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Welcome to the July edition of the DGP Newsletter!

It is important we continue to focus our energy and resources in maintaining momentum across all Defence Growth Partnership (DGP) activities; this means making change happen and delivering against our aims and objectives. We continue to build relationships across industrial sectors and in the regions, the Brunel Challenge and 'High Value Design' are part of this ongoing support and engagement, with collaboration a key element of success.

The Defence Technology Exploitation Programme (DTEP) was launched by Invest Northern Ireland at ECIT Belfast and DGP is proud to have played a part in the programme. The programme provides funding and support to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Northern Ireland to develop innovative technologies, enhance capabilities and win new business in defence. The UKDSC team strongly supported the launch, facilitating the DGP community to attend the 'meet the buyer' event to share opportunities and build collaborative relationships.

I am encouraged by the progress being made in the UKDSC, with the UKDSC Liaison Board held this month providing the opportunity for Mark Barclay and the team to share progress and focus on key initiatives in the Defence Solutions Centre. We are making progress in the JED Hub development, DSF CMI&I and in the preparation for DGP attendance at DSEI. Imperial College London has now become a UKDSC Associate Member, bringing expertise to support the UKDSC through internationally recognised technology, innovation and research which will complement existing capability and innovation in the Defence Solutions Centre.

The DGP Skills Group had a workshop to analyse the survey results conducted across the DGP community to determine priorities, establish requirements and set the direction for the Digital Skills initiative. Feedback from the workshop has been very encouraging with a high level of engagement and common training and development requirements identified across DGP companies.

Preparation for DGP at DSEI is well advanced with stand layout finalised and focus now is on maximising the opportunity to inform and promote Team UK and I encourage you all to contribute.

Monthly Progress Update

Value Chain Competitiveness

Following an update to the DGP Operations Board which provided an overview of the Value Chain Improvement Framework, work is underway to form a Value Chain Competitiveness working group to agree on the way forward and next steps to roll out the Improvement Framework and to then look to broaden the scope of activity for the workstream, following Steering Committee guidance. As such, the VCC working group will convene a workshop over the summer to consider the next steps and wider landscape of the supply chain improvement applications.

Monthly Progress Update

Skills

A Skills Group workshop was held on Wednesday 26th June to collate and analyse the results of a survey conducted across the DGP partners concerning their requirements for digital skills development. From this activity, a number of technical skills were identified as priorities for the group and feedback on the 'soft' or 'enabling' skills were also investigated. Options on how to address these demands were developed and this will be presented to the Steering Board on Thursday 11th July for ratification.

Monthly Progress Update

UKDSC

Momentum continued throughout June across a number of key areas. In particular, the UKDSC Liaison Board met to review progress to date and discuss future priorities covering Market Intelligence, future Capability development and current Cross Sector Innovation activities. On the topic of Cross Sector Innovation, there was some useful media coverage during the period which is well worth reviewing. Overall, a positive Board meeting which confirmed UKDSC's future course of direction. In parallel, the team continued to work with colleagues at BEIS preparing a detailed funding plan for financial year 2020/21. Finally, a number of international engagements took place in the period whilst DSEI preparation continued apace....with just eight weeks to go until the formal opening!

Market Intelligence Cell (MIC)

As you may have picked up on, following the MOD Prosperity Conference held in Coventry during March, a proposal was announced to create a Joint Economic Data Hub (JED Hub) with industry, sitting within the UKDSC. Subsequently, planning is now underway with several workshops between UKDSC, MOD and other key interlocutors held in the interim. The JED Hub will build upon the work of the Market Intelligence Cell (MIC) and will collect and aggregate economic data from across the Defence sector. This is a high-profile task and it underscores the independence and impartiality of the UKDSC.

Strategy

In mid-June the Strategy and Capability welcomed a senior delegation from "Lemhannas", the "National Resilience Institute of the Republic of Indonesia" to Farnborough. Our international guests were accompanied by staff from the Department of International Trade's Defence and Security Organisation (DIT-DSO). Overall, it was viewed as a very constructive engagement by all parties.

As per previous months, close working continues with the DGP central team around the UKDSC's contribution to DSEI 2019. The UK capability narratives are well advanced with the stand design also finalised in the month. The plans for delegations visiting the show will be developed in collaboration with DIT-DSO.

Innovation

The Innovation team hosted the Initial DSF CMI&I Workstrand 2 workshops in Farnborough on 4th and 6th June. Thereafter, bilateral engagements were facilitated to discuss capabilities and investment plans, with final bilateral sessions scheduled to complete during the first week of July. In support of this activity, the MIC is developing data on international market opportunities as well as undertaking competitor analyses in the specific domains.

The team also strongly supported the launch of the Defence Technology Exploitation Programme (DTEP) event in Northern Ireland. The event was well attended by industry and SME's, which will certainly help to fuse innovative collaborative partnerships. Finally, a team member attended the TTI Vanguard conference on Robotics and AI in the USA.

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

Monthly Progress Update

s-DSO

June 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. Specifically, we have been busy preparing for the DSO Industry Liaison Board (DILB) which was held on Thursday 4th July.

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