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Welcome to the March edition of the DGP Newsletter!

Since the Christmas Newsletter, we have a government elected with a 'transformative agenda' for the nation, which has initiated our exit from the European Union and with the focus on 'getting things done'. The Chancellor has announced ambitious public investment plans, focussed on the National Health Service, National Infrastructure projects and Innovation. The governments approach to 'levelling up' the economy, increasing investment across the UK and doing so at pace is to be welcomed. The Defence Growth Partnership is looking forward to the opportunities this will bring, and further developing the collaboration between government and industry, building on the partnership model in support of delivering growth and prosperity.

Covid-19 has changed all our lives, in the space of a few months this pandemic has impacted our way of life, imposed restrictions and hardship across our nation and required us to re-evaluate our values and priorities. The government is leading the collective response to Covid-19, this requires everyone's effort and commitment to

deal with the immediate and pressing needs to save lives, protect our NHS and reduce the spread of this virus. DGP companies have responded to the challenges, with several companies involve in the Ventilator Challenge, and responding to other requests made by government to industry. There are difficult times now and ahead of us, so working together has never been more critical or needed!

While Covid-19 dominates day to day thinking and priorities, the government announcement in February to undertake an Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy is to be welcomed. This was followed up by the announcement that MoD would lead a cross-governmental review into defence and security industrial strategy; Secretary of State for Defence, Ben Wallace acknowledged the MoD's relationship with industry was crucial to maintaining the United Kingdom's position as a Tier 1 military power. The DGP is providing support to the initial phases of the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy (DSIS) and UKDSC is a valuable source of expertise and market intelligence to support the MoD in this endeavour.

The MoD hosted the second Defence Economics Conference on the 5th March at Kings' College London. This was an excellent forum at which to listen, learn and share thinking on the contribution made by Defence to the UK Economy. The event began with a roundtable discussion which allowed DGP companies to engage with Jeremy Quin, the new Minister of Defence Procurement on the importance of a long-term strategy for the defence industrial sector. The conference brought together specialist and practitioners from across the defence sector in exploring the value of defence to the UK economy and opportunities for the Defence sector in a highly competitive international market.

UKDSC successfully launched its Subsea Autonomous Systems Cross Sector Innovation (CSI) competition in late January. Since the launch, it has received just over 130 Expressions of Interest from potential participants. These submissions resulted in 30 companies being down selected to join the UKRI/Innovate-UK Innovation lab planned for April. This initiative, which originated from early work done in the UKDSC in collaborating with the Royal Navy and major Oil and Gas companies demonstrates a cross-sector approach to innovation, and the potential for 'dual use' application and exploitation.

TEAM UK, with support from UKDSC held a very successful Defence Industry Dialogue in Lucknow, India which was attended by the UK Minister of Defence Procurement, a senior Indian Government official, and leading Indian industrialists from the defence sector. The dialogue involved future cooperation in common defence capability areas, and we look forward to deepening this relationship in future joint engagements. DIT s-DSO continues to work closely with DGP and UKDSC, in strengthening the capacity for supporting defence exports and the assessment of sales opportunities in international defence markets.

The DGP Skills group have maintained momentum in developing a Digital Skills Framework (DDSF) with the five workstreams, now consolidated into four. There is ongoing development of a Skills Portal to enable access to the Digital Skills Framework. Finally, the DGP Value Chain Competitiveness 'How to Framework' tool for use by the supply chain is moving to the launch stage and we look forward this being rolled out formally.

With Covid-19 dominating our lives at this moment, we need to focus on the important things, staying safe, helping others and working together to achieve better outcomes, in what are exceptional times for us all. My thanks to everyone across the Defence Growth Partnership for all your efforts.



Ian Draper, the Air Capability and India Lead at the UK Defence Solutions Centre, UKDSC writes about his two years at the UKDSC, and on taking this experience into DIT DSO as a Defence Growth Partnership, DGP, secondee.

Where did the last two years go? Having left the BAE Systems office in New Delhi, India in 2018 I found myself seconded to the UKDSC based in Farnborough to look after the newly created Air Capability desk. After a year, I also took on new, but familiar, responsibilities as the country lead for India. The Air sector offering huge global opportunities in terms of export value while India is now the second largest importer of defence capability.

