

desider

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the magazine for defence equipment and support

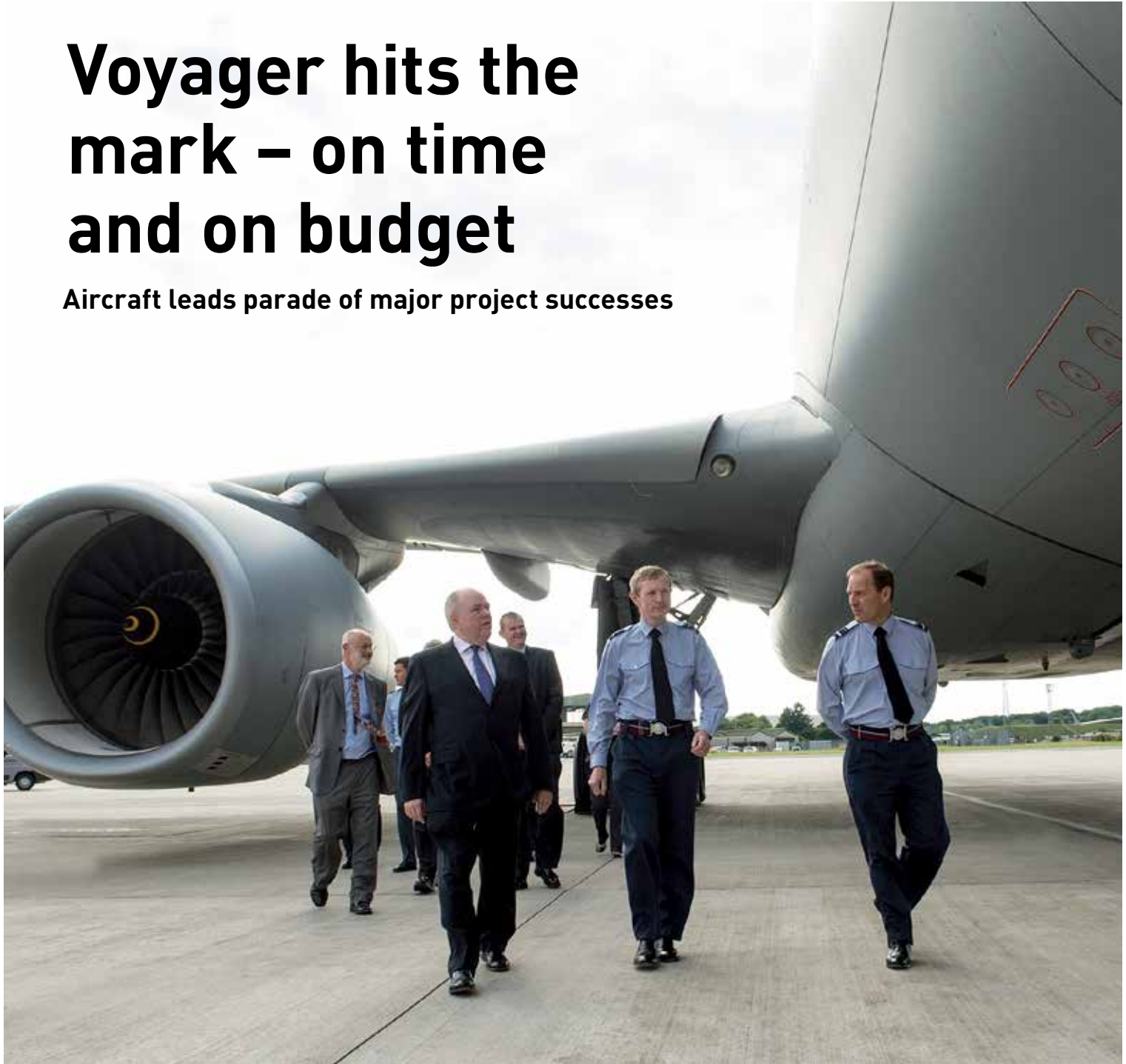


Ministry
of Defence



Voyager hits the mark – on time and on budget

Aircraft leads parade of major project successes



Latest DE&S organisation wallchart [See inside](#)



Preserving history



Hitting the water




Pride of the Reserves



Merlin early on parade



No standing on ceremony



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Scout and Warrior, major foundations of plans for Army 2020, were both on show as DE&S joined representatives of the military and industry to showcase the latest land capabilities

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Picture: Andrew Linnett

cover image

Voyager, the air transport and refuelling aircraft procured for the RAF, has reached its in-service date on time and on budget. Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, takes a look at one of the modified A330 aircraft during a visit to RAF Brize Norton

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Assistant Head, Corporate Comms:

Ralph Dunn - 9352 30257 or 0117 9130257
DESSEC-CorpComms-AsstHd@mod.uk

Editor:

Steve Moore - 9352 30537 or 0117 9130537
stephen.moore544@mod.uk

Distribution Manager:

Dick Naughton - 9352 34342 or 0117 9134342
dessec-corp-busmgr1a@mod.uk

Advertising:

Richard Stillman - Ten Alps Media, 1 New Oxford Street, High Holborn, London WC1A 1NU
Tel: +44 (0)20 7657 1837
Fax: +44 (0)20 7379 7155
richard.stillman@tenalps.com

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CDM Commendation winner 2014

desider magazine's performance in the commercial market earned it an award from Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, in his recognition of top-performing staff at DE&S over the previous 12 months. Advertising revenue from the magazine and its family of supplements and wallcharts reached more than £500,000 in 2013-14.

insiderguide

Bernard Gray

Chief of Defence Materiel

‘I felt enormous pride for DE&S and a job well done’



Last month I touched on how some of our major projects were hitting their milestone targets and how well this reflected on DE&S. This month it gives me great pleasure to see that more projects are being delivered on time and to budget.

Our ‘big ticket’ programmes have historically been the ones most susceptible to delays and cost overruns and have earned us heavy criticism. Over the last six weeks we have seen three Category A projects come in on time, in two cases early. These are good examples of how DE&S is doing its job well.

It was excellent to see Voyager, the RAF’s new air transport and air-to-air refuelling aircraft, reach its in-service date on schedule. As the largest aircraft procured for the RAF the project has had its challenges but, thanks to hard work and dedication, not least from the DE&S team, it is delivering a significant uplift in capability for the RAF. I visited RAF Brize Norton to see Voyager at first hand. It is a truly impressive aircraft and I commend team members, our partners in industry, and the RAF for their work. I also visited the Farnborough International Air Show where the Secretary of State made the Voyager announcement. I felt enormous pride for DE&S and a job well done.

At the same time the new Merlin Mk2 helicopter has come into service four months early. This is another major project delivering cutting edge equipment for the front line. Both successes show we are well on the way to fulfilling our aim to make DE&S a world class delivery organisation.

