope of this work was requested, which will take place in a workshop for the DGP Skills Group members, scheduled for Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019. A review of the SEMAP programme will also be initiated..

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February, ADS hosted a session for SMEs companies in order to inform them about the DGP, and in particular, the work of the Skills Group and the opportunities that may be available to them. There was an open discussion around the skills challenges facing SMEs and some interest in how they might benefit from the work undertaken by larger organisations in this matter.

### Monthly Progress Update

#### Value Chain Competitiveness

The date of Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March has been set to hold a supplier engagement workshop to be hosted by Rolls-Royce in Derby. Nine DGP partner companies are participating along with nominated suppliers. At the engagement event, Defence Value Chain suppliers will be introduced to the proposed Improvement Framework and associated improvement How-To Guides. A survey will be conducted in advance of the event with participants and again following the event, feedback will be sought on the improvement framework, its effectiveness and ease of implementation.

## Monthly Progress Update

### UKDSC

The New Year has got off to an exciting start with January and February representing another productive period for everyone at the UKDSC. The year kicked-off with the UKDSC Liaison Board convening on the 8<sup>th</sup> January in London, which subsequently fed into the full-day DGP meeting which took place a fortnight later. Key topics at both sessions were DSEI preparation (planning is already underway), reinforcing the principles around TeamUK and ensuring all stakeholders were aligned with key UKDSC priorities in 2019 and beyond. Underpinning all of this, was the excellent news that the BEIS team had formally extended our funding window to March 2020, with work already underway in developing a longer-term business case.

As per previous months there were a large number of visiting parties hosted at Farnborough. Amongst others we welcomed were Nia Griffith, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence; Richard Berthon, FMC Strategic Programmes (along with several of his team); Nick MacDonald Robinson from DIT DSO; and several Industry representatives. Our CEO, Mark Barclay supported an SME workshop in Scotland during January with a view to exploring cross-sector innovation opportunities. This one-day session once again highlighted potential technologies that could migrate from the Civil sector into the Defence domain and ultimately address end user capability needs in a more timely and cost effective manner. From an engagement perspective UKDSC team members also supported some major international exhibitions in conjunction with colleagues from ADS, DSO and DGP member companies.

From an organisational perspective, we are delighted to announce that Llyr Jones will be joining us as Executive Director, Strategy on the 4<sup>th</sup> March. Llyr brings a wealth of international and strategic planning experience and will be a major catalyst in our forthcoming Capability development and TeamUK activities.

February proved to be an incredibly busy month for the **Market Intelligence Cell (MIC)**. A new and improved Country Synopsis document has been developed to replace the Country Briefs that have been released up until now, whilst a report focusing on the Science and Technology domain was authored across the UKDSC team and approved for release by both UKDSC and DSTL. In addition, extensive research continues to be undertaken for DIT-DSO and MoD on up and coming visits and market analysis. The SIS has now grown to over 300 users and the improvements in usability and content have been met with great feedback.

The **Capability Team** have undertaken a number of positive engagements both “home and away”. In summary, there were team members at trade shows in India and United Arab Emirates, helping spread the TeamUK message with various international partners. In the UK, the team also hosted several senior delegations from Industry and Government. The quality and depth of engagement has been very encouraging and ultimately the aim is to collectively support the overarching prosperity agenda in line with the 2018 Dunne Report..

The **Innovation and Investment (I&I) Team**, in partnership with Subsea UK, held the second Underwater Autonomous Systems workshop during February. This workshop built upon the outputs from the inaugural session (convened with a variety of stakeholders late 2018) and in particular explored the differences between shallow and deep water needs. Additionally, the I&I team supported UKRI’s Robotics and AI in extreme environments cohort event in London, bringing together all the organisations involved in this Cross-Sector Innovation (CSI) wave 1 challenge fund. Further outputs from both these CSI activities will be provided in future DGP newsletter editions.

For more information and the latest updates, visit the [UKDSC Website](#).

## Monthly Progress Update

### s-DSO

February has been a busy month for us as we continue working on our country strategies. We continue to report on individual strategy progress at the monthly DGP Operations Board and specifically for this month, the DSO Industry Liaison Board and DGP Steering Committee. This month has also seen the departure of three members of the sDSO team resulting in some gaps in the team.

For more information and the latest updates, visit the [DIT-DSO Website](#).