Looking back, I had to learn a whole new governmental system against the backdrop of the Brexit process while at the same time understanding the UK MOD and the Armed Forces' capability priorities. Trying to keep track of the rapidly changing political landscape was a challenge all on its own! I also had to quickly figure out what UK industry's priorities were regarding international partnerships, while developing the trust of the DGP member companies. And just when I thought I had the UKDSC job cracked I am now moving on to a not too dissimilar secondment role within the DIT DSO. This new role is an exciting opportunity to bring my experience of UKDSC into DSO and continue to build this key relationship for Team UK.

Time working closely with the UK Government is important as it helps foster a better understanding of the often-conflicting priorities between key internal stakeholders. It also builds trust and allows us, as Team UK, to exploit our combined strengths when and where we identify an international opportunity sweet spot. This is crucial if we are to up our game and succeed in a global defence market especially when competing against other countries who are also hungry for international business.

One of my last tasks at UKDSC was the recent combined UK Industry and Government endeavour at DEFEXPO India, led by UK Minister Defence Procurement and Director DSO, which is just one example of how we have tried to build a better relationship with a country as large and important as India. The DGP was also pleased to support a very successful UK-India Defence Industry Forum during the show with strong senior representation from both sides. A number of strategic topics were discussed with focus on enhancing defence industry cooperation between India and the UK. We require much more of this joint commitment.

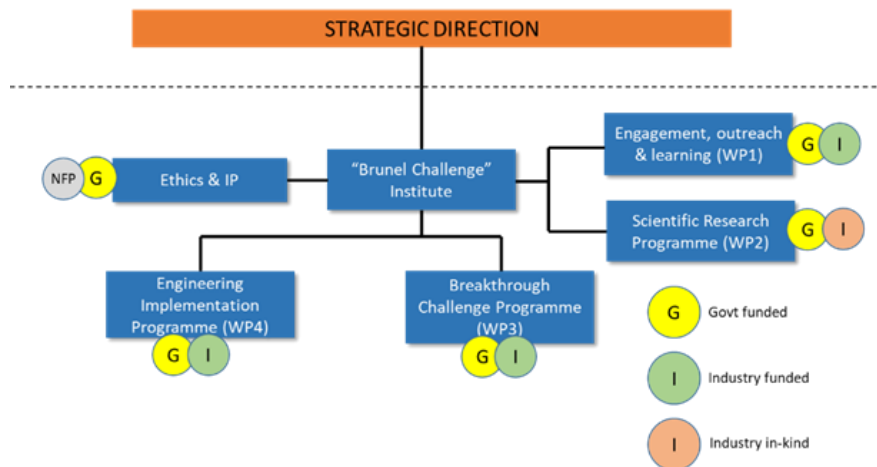
So, a great time was had with the UKDSC. It is a genuinely badge-less working environment, where the priority is Team UK over and above any individual company considerations. It provided daily access to some excellent operators from within the DGP and ADS communities, and I made some good friends. Thanks to everyone who made it so enjoyable and I look forward to building Team UK opportunities in my new role.

DGP has been supporting the proposed Brunel Challenge alongside the Aerospace, Automotive, Nuclear, and Maritime sectors. Martin Aston from Airbus who is leading the programme provides an overview and next steps.

Engineering is core to addressing the challenges facing 21st century society. It is engineering that takes science and converts its findings into viable product and service solutions. It is the imagination and analytical skills of engineers that feed this intellectual, complex process. Defence is a key driver of this success in the UK.

Despite current 'engineering process' and digital capability being suitable for current products, engineering is at a turning point. These products including for defence will require greater levels of technology integration, collaborative product development and significantly reduced assurance timescales to address societal challenges such as climate change. The UK also faces challenges from overseas competition for product development and architectural definition accountability. Such accountability has significant influence over product lifecycle costs and supply chain selection.

The Brunel Challenge is a proposal to establish a national, cross-sector programme of ambitious engineering capability development, to ensure that the UK leads the world in the future of engineering. Innovative exploitation of emerging and established digital technologies is central to achieving this transformational change in engineering productivity and capability, and is the foundation of Brunel Challenge. This programme will deliver innovative engineering processes, a workforce with proven skills in digitally-enabled engineering and a world-leading, resilient engineering.