August is when many people at DE&S spend leave time with their families, putting aside for a few days, their place of work and the pressures of their jobs. Building on the success of last year’s

event, we have again invited family members to Abbey Wood to see samples of the work that DE&S does, and to find out more about the reasons why we do it. My wife and daughter thoroughly enjoyed their day out at the first of this year’s events in May. Hundreds of youngsters came along to see what mum and dad do. Teams from across our operating centres did their bit to make the day a massive success, putting on displays of the equipment they provide to our Forces with plenty of interactive fun for all. It is a vital connection between what we do, and development of the next generation of engineers, project and programme managers, technicians, and well-rounded citizens.

Families Days at Abbey Wood are important. Many of our military personnel in DE&S have spent lengthy periods on the front line. They rightly value the support they receive from their partners and families. For the civil servant, things are a little different. For many, a long deployment away from home isn’t part of the job – although I salute those who have done so in various roles supporting equipment on the front line. However, we at DE&S perform a unique role. Nowhere in the UK do people get involved in the kind of project management we do; nowhere in the UK do people face the kind of challenges we do. Which brings into focus the support our staff get at home.

By the time you read this a second Families Day will have taken place at Abbey Wood, and a third is planned for 8th August. If you haven’t yet managed to bring your partner, your sons or daughters or close relatives to Abbey Wood, please consider doing so. The support we all get from those close to us is vital and it is our chance to recognise and reward that.



THE NEW Director General (Commercial) for DE&S has promised to strengthen commercial capabilities across the MOD and enhance skills and strategies for major acquisitions.

Susanna Mason, formerly MOD Director General (Exports and Commercial Strategy), has extensive experience at senior level in industry and business and is a qualified accountant, a member of the Institute of Chartered Management Accountants and the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. She recently piloted new MOD single source pricing measures into law.

Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, said: “The appointment of Susanna to the newly-created post of Director General (Commercial) is central to the transformation of DE&S as it heads towards ‘match-fit’ status in 2017. This post was created to lead profound change in the capability of DE&S to manage the most effective commercial relations with our industry partners.

“She will join the DE&S Executive Team and will lead on all commercial activities in DE&S. Her hugely impressive and comprehensive set of commercial skills and experience will have a major impact on DE&S and I look forward to working with her in the months and years to come.”

Ms Mason said: “This is a very exciting



Long live the new Queen!

QUEEN ELIZABETH, left, moves slowly out of the dock – with just a metre or two to spare – in Rosyth which has been her home since her constituent parts began arriving from yards around the country.

The 65,000-tonne carrier, the first of two for the Royal Navy, was officially named by the Queen on 4th July in front of a huge crowd. Thirteen days later she was moved out of the dock, to be replaced by the first sections of the second carrier, *Prince of Wales*.

Lower Block 03, one of the biggest sections of the second carrier, is seen, above, as it is moved out of BAE Systems' ship hall in Glasgow on the first stage of its long journey to Rosyth.

Full story: pages 26 and 27

New DG in pledge to beef up commercial skills

appointment for me and I am thrilled to be joining DE&S at such a momentous time. My post in the MOD as Director General (Exports and Commercial Strategy) means I have already come to know many of the commercial branch staff and I look forward to working with them to help realise the ambitions for the organisation as set out by Bernard."

In a message to DE&S commercial staff she added: "I have been given a clear mandate from CDM and the Permanent Under-Secretary to strengthen our commercial capabilities across the department, to develop and enhance our negotiating skills and strategies for major acquisitions and to provide focus for the commercial aspects of the forthcoming SDSR.

"To this end I am pleased to be bringing some of my existing responsibilities with me – industrial policy and support to the Defence Growth Partnership, implementation of the Single Source Regulations Office, and the management of the international aspects of defence acquisition. The synergies that will come

from combining these activities centrally will certainly help all of us meet the challenges ahead.

"CDM and PUS both understand how important it is that I can properly resource and manage professional development and ensure that we continue to retain and recruit the right people with the right skills and experience. I intend to build up the commercial cadre and be its active and enthusiastic champion."

The new post is one of the most senior commercial roles in Government and will have a broader remit of supporting the improvement of commercial skills across other departments, working closely with the Government Chief Procurement Officer on all central initiatives.

Ms Mason said: "The Government currently spends around £40 billion per annum with third party suppliers and the MOD accounts for around 40 per cent of this, far more than any other department. It is therefore up to all of us to be the standard bearer for good commercial practice right across Whitehall and I firmly believe we are up to this challenge."

She will lead approximately 900 commercial staff in DE&S, working across 14 operating centres helping deliver the MOD's ten-year £164 billion equipment and support programme. As Head of Profession for commercial her responsibilities extend to embrace all 1,700 commercial staff throughout the department.

Since joining the MOD in 2008 she has led the reform of single source pricing into legislation, the SDSR 2010 renegotiations including the Nimrod and Harrier disposals and the reopening of PFI contracts along with commercial strategy for major procurements and defence industrial policy.

She was in charge of the development and delivery of strategic industrial and international acquisition policy, and MOD supports to exports and has led major defence export negotiations, including in the Middle East.





Welcome to new Defence Secretary

NEW SECRETARY of State for Defence Michael Fallon, above, has paid tribute to the Armed Forces and the civilians who support them as he takes up his new post.

Mr Fallon, Conservative MP for Sevenoaks since 1997, replaced Philip Hammond in the 15th July Cabinet reshuffle. "It's a huge privilege to have been appointed to one of the most important roles in government by the Prime Minister," said Mr Fallon.

"I pay tribute to our Armed Forces – who are rightly regarded as the best in the world – as well as the professionalism and dedication of the civilian personnel who support them."

Mr Fallon added: "Thanks to the work of Philip Hammond and everyone across defence, we are well placed to meet future challenges head on."

"I do not underestimate those challenges but I know that, with your expertise behind me, both civilian and military, we will build on what has already been achieved."

Mr Fallon was previously Minister for Business and Enterprise, Minister of State for Energy and Minister for Portsmouth.

In other changes, Anna Soubry has been promoted to Minister of State for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans at the MOD while Dr Andrew Murrison has left to go to the Northern Ireland office. Julian Brazier has been appointed Parliamentary Under-secretary of State and Minister for Reserves.

Materiel Strategy latest . . .

SIX WORKSTREAMS have been defined by DE&S' Executive Board as the moves to make the organisation match fit by 2017 gather pace.

There will be five delivery workstreams with a senior champion for each one. A sixth, an enabling workstream of communications championed by Chief of Materiel (Joint Enablers) Pete Worrall, will ensure effective communication of change-related initiatives.

The five delivery workstreams with their champions are:

- Project Controls and Finance – Michael Bradley, Director General Resources

- Industry Management – Steve Morgan, Director Commercial Operations

- Customer Relationship – Chris Deverell, Chief of Materiel (Land)

- Functional Management – Julian Young, Director Technical

- Human Resources – David Ball, Director Human Resources

"These workstreams will combine the work underway in Materiel Strategy with the wider DE&S change initiatives to ensure a coherent approach

Team keeps an eye on the future

to strategic change through DE&S," said Barry Burton, Director Materiel Strategy.

