

05 May 22

## MAA/RN/2022/03 – MAA International Engagement and Recognition Division’s Programme of Work - Financial Year 22-23

### Issue

1. To inform the Regulated Community (RC) of the MAA International Engagement and Recognition (IE&R) Division’s planned activity for Financial Year (FY) 22-23.

### Scope

2. This Regulatory Notice (RN) provides an outline of the key work strands and events in the MAA IE&R Division’s Programme of Work (PoW) for FY 22-23. The intent is that this PoW will enable early engagement with Defence Equipment and Support Delivery Teams and inform the RC of the forthcoming opportunities from across the Defence Air Environment (DAE) for consultation on areas of international interest.

### Cross-cutting themes

3. **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Restrictions.** The travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic continue to have an impact on the Division’s ability for international travel which is an integral part of the IE&R Division's work. However, the easing of restrictions has enabled an increase in our face-to-face engagement and the Division also maintains frequent contact with colleagues across the World and continues its collaborative Airworthiness work, via whatever means practicable; particularly under the auspices of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Five Eyes Air Force Interoperability Council (AFIC). The IE&R Division PoW remains cognisant of possible reintroduction of COVID travel restrictions around the World.

4. **Integrated Review.** The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy stressed the importance of strengthening relationships with allies and World-wide partners. World events continue to emphasize the importance of those defence relationships. The IE&R Division will continue to maintain those relationships with our existing allies, including the NATO and Five Eyes AFIC nations, as well as forging new relationships with partners from all strategically important regions both for the benefit of our Armed Forces and also to continuously improve the MAA through analysis of their best practice.

5. **Staffing Level and Competency Constraints.** Staffing levels remain a constant challenge within the MAA and all the existing IE&R Division staff are due to depart the MAA in early to mid-2023. As a result, this PoW has been developed based on this staff changeover. However, there will remain some risk associated with supporting new activities as a result of the need to redevelop IE&R competency after that staff change.

### International Engagement

6. **NATO.** Our long-term engagement with NATO continues with our focussed involvement at the Aviation Committee (AVC), which reports to the North Atlantic Council, and supporting Advisory Groups. Collectively, this engagement covers a broad range of aviation subjects, including areas of interface between Civil and Military aviation. The AVC deals primarily with Airworthiness (in particular the NATO Airworthiness Policy (NAWP)) and Air Traffic Management (ATM) / Communications Navigation Surveillance (CNS) issues. In this FY, the IE&R Division will:

- a. Continue to support directly Director MAA (D MAA) at the 2 annual AVC meetings, including liaison with DAATM on ATM / CNS subjects, and will represent Head of UK Delegation when required.
- b. Until the departure of the current IE&R1 incumbent in Jan 2023, continue to provide the Chair of the AVC's Airworthiness Advisory Group (AWAG), as well as providing MAA representation at the 2 annual AWAG meetings, where we will continue to:
  - (1). Actively support the implementation of the NAWP through participation as a member of a NATO Recognition Assessment Team.
  - (2). Actively progress with our Allies, our work on other areas of Airworthiness where NATO can add value in terms of standardization and interoperability.
    - (a) In particular, in the subject of Aircraft Cross Servicing (ACS) where the AWAG Chair is driving proposed improvements to STANAG 3430 / AASSEP-13 building on the UK's real-life experiences with Typhoon and F-35 interoperability.

7. **Five Eyes AFIC.** Through the IE&R Division, the MAA will continue to drive forward the Five Eyes AFIC Airworthiness Working Group's (Aw WG) 5 Year Roadmap with a focus on enabling interoperability at local commander level within an Authority-level Regulatory framework. The Aw WG will be delivered through 3 annual teleconferences and culminates in an annual Aw WG meeting, which should return to a face-to-face format in late 2022. In this FY, the MAA involvement with the Aw WG will focus on:

- a. Enabling the flow down of Interoperability information in formats suitable for use by the Regulated Community.
- b. Develop the use of the Operational Assessment Tool to provide an objective assessment of another nations' flight operation activities for Duty of Care purposes. This tool is part of the AFIC Aw AIR STD 2003 and is based on International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 6 - Operation Of Aircraft.

8. **European Military Aviation Authorities Conference (EUMAAC).** Although not linked to any international organization, the EUMAAC serves as a forum for nations across Europe to have an informal and frank exchange of views regarding strategic matters of aviation safety. Meeting annually in one of the seventeen participating EUMAAC nations, the Military Authorities are able to evaluate new ideas and intensify the dialogue with civil institutions. In 2022, the IE&R Division will:

- a. Support the D MAA's attendance at the EUMAAC in the location to be confirmed and pending travel restrictions.
- b. Contribute to the progression of solutions to any aviation safety issues emerging from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) or EUMAAC nations, or via collaborations within NATO or Five Eyes AFIC.