The programme is to be structured around four core work packages, each optimised to achieve the necessary outputs and outcomes. A key differentiator for Brunel Challenge is the portfolio of "breakthrough challenges" – a series of challenges aimed to enhance cross-sector collaboration and provide an opportunity to develop and experience disruptive engineering systems. Work is currently underway to define the content of the programme through a series of online workshops. Despite all of the current issues we face, work to scope Brunel Challenge and secure launch in 2020 is progressing. The need for global engineering leadership that the programme aims to deliver is more acute now than ever. If you'd like to know more about Brunel Challenge, or take part in the online workshops please contact Richard Mckie (Richard.Mckie@baeystems.com) or Martin Aston (Martin.Aston@airbus.com).

Skills Workstream Overview

- The DGP Skills Group have been developing the structure and curating content for the planned Defence Digital Skills Framework (DDSF), which will sit on a portal hosted by the DGP website and supported by ADS. These skills were identified as priority capabilities to enable our people and businesses to 'upskill' and to thrive in the digital age.
- The portal will be launched in the summer and will be available to all employees affiliated to the DGP/ADS. Content will be modular and aimed at providing learning for different levels of competence, although the first launch will prioritise Awareness and Foundation levels.
- In addition, a survey of participants and line managers from the first cohorts of the Defence Enterprise Export Programmes (DEEP) has been launched. This will enable us to monitor the success of the programme, to identify any area in need of improvement and to ensure we have the best possible offering in place for future delegates.

UKDSC Overview

- The Market Intelligence Cell (MIC) is working on a number of projects in the Air and Maritime sectors to aid future decision making; cooperating with MOD on the development of the Joint Economic Data Hub; contributing to the Defence & Security Industry Strategy; and exploring opportunities to support the UK Space Agency on the Global Navigation Satellite System.
- In response to the current COVID-19 situation, the MIC has realigned its other priorities to place significant emphasis on an analysis of: the global economic impact; the specific impact on the UK's economy; the short-term implications for global defence budgets; and the longer-term implications for global defence budgets. The MIC will work with ADS to ensure this analysis is shared as widely as possible with all its members. For those with access to the MICs Shared Information Space, an initial data search has been undertaken and links to the most relevant data sources have been provided.
- The UKDSC held a very successful pre-DEFEXO 2020 workshop in London to develop key themes for the exhibition under the leadership of the senior DGP Country sponsor and DSO. The workshop included government stakeholders, DGP industry members and other UK industry exhibiting in the UK pavilion. Following the workshop the UKDSC participated in a successful DEFEXPO 2020 in direct support of Team UK objectives, with highlights including a India-UK Defence Industry Forum under the leadership of Minister Defence Procurement.
- Continuing the broad country engagement with India, the UKDSC has supported visits by two delegations of senior finance officials from the Indian Ministry of Defence to Farnborough as part of their study programme coordinated by the Indian National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM) and the UK Civil Service College.
- The Cross Sector Underwater Autonomy competition was launched on 13 January 2020 with briefings in London and Glasgow, attracting high levels of interest from industries not traditionally aligned to defence. The competition has a pool fund in excess of £6M and is expected to attract approximately £12mil of technology development in Next Generation Technologies: Subsea Autonomous Systems and delivered through the Innovation Lab mechanism.
- The Innovation team have been working closely with Scottish Enterprise, Subsea UK, Opportunity North East and BEIS to develop the business case for the [Global Underwater Hub](#) which has been submitted to BEIS for review and progression through the government approval process.
- On 11 March 2020 the Innovation and Investment Team in support of Innovate UK conducted the CSI 1 Expression of Interest (EOI) assessment board to narrow down the Cross-Sector Innovation competition participants in preparation for the Innovation Lab during 20 - 24 April 2020.
- The UKDSC held the Research, Technology and Innovation Group (RTIG) on 20 March 2020 to outline the work program for 2020/21 and review progress on the investment analysis tool and the investment analysis of the Defence Technology Framework (DTF) technology families.

Value Chain Competitiveness Overview

- The VCC Improvement Framework has been completed by Rolls-Royce, based on the Rolls-Royce Production System, and is ready to be launched.
- The VCC Improvement Framework will provide an 'entry level' downloadable, free to use, self-assessment tool for companies wishing to begin their productivity improvement journeys. This will support more detailed initiatives such as SC21 and SiG.
- The functionality and content has been well received, and at the March Steering Committee the final design of the website which will host the VCC IF and the downloadable documents was agreed.