The Materiel Strategy team has been restructured to reflect the five delivery workstreams, while communications activity will be driven by the communications workstream in concert with DE&S Corporate Communications.

Mr Burton is supported by Paul Blakiston, who provides leadership and coherence for the delivery workstreams; the Portfolio Management Office headed by Dawn Cunningham-Martin includes communications, finance and SME support

(safety and information); while Richard Smart continues to be responsible for contracting for the Managed Service Providers and preparing for their integration.

The Materiel Strategy team is developing a Transformation Plan, to be published in December, based on the design work to date and the input of the Managed Service Providers when they arrive.

The Transformation Plan will set out the initiatives to transform DE&S to reflect its specific business needs and timelines for implementation of the transformation through to 2017.

□ Bids from Atkins, Bechtel, CH2M Hill, Jacobs, KBR and URS have been received for Work Package 1, which focuses on project delivery. These are being evaluated for contract award in the autumn.

Issue of the contract notice for Work Package 2, which focuses on finance, management information and IT, is due later in the year.

Three companies are bidding to be the Managed Service Provider on Work Package 3 – bringing private sector expertise to the human resources function to help transform DE&S.

On 3rd July Accenture, Deloitte and PWC advised they were participating in the competition. Invitations to Negotiate were issued on 29th May and the three bids are currently being evaluated with a view to a contract being placed in the autumn.

'Still plenty of ideas out there'

THE DE&S staff suggestion scheme, which began with the post-it note exercise at launch in April, has led to dozens of improvements to the working environment.

More than 1,300 responses have been received, which has translated into nearly 200 distinct suggestions being put forward for action.

"It's been a huge success," said Stephen Palmer of the Materiel Strategy team. "When we embarked on this exercise we had no idea what the reaction would be from staff."

"But it's proved to be well worthwhile. All of the suggestions we received gave us food for thought and we have focused our efforts on the areas where we can improve

the working life for staff across DE&S – we haven't been able to implement everything requested, for some we had opposite views expressed – but we have listened and I hope made some real progress."

Performance management and reward, the working environment and delegated decision-making were among the themes to emerge from the first 90 days of the scheme. A number of suggestions related to longer term issues that are being taken forward under the Materiel Strategy programme. At the time of going to press, nearly half of the original 200 suggestions have been addressed.

Among actions taken has been revision and re-issue

Post-it note exercise kicks off host of improvements

of the finance instruction on travel approval delegations to reduce the administrative burden on the individual, line management and the business. The DE&S Executive Board has also committed to deliver better and more focused development of staff, with clear career paths aligned to functions.

Mr Palmer added: "We have continued calling for suggestions, and the evidence is that there are still plenty of ideas out there. People prefer to submit them electronically although staff now have the option to give us hard copy through the suggestion boxes installed in all the neighbourhoods in Abbey Wood and those which are being rolled out to other DE&S sites."



Cdre Rob Dorey (RFA) begins the steel cut



Above: Robin Boulby (DE&S team leader) and Capt James Collins (RFA), the DE&S on site manager, join representatives of DSME in cutting the cake

Right: a computer generated image of *RFA Tidespring*, in the foreground, with *RFA Argus* (Picture courtesy BMT)

THE BUILD phase of *RFA Tidespring*, the first of four 38,000-tonne Royal Fleet Auxiliary tankers to support the Royal Navy worldwide, has begun with steel cutting of the cargo section double bottom.

Around 11,000 tonnes of steel will be used in the construction of each *Tide* class tanker.

The ceremony took place on 24th June at Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering in South Korea.

A DE&S contingent including Head of Commercially Supported Shipping David Farmer, project team leader Robin Boulby and the senior responsible owner Cdre Rob Dorey (RFA) took part in the ceremony which included

lighting a candle for the safety of the yard, cutting a cake to wish success to the vessel and the push of a button to start the steel cut.

RFA Tidespring is the first of the tankers under the Military Afloat, Reach and Sustainability banner.

She is due to enter service in autumn 2016, followed by *RFA Tiderace*, *RFA Tidesurge* and *RFA Tideforce* at approximately six-month intervals.

A primary role of the MARS

South Korean shipbuilders start construction of first new support tanker



tankers will be to refuel the new *Queen Elizabeth* class carriers and to provide aviation fuel for her Lightning II aircraft.

The tanker cargo fuel tanks have been designed to carry significantly higher volumes of fuel which can be delivered at higher transfer rates than previous RFA tankers to support the new carrier capability

All cargo tanks can be reconfigured from F76 diesel to F44 aviation fuel to provide maximum flexibility.

NEWSREEL



Les to leave the MOD

FORMER DE&S Commercial Director Les Mosco, above, will retire from the MOD when his contract as MOD Commercial Director comes to an end next month. Mr Mosco joined the MOD seven years ago and has negotiated a number of major contracts while leading the MOD-wide commercial profession of 1,700 staff, developing MOD commercial policies and recruiting new staff, including the graduate and apprentice programmes. Mike Greatwich, Head of Commercial for Commands and Centre, takes on Mr Mosco's role on an interim basis from the end of this month.

System sale

PLANS to sell the Government pipeline and storage system (GPSS) have been confirmed. The Oil and Pipelines Agency, which manages it for the MOD, is to let customers know of the sale process. "Sale would allow Government to transfer financial risks of operating to the private sector while preserving the GPSS' military capability and ensuring national resilience is not compromised," said Philip Dunne, Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology on 17th July.



Voyager and Merlin Mk2 successes: pages 21-25

Voyager at Farnborough, complete with the Red Arrows
Picture: AirTanker

Show shorts

□ MBDA has begun production of the Brimstone 2 air-to-ground precision missile at its Lostock and Henlow facilities. The missile incorporates the latest radar and semi-active laser Dual Mode Seeker capability, an insensitive munition rocket motor and warhead, and a new and stronger airframe. This new missile will enter service with the RAF on Tornado GR4s.

□ BAE Systems has been awarded an initial £5 million study contract to evaluate integration of the Brimstone 2 weapon with Typhoon by 2018.

Work is underway at Warton, Lancashire to assess the aerodynamic properties of carrying the weapon through a series of wind tunnel tests.

□ MBDA has successfully demonstrated its Dual Mode Brimstone against fast inshore attack craft with multiple vessels close by, during trials at Aberporth in west Wales using an RAF Tornado GR4.

PM sets out long-term plan for a skilled future

PRIME MINISTER David Cameron has unveiled a long-term plan between government and industry to secure the defence sector along with investment in more military capability.

Nearly three-quarters of a £1.1 billion package will be invested in an intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance package to extend range and flexibility of options. This will include capabilities in responding to the threat of global terrorism and hostage taking.

There will also be £300 million for existing capabilities including a new E-Scan radar for Typhoon and the purchase of ice patrol ship *HMS Protector*.

