

DEFENCE SUPPLIERS FORUM

03 April 2019

Media Suite, MOD Main Building

Government

Stuart Andrew MP	Minister for Defence Procurement
Sir Simon Bollom	CEO Defence Equipment & Support
Nick Elliott	DG Commercial Defence Equipment & Support
AM Richard Knighton	Fin Mil Cap (DCDS)
Cat Little	DG Finance
Jim Carter	Comrcl Director Supply Chain
Andrew Forzani	Chief Commercial Officer
Keith Hodgkinson	BEIS Deputy Director Manufacturing Defence & Marine
Lisa Hole	Industrial Policy Head
Helen Sawford	Strategic Supplier Management Hd
Mark Goldsack	DIT Director Defence & Security Organisation
Tracy Buckingham	DIT Interim Head of Operations & Security Exports
Kirsty Dermody	DSF Secretariat

Industry

Charles Woodburn	CE, BAE Systems (Co-Chair)
Archie Bethel	CEO, Babcock International Group
Steve Murray	Strategy and Marketing Director Thales UK
Stuart Porter	Deputy Head of Government Affairs, Lockheed Martin UK
Kevin Craven	CEO, UK Central Government, SERCO
Steve Rowbotham	COO, General Dynamics UK
Simon Fovargue	VP, DXC Technology
Chris Allam	UK MD, MBDA
Richard Daniel	UK CEO Raytheon
Alex Zino	Head of Government Relations Rolls-Royce
Steve Wadey	CEO, QinetiQ
Colin Paynter	VP Communications, Airbus
Paul Everitt	CEO ADS
Dougal Monk	Director Strategic Development KBR
David Lockwood	CEO Cobham
Greg Bagwell	Exec VP Cobham
Richard McCarthy	Govt Affairs Capita
Ron Cook	MD L3 Technology
Peter Hardisty	MD Rheinmetall
Phil Cooper	Hd Govt Relations Atlas Elektronik
Neil Dove	CTO Fujitsu
Nick Chaffey	CEO UK & Europe Northrop Grumman
Jon White	Sales Director GE Aviation
Nick Whitney	Director Business Development Boeing
Michael Ord	CE Chemring
Neil Timms	Senior VP CGI
Chris Binsley	Corporate Marketing Director Ultra Electronics
Alistair McPhee	CEO Marshall ADG
David Hansell	Non-Executive Director MSI
Graham Booth	MD 2icworld

Jonathan Clegg
Steve Watson
Andy Johnston
Angela Owen

Head of Strategy Cohort
MD David Brown Gears
Defence Policy Advisor, ADS
Founder, Women in Defence

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Minister for Defence Procurement Stuart Andrew MP welcomed representatives from across MOD and Industry including MOD Strategic Suppliers, Mid-Tiers, SMEs and Trade Associations.

2. DEFENCE SUPPLIERS FORUM WORKING GROUP PROGRAMME

The Defence Suppliers Forum (DSF) has undergone a re-fresh to focus on supporting the Joint Industry Vision 2025. The new approach will reflect more closely the whole of the defence supply chain, with membership drawn from Prime, Mid-Tier and SME suppliers. The DSF Main will now focus on strategic dialogue and shape future outcomes with the DSF Executive Group acting as a Programme Board monitoring the deliverables of three new DSF Working Groups:

- The Capability Management, International and Innovation Working Group will focus on addressing barriers to innovation to deliver military capability, improving opportunities for overseas military sales and how to embrace emerging technology.
- The People and Skills Working Group will look to improve skills within the engineering sector through increased training and collaboration with tertiary education and support the Women in Defence Charter.
- The Commercial Enterprise and Acquisition Working Group will concentrate on speeding the adoption of Cyber Security within the Defence Supply Chain along with visibility and fragility.

3. ACCELERATING THE PROSPERITY AGENDA THROUGH EXPORT

There was a discussion around the question “How can we work together to support suppliers seeking to export and contribute to the UK economy, and helping to accelerate the prosperity agenda?” The importance of departmental and cross Government support was noted by industry, along with the “Team UK” approach. A point was raised by industry about the potential for the UK to adopt a more proactive and strategic approach.

4. SME ENGAGEMENT AND SME ACTION PLAN

The target for MOD SME spend by 2022 is 25%. To achieve this target, the department needs its strategic suppliers, and indeed all of its major suppliers, to support and promote the SME agenda through their own SME Champions and by supporting initiatives such as the Prompt Payment Code. We are also exploring how we can reduce the administrative burden for companies working in defence. The Minister was delighted to announce the publication of the MOD’s SME Action Plan, which is available here [SME Action Plan](#). The plan sets out the department’s approach to improving SME engagement, focusing on behaviours of our own teams and of our industry partners.

5. FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR ENCOURAGING INNOVATION

We need both MOD and industry to foster the right environment where innovation is seen as a priority. Early engagement is key to generating better solutions in fast moving technology environments and we need to be agile to maintain pace and be more connected through more direct engagement and streamlined governance and approvals. Commercial staff have been empowered to be more proportional in decisions based on risk and make the process simpler, quicker and easier.

6. IMPROVING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE DEFENCE SECTOR

The DSF members recognised the need to take action to redress the gender imbalance in the workplace and endorsed the Women in Defence Charter as an opportunity to begin this process. A copy of the draft charter can be obtained from Morag Stuart at morag.stuart111@mod.gov.uk

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place in October 2019, Main Building, London.