

DEFENCE SUPPLIERS FORUM

SME FORUM

UK Defence Solutions Centre, Farnborough

Record of Meeting – 23 February 2016

Government

Philip Dunne MP	Minister for Defence Procurement [Chair]
Steven Morgan	Director Defence Commercial
Dr Bryn Hughes	Technical Director, Dstl
Simon Everest	Director Business Strategy & Senior Security Adviser, UKTI DSO
Simida Carswell	Supply Chain Advocate, Supplier Relations Team
Andy Sams	Assistant Head MOD Industrial Policy
David Foskett	Assistant Head, Aerospace Marine and Defence, BIS
Kyla Isbell	APS to Minister for Defence Procurement
Craig Deal	MOD Industrial Policy
Alyson Rees	MOD Industrial Policy [Secretary]
Wg Cdr Jim Pennycook	CDE, Dstl
Gemma Moxley	CDE, Dstl

UK DSC

Steve Brittan	UK DSC
Paul Winstanley	UK DSC

Industry Trade Association

Kelly Thomas	ADS
Clive Davenport	Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
Andy Johnston	techUK
Ed Bates	Aish Technologies Ltd (Representing SMI/BNEA)

Trade Association Invited SMEs

David Hansell	MSI Defence Systems (ADS)
Graham Booth	2ic Ltd (techUK)

DGP Challenge SMEs

Manish Jain	Amethyst
David Thomson	Glyndwr Innovations Ltd
Steve Yates	Newman and Spurr Consultancy Ltd
Mike Squires	Close Air Solutions

1. Defence Update

The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) was published in November. Combined with the earlier Budget statement which resulted in a growing defence budget the SDSR demonstrated the priority the Government placed on defence. The SDSR announced an additional £12Bn investment for equipment and support (now £178Bn over 10 years). The SDSR made a number of policy announcements which we expect to be completed during 2016. These include a defence innovation initiative, a shipbuilding strategy and a refreshed industrial policy. Due to a MOD review into intellectual property rights, Minister agreed there should be consultation with the SME Forum and DSF Mid-Tier group on the proposed changes.

Action 1: DES Comrcl-IP to arrange this meeting with SME and Mid-Tier Forum members.

2. Delivering Prosperity and Innovation: DGP's Contribution

Allan Cook is the new industry co-chair of the DGP. The UK Defence Solution Centre (UK DSC) is now fully resourced and has delivered its first roadmaps identifying key capabilities which show promising export potential. UKTI Defence and Security Organisation have identified countries of focus for further in-depth work. The DGP Innovation Challenges are on-going and the SME community has been a key recipient of this work.

3. SME Policy Refresh and Supply Chain Update

The SME Policy Refresh will be announced in March. The refresh is aimed at influencing behaviours across the department and major suppliers to ensure SMEs are utilised to their fullest potential. Simida Carswell is the new Supply Chain Advocate. There will be advocates situated in all the key procurement areas within DE&S, the Frontline Commands and DIO. The advocates will play a key role understanding military needs and the marketplace and SMEs are encouraged to engage at an early stage with the supply-chain advocate network.

Action 2: List of Supply Chain Advocates to be sent to SME Forum members by 31 March 2016.

4. Dstl's Relationship with SMEs: Implementing the Defence Science Advisory Committee Review

Dstl have addressed a number of the recommendations highlighted in the DSAC Review. This includes much clearer visibility of end-user requirements, a structured set of training packages is being produced to provide training and awareness to staff aimed at all relevant roles within the procurement cycle and Dstl are developing a standard short contract aimed at the low value S&T contracts placed through CDE.

5. SME Forum Review

The review found that the forum remains 'valuable with the right frequency of meetings and range of topics. Industry members would like more input into the forward work programme and greater networking time with senior MOD officials. Min(DP) asked if UKTI Meet the Engineer Events could be regularly highlighted through the SME Forum membership.

Action 3: Formal 'Terms of Reference' for the forum, taking into account the recommendations of the review, will be drawn up and circulated before the next meeting.

Action 4: SME Forum Secretariat to highlight Meet the Engineer Events .

6. Any Other Business

Items put forward for discussion at future forum meetings:

Jul 16 Support to Exports, Red Tape Challenge and Cyber Security Essentials
Oct 16 Industrial Policy Refresh and Shipbuilding Strategy

The next Defence Suppliers Forum main meeting is scheduled to take place on 23 March 2016. The SME Forum will be represented at this meeting by techUK.

Date of next SME Forum meeting: Tuesday 5 July 2016 at MOD Main Building, London.

UK DSC Showcase

Following the forum there was a showcase by UK DSC which consisted of a short brief on UK DSC activity with some general information on SME participation, and a display by four DGP Challenge winners – Amethyst, Glyndwr Innovations Ltd, Newmann and Spurr Consultancy Ltd, Close Air Solutions. Min(DP) and the forum members had an opportunity view the displays and speak to the SMEs about their projects and their experience as DGP Challenge winners.

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