The Prime Minister also set out actions taken by the Defence Growth Partnership of industry and government, as part of a long-term economic plan to improve UK competitiveness, to boost the UK defence sector which is vital to economic growth, and make sure UK Forces have the best equipment in the world.

These will include:

- a UK Defence Solutions Centre in Farnborough to bring together industry to develop the new defence technologies

of the future and identify future market opportunities;

- a £4 million UK centre for maritime intelligent systems in Portsmouth to develop technology for autonomous unmanned boats, submarines or other vessels; £1 million for small companies in Solent is already up for grabs from a local enterprise partnership;

- building skills for the future through a new Defence Apprenticeship Trailblazer to

□ Atkins' chairman Allan Cook will lead a drive on developing engineering skills. "There are many talented young people who have potential to be great engineers. The Defence Apprenticeship Trailblazer offers them a new route into a career in advanced systems engineering and advanced manufacturing. It will ensure their skills match the needs of the defence and help generate an exciting future for the UK's defence industry."

attract new graduates to the industry as well as up-skilling the existing workforce.

The Prime Minister's announcements were welcomed by John Cridland, Director-General of employers' organisation the CBI.

"The MOD has had to make

some tough decisions to get its budget back under control, and the UK defence industry has worked with the Government to help this. It is right the resulting underspend is re-invested to support the important work of our Forces and intelligence services."

On the Defence Growth Partnership's long-term strategy, Mr Cridland added: "This, with collaboration between government and industry, has the potential to help boost defence contracts overseas at a time when spending is particularly constrained domestically. We need the whole of Whitehall to get behind this.

"You've only got to look around you at Farnborough to see that the UK is a world leader in defence, which supports thousands of highly-skilled jobs in innovation, research and development, and advanced manufacturing in this country.

"Now is the time to enhance that success to promote the UK's expertise in defence around the globe – that will be crucial to meeting the target of £1 trillion of exports by 2020."

UK defence exports increased by 11 per cent to £9.8 billion in 2013 in an industry that employs more than 160,000 people in the UK.

Missiles take next step to Wildcat integration

THE HARD work of DE&S staff was praised after a £90 million contract to integrate, test and install the next generation missile systems onto Royal Navy Wildcat helicopters was signed with AgustaWestland.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne signed the contract at Farnborough with AgustaWestland owner Finmeccanica's new CEO Mauro Moretti in a deal that will secure 300 jobs in the UK.

The Future Anti-Surface Guided Weapon (Heavy) (FASGW(H)) and FASGW (Light) missile systems – production contracts on those were announced earlier this year – will be integrated onto 28 Wildcat maritime attack helicopters enabling them to engage naval targets ranging from small boats and fast attack craft including frigates, and other targets on land.

DE&S Director Weapons Laurence Bryant, whose team is in charge of the FASGW programme, said: "These complex weapon systems will provide our new Royal Navy Wildcat helicopters with unparalleled strike capabilities and play their part in the future defence of the UK.

"We have now signed contracts for the design and manufacture of both FASGW missile systems and their integration on to Wildcat which is a huge success and reflects the hard work of DE&S and its industrial partners in the UK."

Integration work will mainly be carried out at AgustaWestland in Yeovil which employs more than 3,300 people. The work involves integrating the missiles onto

the helicopters and ensuring effective data transfer between the missiles and Wildcat's systems.

Mr Dunne said: "I take great pride that these missiles are being made in Britain by British experts, with more than 300 jobs sustained from Belfast to Somerset."

Mr Moretti added: "This contract will help sustain key engineering and advanced manufacturing skills here in the UK, something which we strongly support."



Philip Dunne at Farnborough after signing the contract with Agusta Westland

Below: how the missile will look on Wildcat



Sentinel extension

RAYTHEON IS submitting plans for supporting the RAF's Sentinel aircraft beyond its proposed out-of-service date next year.

Plans for lifetime extension through to 2018 of the surveillance capability will see key investment to maintain current capability and also of potential improvement to support broader use of the aircraft.

Raytheon is also reviewing the ground segment support to the aircraft to better deliver the capability on contingent operations.

Sentinel has been deployed on operations including Afghanistan, Libya, Mali and Nigeria.

DESPITE THE disappointment of the F-35B Lightning II aircraft missing out on its first UK public display at Farnborough and the Royal International Air Tattoo, live simulated mission scenarios are taking place to prepare for Typhoon and F-35 operating together by 2018.

The F-35 fleet was grounded following a fire in the US and permission for the fleet to fly again did not come in time for a flying appearance at Farnborough.

However, the latest simulation scenario has seen four F-35s operating alongside two Typhoons and an E-3D Sentry, each simulator equipped with the latest representative mission system from the aircraft.

The trial was the fourth of its kind linking simulation facilities from multiple UK locations to create a common synthetic environment to evaluate F-35

F-35 joins Typhoon in mission scenarios

interoperability with other UK aircraft.

Royal Navy and RAF pilots flew the four F-35 aircraft from Lockheed Martin-supplied desktop simulators at BAE Systems in Samlesbury, Lancashire.

A Typhoon instructor pilot and BAE Systems test pilot linked in from two Typhoon simulators at RAF Leuchars and two E-3D Sentry crews joined the scenario from the Sentry lab at RAF Waddington.

Lt Cdr Mark Humphries of Air Warfare Centre, Waddington, who took part in the trials said: "The exercise has been valuable in helping us to begin to understand how F-35B will execute an armed reconnaissance mission. Later in this decade the UK will be operating a combined

fleet of Typhoon and F-35. It's important that we put in the groundwork now."

□ Structural testing of the F-35 horizontal tails for all three variants is now complete, proving they are structurally sound for up to 24,000 hours of flying, the equivalent to three lifetimes of the aircraft.

Static and fatigue testing began in 2008 and was completed ahead of schedule in June. Static testing involved the maximum loads the aircraft is expected to see in its life; in some instances equivalent to parking two double decker buses on the tail.

Fatigue testing subjected the tails to thousands of simulated flight cycles, effectively flying the tails in a jig for 24,000 hours.

Farnborough Air Show . . . Farnborough Air Show . . . Farnborough Air Show . . . Farnborough Air Show . . . Farnborough Air Show . . .

Air vehicle plans given fresh cash injection

A £120 million feasibility phase has been agreed by the UK and French governments with six industry partners for the joint development of Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle concepts and technologies.

The six partners involved are BAE Systems, Dassault Aviation, Thales, Selex, Rolls-Royce and Snecma (Safran).

The announcement is part of more defence co-operation which the two countries have signed up to at the Farnborough show.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the SCALP/Storm Shadow missile programme with MBDA that continues co-operation on the cruise missile capability.

Foreign Secretary Mr Hammond said: "The UK and France are committed to delivering effective military capabilities underpinned by cutting edge technology, developed by strong and capable defence industries.

"This relationship is essential to how we will operate in the future, by ensuring we can deal with the global defence and security challenges we and our Allies may face."