9. **International Queries and Multi-National Air System Specific Meetings.**

- a. **International Queries.** The IE&R Division will continue their regular engagement with the Foreign Liaison Staff in Main Building in support Defence Attaché queries, and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff's outer office to provide advice and guidance relating to international queries. In addition, and in light of the recent Integrated Review, the MAA will continue its support to Headquarters Integrated Air Defence System (HQ IADS), which is the standing military arm of the Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) between Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain; as well as hosting international visits to the MAA.
- b. **F-35 Lightning.** IE&R DepHd will continue to support the Joint Airworthiness Authorities Council (JAAC) meetings of the F-35 programme, and the IE&R Division will seek to further exploit the benefits of Recognition in support of this programme. We will also

continue our pivotal contribution to the European Air Group's F-35 Joint Maintenance initiative.

c. **Other Collaborative Air System Programmes.** The IE&R Division will provide support to the annual Typhoon Qualification and Certification Symposium, as well as various multi-national Air-Air Refuelling and Aeromedical interoperability initiatives.

## Recognition

10. The IE&R Division will lead, with the support of relevant Subject Matter Expert staff, the following Recognitions during FY 22-23 (some of which have been delayed from FY 21-22):

- a. **The Netherlands.** Conduct the MAA Recognition of the Dutch MAA in support of the F-35 Lightning and Airbus A330 Voyager / Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT).
- b. **Sweden.** Conduct the MAA Recognition of the Swedish MAA in support of the Future Combat Air System (FCAS), incorporating the Tempest Programme.
- c. **Germany.** Conduct the renewal of MAA Recognition of Luftfahrtamt der Bundeswehr in support of Typhoon.
- d. **USA.** Conduct the renewal of MAA Recognition of the three USA military airworthiness regulators:
  - US Air Force Life Cycle Management Centre (AFLCMC).
  - US Navy Airworthiness and CYBERSAFE Office (ACO).
  - US Army Aviation and Missile Center (AvMC) Systems Readiness Directorate (SRD).

In parallel with the Face-to-Face USA Recognition visits, and in support of Apache E, Chinook CH-47 LR, F-35 Lightning, P-8 Poseidon and other air systems, the MAA will conduct focused engagement by the MAA Certification Division and IE&R personnel regarding aircraft Certification (including software change) processes. The aim of this work is to enable the MAA to more readily accept and use Certification decisions from the US certifying authorities.

- e. **Australia.** Conduct renewal of the MAA Recognition of the Defence Aviation Safety Authority in support of F-35 Lightning, P-8 Poseidon and E-7 Wedgetail. This Recognition will also support Five Eyes AFIC and enable interoperability at a tactical level (ie ACS and Aeromedical equipment installation).
- f. **New Zealand.** Conduct MAA Recognition of New Zealand's recently formed independent Military Aviation Authority, in support of Five Eyes AFIC and to enable interoperability at a tactical level (ie ACS and Aeromedical equipment installation).
- g. **Canada.** Conduct the reciprocal MAA Recognition of the Canadian MAA (Director - Technical Airworthiness and Engineering Support) in support of AFIC and to enable interoperability at a tactical level (ie ACS and Aeromedical equipment installation). Canada conducted their Recognition of the MAA in 2020.

11. A complete list of the MAA's current Recognitions can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) or by searching on the Internet for 'MAA Recognition'.

## National Engagement

12. IE&R Div will support the implementation of the MAA Engagement Strategy at a national working level. This Engagement Strategy focuses MAA engagement with the key stakeholders from within MOD, Academia, Industry and wider Government to ascertain their level of interest and influence of MAA outcomes; and at an international level to establish those new relationships and develop existing ones to promote UK interests.

13. In addition, the IE&R Division will continue to engage with other DSA Regulators and across the wider DAE to use the ethos and Principles of Airworthiness Recognition to improve the reuse of the outputs of other Nations' Regulators, within our own Regulatory frameworks and governance.

#### **Further Information**

14. Requests for the MAA to undertake Recognition activity with another nation's MAA or for enquires on International Engagement, or for further guidance on the content of this RN, should be submitted by email to [DSA-MAA-MRPEnquiries@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DSA-MAA-MRPEnquiries@mod.gov.uk).

#### **MAA Head of Regulation & Certification**