Major Olivier Volpi, a French officer from Force HQ No 1 works with Capt Jonny Thompson from HQ 3 UK Division during Exercise Rochambeau 2014, a multi-national staff headquarters exercise led by France and Britain

□ The Future Combat Air System (FCAS) programme is to examine options for the next generation of combat air systems after Rafale and Typhoon aircraft are taken out of service.

The Joint UK/France programme team has been preparing for the 2014-2016 feasibility phase; initial proposals are expected from industry in the next few weeks and contract awards are expected next spring.

Dave Woosey, programme manager with DE&S' Unmanned Air Systems team, said: "The signing at Farnborough brought to a conclusion many months of hard work that has enabled an agreement to be reached on how this very important programme will proceed."

He added that success was due to collective effort of a dedicated UAS FCAS team and essential contributions from the wider DE&S including key personnel from the Combat Air Operating Centre's commercial staff, Defence Intellectual Property Rights and the International Relations Group. Key to the programme was the role played by technical experts in Dstl and the Combat Air Science Gateway in DE&S.

Taranis: the future, today Second set of flight tests complete

THE UNMANNED Combat Air Vehicle demonstrator Taranis (pictured right, foreground) – billed as the most advanced aircraft ever built by British engineers – has successfully completed a second phase of flight testing.

Modifications helped achieve an unprecedented level of stealth, making the aircraft virtually invisible to radar, while a specially-designed system allowed the aircraft to generate a full set of flight data without the use of an external probe or boom.

Taranis also used a communications system which meant it was able to stay in touch with its mission commander without giving away its position.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and



Technology Philip Dunne said: "The success of these test flights is an important milestone for the Taranis project. We are gaining vital insights into the potential of

unmanned aircraft and this knowledge will shape future capabilities and help reduce the risks faced by military personnel on the front line.

"I am determined to

continue investing in these world-leading projects to show us the future, today."

Nigel Whitehead, Group Managing Director of BAE Systems, said: "The first flight of Taranis last year was a significant milestone for UK aviation and this latest development underlines the UK's lead in unmanned air systems. The engineering data gathered from the latest phase of trials will help us develop the stealth technologies on Taranis further."

Taranis has been designed and built by BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, the systems division of GE Aviation, and QinetiQ working alongside MOD staff and scientists.

Taranis, named after the Celtic god of thunder, made its maiden flight last August.

Storm Shadow plots a path towards Typhoon

THE RAF'S Typhoons will be fitted with the Storm Shadow long-range precision attack missile under a £120 million contract to enhance its combat capabilities.

The deal was made as Minister for Defence Equipment Support and Technology Philip Dunne highlighted the importance of air power and the UK strategy to achieve this using Typhoon and the F-35.

The contract was signed between the Nato Eurofighter Tornado Management Agency and the four Eurofighter partner nations, including the UK, at Farnborough.

Eurofighter will work with three partner companies (BAE Systems, Airbus Space & Defence, and Alenia Aermacchi) and their supply base – including MBDA, the makers of the Storm Shadow – to integrate the weapon onto the aircraft.

The combat proven missile, last used during operations over Libya, will be fitted to Typhoon Tranche 2 and 3 to provide the air-to-surface capability currently provided by Tornado GR4.

Mr Dunne said: "Strategically, the ability to control the air is the essential ingredient to enable effective military action in the land, sea and air environments.

"Changes in the operating environment, the developing threats and range of adversaries, mean that the RAF will need to field a wide range of capabilities from a limited number of flexible and capable fast jet combat aircraft."

Typhoon will form five of the six RAF front line Combat Air squadrons for Future Force 2020, while the F-35 represents the UK's first fifth generation aircraft.

Former RAF Pilot Paul Smith, now a capability manager for Eurofighter, said: "Storm Shadow has a proven combat record of penetrating the most highly defended target areas.

"The stealth is in the weapon; minimising the risk to pilot and aircraft – and that, for us, and our customers is the key."

Storm Shadow is expected to enter service on the UK Typhoon in 2018.



Typhoon pictured at the Farnborough show

Left: Storm Shadow, pictured under the fuselage of a Tornado GR4

RAF fleet passes a milestone

RAF TYPHOONS have passed 100,000 flying hours – one of a number of aircraft milestones announced at Farnborough.

Eurofighter Chief Executive Officer Alberto Gutierrez said: "I congratulate our UK customer on reaching this historic milestone. It is a great achievement and we have been proud to support the RAF every step of the way.

"The fact that we too have reached the milestone of 250,000 flying hours across the 410 aircraft which have been delivered to our customers is also a tribute to our suppliers and the support services who have done such a fantastic job in delivering unprecedented levels of reliability.

"Most notable is the reliability of the incredible EJ200 engines provided by Eurojet which have now accumulated over half a million hours of operation."

The Eurofighter Typhoon, powered by twin EJ200 engines, is in operation in the air forces of the UK, Germany, Italy, Spain and Austria and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, all of whom have contributed to achieving the landmark figures.

Pen to paper on E-scan contract

BAE SYSTEMS has been awarded a £72 million contract to de-risk E-Scan radar development for the RAF's Typhoons.

The three-year contract, named the E-Scan Extended Assessment Phase (EAP) will look specifically at the UK's capability requirements for an E-Scan radar. The activity will inform the procurement process, ahead of a full-scale development contract.

The EAP will consist of several work packages including a Typhoon flight test of a prototype UK E-Scan radar and ground testing at the company's electronic warfare test facility at Warton, Lancashire.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne

said: "I am pleased with the positive progress being made on the E-Scan radar development programme. Typhoon jets play a vital role in the protection of the UK, and we remain committed to enhancing Typhoon's capability to meet the needs of the RAF's Future Force 2020."

The EAP is taking place in parallel with the Eurofighter and Tornado nations' E-Scan development programme. An upgraded BAE Systems Typhoon development aircraft has undergone modifications as part of the ongoing E-Scan development and integration work.

The aircraft made its maiden flight out of Warton earlier this year and was on show at Farnborough.

NEWSREEL

MOD's future world view

A view of the world 30 years from now has been published by the MOD. The fifth edition of Global Strategic Trends describes a strategic context for those in the MOD and wider Government involved in long term plans, policies and capabilities. Without a strategic context there is a risk that policymakers and capability developers may assume a future that adheres to preconceived thoughts and assumptions. The document is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/global-strategic-trends-out-to-2045>

MOD savings figures

TOTAL savings from reduced recruiting, fewer extensions of service, reductions in military and civilian personnel and greater efficiency in the conduct of non-front line activities will save around £23 billion by 2021-22, Defence Minister Anna Soubry has reported to Parliament.

Vector gold

VECTOR Aerospace UK has been awarded gold status as a supplier by Boeing. The company's team is responsible for embodiment of the avionics upgrade to the UK's fleet of 46 Chinook aircraft. Project Julius is the modification of RAF Chinook helicopters converting Mk2 and Mk3 aircraft into Mk4 and Mk5 configurations, including cockpit displays and the addition of a third crew member seat.

Reaper doubles up on Afghan missions

THE RAF'S newest Reaper remotely piloted aircraft have begun operations in Afghanistan.

Deployment of five new Reapers to gather intelligence in support of Afghan and coalition forces means there are now twice as many in Afghanistan operating alongside the Army's Hermes 450.

Reaper can monitor areas of interest for a considerable period of time. This affords the crew time to conduct a detailed assessment of any target, or increase in insurgent activity, the environment in which they are operating and the ability to time any attack to minimise the risk of civilian casualties or unnecessary damage to property.

Reaper can also carry laser-guided bombs and Hellfire missiles when the situation demands it. In

more than 54,000 hours of operations using Reaper in Afghanistan 459 weapons have been fired. Non-armed reconnaissance unmanned air systems have flown almost three times as many operations, flying more than 160,000 hours.

Air Commodore Al Gillespie, responsible for the command and control of UK air assets over Afghanistan, said: "These aircraft provide vital intelligence and precise strike capability without putting our servicemen and women at risk.

"As we draw down from Afghanistan it is precisely this technology that will keep us one step ahead." The aircraft will be operated by 13 Squadron from RAF Waddington and 39 Squadron at Creech in the USA.



Left: civilian contractors assemble an RAF Reaper at Kandahar

Below: ground control stations at RAF Waddington



Watchdog praises DE&S accounting progress

FOR THE first time in five years DE&S' year-end capital spares and inventory balances will be subject to an unqualified opinion by the main Government spending watchdog.

Removal of the inventory qualification by the National Audit Office will enhance DE&S' reputation for good financial management. It will also have a positive impact on the Treasury in its scrutiny of DE&S in future spending rounds.

It has been described as 'a fantastic achievement' by Michael Bradley, DE&S' DG Resources.

The organisation has had an audit qualification for each of the last five years, covering a range of inventory issues. The current success has been achieved by senior managers, inventory and finance staff following a consistent methodology,

as directed by the Financial Reporting Enabling Team, to ensure management activity was documented to record how they carried out their impairment reviews.

It also reflects complex work undertaken over a number of years by the Inventory Accounting Enabling and Inventory Reconciliation Teams in establishing and maintaining reconciliation between inventory management and financial accounting systems.

Damian Brewitt, NAO Director, said: "DE&S teams have expended considerable effort in overcoming longstanding issues with inventory valuations alongside their normal operational responsibilities at a time of significant change. Progress has been achieved through focused training, systematic and

clear documentation and sound internal review processes.

"During our wider audit of DE&S we identified significant improvements in many of the operating centre arrangements, earlier discussion of key judgements and better co-ordination of audit samples and review processes.

"Some of the processes, such as the Management Validation and Audit File and central co-ordination of audit samples, will provide good practice which can be shared across the MOD."

More good news has been received from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, following its assessment of MOD financial management and professional finance skills, where DE&S scored highly when compared to other MOD TLBs and the Public Sector.

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Classroom support

REPAIR and maintenance of classroom training simulators for Bowman communications equipment will continue under a four-and-a-half year contract with Drumgrange. ComSim is a computer-controlled radio propagation simulator allowing realistic training for deployment of Bowman on operations. Drumgrange was awarded the original development contract in 2006 and has supported more than 20 classrooms at sites including Bovington, Larkhill, Blandford, Middle Wallop, Warminster and Leconfield.

Furniture at sea

VARIVANE Industries of Wiltshire has been awarded an enabling contract for manufacture and supply of furniture to Royal Navy vessels. Varivane has nearly 50 years experience as a furniture support partner to the Royal Navy.

PM praise

PRIME MINISTER David Cameron has praised the contribution of Reservists across the UK in the light of Uniform to Work Day in June. He said: "Reserves come from all walks of life and joining the Forces offers them the chance to face new challenges and bring new skills and experiences back to their workplaces. It is right our Reservists wear their uniforms with pride and remind people of the huge contribution they make."
 Reserve awards: page 20



Vehicles under cover: Foxhound, above, and Mastiff, left, are pictured under their new covers

Returning vehicles ready for 'undercover work'

COVERS ARE to be provided for more than 400 armoured vehicles as they transit back to the UK from Afghanistan.

Warrington-based Stuart Canvas, which makes bespoke commercial and industrial covers, has been appointed by DE&S' Protected Mobility team.

The covers will be individually designed to environmentally protect more than ten vehicle types from the protected mobility fleet and range from the much acclaimed Foxhounds and Mastiffs through to self-loaders and Caterpillar diggers.

Much more than a simple tarpaulin, the covers for each vehicle will weigh less than 30kg and can be deployed by two people in a matter of minutes.

The covers, made from lightweight, fireproof and breathable material, are also designed to protect the vehicles from corrosion and environmental damage ensuring they are kept in good condition until they are required again.

Major Shaun Goodman, Requirements Manager 2 with the Protected Mobility team, said: "The ability to provide vehicle covers that give the

environmental and climatic protection, specifically to the high levels we have demanded, was no mean challenge.

"Stuart Canvas have, at an early stage in their relationship with the MOD, come up with a solution by vehicle type that meets the stringent demands placed on the usage and durability of the covers.

"Added to that, they placed high value on the safety of the user while deploying the covers.

"It is to their greatest credit that they have accepted the steep learning curve of working within the Acquisition

Operating Framework."

Ed Stoddart, chief executive of Stuart Canvas, said: "We are proud to have been selected in this significant programme. Our team in Warrington has designed and manufactured bespoke covers for each vehicle so that they can be quickly and easily protected from environmental damage, yet are easy to access when needed. It's good news for UK manufacturing as a whole."

Stuart Canvas is a leading manufacturer of sports ground covers - including tennis, cricket and frost covers.



Sea Ceptor firing success

TWO SUCCESSFUL guided firings have been carried out using the Sea Ceptor air defence system.

The firings by MBDA took place at the land-based Visdel range in Sweden, pictured left. They were the first seeker guided firings for the Common Anti-air Modular Missile (Camm), including using its two-way data link to communicate with the Sea Ceptor system.

Camm is to be used by the Royal Navy in the Sea Ceptor system and the British Army with the Future Local Area Air Defence System (FLAADS) Land system.

FLAADS Land entered its assessment phase in a contract with the MOD last January.

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NEWSREEL

Central Asian
kit gift

THE UK is to gift surplus quad bikes with trailers and handheld night vision equipment to Kazakhstan this summer. Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond has explained it is part of UK promotion of regional security and stability. "Kazakhstan has played a constructive role supporting ISAF operations in Afghanistan," he said. "Kazakhstan will face increased security challenges once ISAF has withdrawn; the international community has a part to play in preparing its security forces for these challenges. Kazakhstan also aspires to develop and deploy its troops in support of UN peacekeeping tasks."

Safe operation

ENGINEERING consultancy Frazer-Nash has been awarded a contract to provide technical evaluation to the Unmanned Air Systems team on a number of urgent operational requirement programmes. The results will provide evidence for type certification and release-to-service, to allow safe and airworthy operation of the aircraft under Military Aviation Authority regulations.

New Chair

SIR David Pepper is the new Chair of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory Board. The former Director of the Government Communications Headquarters takes over from Sir Richard Mottram who has been in the position since 2008.

DE&S preserves Naval history



Last 4.5 inch gun fired in anger finds a new home in a Gosport museum

Top: *HMS Liverpool's* Mod 0 gun, complete with escorting dolphin

Left: on dry land, heading for a new museum home in Gosport

DE&S HAS gifted a piece of Royal Navy history to a museum to keep it in the public eye.

The 4.5 inch gun has been the standard medium calibre gun for Navy use against surface and shore targets for many years.

And the last Mk8 Mod 0 version to be fired in anger – the guns were fitted to a range of destroyers and frigates over the last 40 years – has been donated to Explosion! The Museum of Naval Firepower in Gosport.

The gun, complete with turret and all its hydraulics, was removed and placed in storage when Type 42 destroyer *HMS Liverpool* went out of service in 2012.

Its last high profile deployment was patrolling off the coast of Libya during Operation Ellamy.

"We wanted to preserve a bit of Royal Navy history, and this particular gun seemed a fitting one to use," said Wayne Bantick, who manages the Navy's 4.5 inch guns for DE&S' International Guns, Missiles and Rockets team.

"I contacted a number of museums who I thought would be interested in preserving the gun and the Explosion! museum was the one who expressed an interest."

The gun was stored at Devonport following its removal

from *HMS Liverpool*. Some of its parts are common to the replacement gun, the Mod 1 fleet, which is due out of service in 2039.

After agreement with the museum and completion of the relevant paperwork, *Liverpool's* gun was loaded onto a lorry and taken by road to Gosport.

The Mod 0 gun was fitted to Type 21, Type 22 Batch 3, Type 23 and Type 42 frigates and destroyers.

The team is also looking to preserve an example of a Goalkeeper close-in weapon system which was fitted to some Type 22 frigates, and a small number of other vessels.

Contract keeps up electric supply

MEDICAL AND General Supplies team has awarded Babcock a four-year contract to supply electrical and electronic components to the Royal Navy and British Army.

Under the competitively awarded contract, Babcock will supply electrical and electronic components from simple resistors to circuit boards and search

lamps, totalling in excess of 15,000 different items.

Babcock points to its background in supplying these items to defence, demonstrating ability to deliver the components within the specified tight delivery requirements and meeting its contracted key performance indicators on delivery and quality.

Abbey Wood joins UK sites under new management

DEFENCE SITES across the country – including Abbey Wood – will be maintained by CarillionAmey for the next five years in a series of contracts worth £958 million.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has awarded the contracts – Regional Prime Central valued at £435 million, Regional Prime South West valued at £265 million, Regional Prime South East valued at £258 million – with options to extend for up to another five years.

The contracts provide planned and reactive maintenance including grounds maintenance and a 24/7 helpdesk for estate users.

They can deliver additional professional services, low value capital works and capital projects up to just under £4 million. The contracts ensure sites continue to be safe, legal and operational at all times.

The south west contract covers 40 sites including Abbey Wood and RNAS Yeovilton.

The central contract sees 150 sites covered, including Catterick Barracks, while the south east contract covers around 60 sites, including Sandhurst and HQ Land Forces at Andover.

DIO Acting Chief Executive Mark Hutchinson said: “These new contracts will help DIO provide modern and effective infrastructure services to support defence capabilities and individual service personnel in a timely and cost-effective way.”

Over the last ten years, DIO has rationalised the number of contracts it manages to deliver this service from more than 250 down to six. They are designed to deliver value for money for defence and the taxpayer through a coherent set of contracts where prices for core services have been agreed in advance with the contractor, further improving financial certainty.

Matt Foley, DIO Head of Future Procurement said: “DIO’s priority is to support our Armed Forces by providing the places they need to live, work, train and deploy on operations. Prime contracts provide a comprehensive contract framework and have been developed following an in-depth review of the defence estate and requirements of our estate users.”

All three regional prime contracts are due to be in service by next February.



New contract: for the Abbey Wood site

LTPA

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Contract will help ceremonies go with a bang

CARTRIDGES FIRED on ceremonial occasions are to be supplied to the MOD in a new contract worth around half a million pounds.

Defence General Munitions has awarded the contract, initially for two years, to Primetake to manufacture, maintain and supply what are known as saluting cartridges that produce safe and reliable effects.

"The ammunition is used for numerous ceremonial and saluting duties from the Edinburgh Castle one o'clock signal, saluting visiting dignitaries such as Heads of State to the Trooping the Colour ceremony," said Rob Bater of Defence General Munitions.

"There has been increasing use of such

ammunition as a result of the Queen's Jubilee and the London Olympics as well as being used in a non-lethal deterrent role by the Royal Navy."

The ceremonial ammunition consists of three types: 3-Pounder, 13-Pounder and 105mm Blank Cartridge.

A core feature of the contract is that Primetake will refurbish used cartridge cases making the supply more economical and environmentally friendly.


Primetake's MOD Sales Manager Michael Vincent said: "This is an exciting opportunity for us that will further boost the reputation of our saluting cartridge range and we are

honoured to be a part of this prestigious project.

"This is the first refurbishment contract we've had on saluting cartridges and we are delighted that we will strengthen our working relationship with the MOD while also reducing our impact on the environment."

Primetake's cartridges are manufactured to design criteria for noise limits and will produce smoke and sound effects with minimal debris.

The company makes a range of specialist ammunition for a wide market, including pyrotechnics, birdscaring, public order and bespoke products.



Boom time: The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, saluting battery of the Royal Household, joins in a Royal Salute for Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in Hyde Park

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Weapons handling work is under way on Type 26 programme

WORK ON the first phase of the contract to design and supply the air weapons handling system for the Type 26 Global Combat Ship has begun.

The development agreement, awarded to Babcock, is one of a number announced this summer by BAE Systems covering key areas such as propulsion, combat and navigation systems.

Under the full contract Babcock will design, manufacture, test and oversee the installation of the system on the planned 13 ships, as well as providing long term support functions to ensure through life system performance and availability.

The system will have the capability to handle and stow all air weapons safely in a flexible stowage arrangement. The system is modular with interchangeable stowages between weapon types for maximum stowage density and flexibility.

It will also include a handling system for control and transfer of munitions from their stowages to weapon preparation areas before their transfer onto aircraft or into torpedo launch systems, where fitted.

Assessment phase for the Type 26 began in March 2010 with firm proposals due later this year. On current plans, the first vessels are due in service after 2020.



Staff enjoy German hospitality at Abbey Wood

Abbey Wood enjoys a German bite!

CIVILIAN AND military guests from across DE&S enjoyed German hospitality as the country's UK liaison team hosted a drinks afternoon at Abbey Wood.

It was the fourth time the team has held such an occasion to thank those who have provided presentations and information on equipment and systems to inform the German High Command.

Lt Col Herbert Gotte, head of the team for the last three years, leaves Abbey Wood next month for the Koblenz-based German procurement organisation where he will work in artillery systems.

Lt Col Gotte and his No 2, Warrant Officer Dieter Honecker, are both supporters of Bayern Munich FC and wasted little time in talking of the country's World Cup win.

In a speech Lt Col Gotte welcomed guests and said he would take home many happy memories of his time at Abbey Wood. "But I certainly don't want to take your rain home with me!" he added.

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Litening Pod support

ULTRA'S Communication and Integrated Systems business in Greenford, Middlesex has been awarded a contract extension for in-service support of Litening Pods to enable advanced targeting and reconnaissance for the RAF's Typhoon and Tornado fleets. With the outstanding amounts from the original contract, support is worth £80.4 million. The Group was initially awarded a contract in 2006 to supply and support the first fleet of Litening Pods. The Pod has recently passed 80,000 flying hours.

Ron to chair Niteworks

RON Finlayson will be the new Chair of the Niteworks partnership between the MOD and industry from next month. Mr Finlayson is Strategic Business Director, Defence at QinetiQ and replaces UK's Vic Leverett, who announced his retirement earlier this year. Mr Finlayson served in the Royal Navy before MOD roles in procurement and planning. He joined QinetiQ in 2004.

Lossie costs

BY the end of 2013-14, around £17 million had been spent on Typhoon-related works at RAF Lossiemouth, Parliamentary figures reveal. The estimated capital costs for facilitating Typhoon Force-related operations, including the Northern Quick Reaction Alert facility, at RAF Lossiemouth is anticipated to be £87 million.



DVD2014: pages 28 and 29

Chris helps DVD go with a swing

Proud to wear the uniform: Chris Harvey is pictured at the unveiling of Scout at DVD2014

THOUSANDS OF industry representatives and their military customers got together to make DVD2014 another resounding success.

And among their numbers were those civilians showing how they go the extra mile for their country.

Uniform to Work Day coincided with DE&S' annual stakeholder event at the Millbrook proving ground in Bedfordshire in late June.

The day is a chance to celebrate the contribution that more than 20,000 Reservists across the UK make to the Armed Forces.

By wearing military uniform to their civilian place of work, they highlight the work ordinary citizens do for their country.

DE&S' Chris Harvey works as a commercial manager in the Scout Specialist Vehicles team – Scout made a public debut at DVD – helping to manage the primary contract with General Dynamics UK, as well as a number of support contracts.

His role includes making sure contractors meet customer requirements, that they deliver value for money for the taxpayer, and that contractors deliver in line with contracts. As a reservist, he is a Troop

DE&S annual show gives Reservists a public platform

Commander in 131 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers.

He said: "I was in the Army

□ There are 22,480 Reservists in the Armed Forces – 1,860 in the Maritime Reserve, 19,400 in the Army Reserves and 1,220 in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force;

□ Since 2003 there have been more than 25,000 Reservist mobilisations and 31 have died in the service of their country;

□ The total strength of the Reserves is growing to 35,000 across all three Services by 2018. There will be a trained strength of 30,000 in the Army. In future, Reserve Forces will be an integral and integrated part of the Armed Forces and some Reservists will routinely take part in almost all military operations.

Cadet Force when I was younger, so joining the Reserves was a very natural progression and allowed me to continue doing what I loved.

"I get an incredible amount out of being a Reservist. The

training and development that is on offer is exceptional, and the skills learned are easily transferable into all areas of life – leadership, teamwork, communication, problem solving, to name but a few.

"On top of that, there is a genuine excitement from the training which you just can't get anywhere else – from conducting live fire tactical training and creating battle noise simulations from plastic explosives, to conducting an amphibious beach assault at the Bournemouth Air Festival.

"Then there's also the wide spectrum of overseas travel, sport and adventure training that are available. Being a Reservist, you can do all of that and still have your civilian career and personal life at the same time. You also get paid for it all!"

Reserve support turns to gold

TEN ORGANISATIONS have won an MOD gold award for outstanding support provided to the Armed Forces, particularly to Reservists.

Defence Minister Anna Soubry said: "Growing our reserve forces is not something that we can do alone. This is about working in partnership with employers, giving them the support they need and showing them that, in turn, their reservists can give a lot back too."

Organisations recognised include BAE, Hewlett Packard, Carillion, BT, Barclays, Systems Consultants Services, Amalgam Training, NHS Scotland, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and the Royal College of Nursing.

Voyager seals the deal

The RAF's new tanker and air transport aircraft has achieved its scheduled in-service date, on time and on budget

Report: Robin Clegg
Pictures: Andrew Linnett
and David Tucker

**“This was an exceptionally complex project and the fact it was delivered in time and cost is testament to the hard work, determination, and incredible professionalism of the team” –
Air Vice-Marshal Peter Ewen,
DE&S Director
Air Support**

The RAF's newest transport and air-to-air refuelling aircraft was an imposing sight at Farnborough as it was announced that the fleet has achieved its in-service date on time.

At almost 200ft long, with an equally wide wingspan, the Voyager is the largest aircraft in the RAF's fleet.

Since December it has been playing a key role in the operational airbridge that transports personnel and equipment between the UK and Afghanistan.

The milestone has been described as a “real morale-booster” by leaders at DE&S, who have seen a number of high profile projects achieving deliveries on schedule this year.

The ninth aircraft, ZZ338, has completed the core fleet at RAF Brize Norton under the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) programme,

which has replaced the RAF's VC10 and TriStar aircraft.

Defence Minister Philip Dunne met members of the project team, the Voyager crew who had flown the aircraft from its base at RAF Brize Norton into Farnborough, as well as staff from AirTanker who are providing Voyager as part of a 27-year Private Finance Initiative contract worth £10.5 billion.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Mr Dunne said: “Delivering the Voyager aircraft on time is a major achievement and an effective demonstration that MOD procurement is not only under control, but delivering timely and world class results for the taxpayer, industry and the Armed Forces.”

Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, added: “Delivery of this ground-

breaking Private Finance Initiative programme on schedule is a significant moment for DE&S and the RAF.

“Earlier this month DE&S announced delivery of the first three Chinook Mk6 helicopters to the RAF, also on schedule.

“These events provide evidence that DE&S is becoming a higher performing delivery organisation, better able to deliver vital equipment and support to the Armed Forces on time.”

Signed in 2008, the FSTA contract between AirTanker and DE&S tasks the company – whose shareholders include Airbus Group, Rolls-Royce, Thales, Cobham and Babcock – with delivery, military conversion and subsequent operation and support for 14 Airbus A330-200 aircraft.

■ continued on page 22

❑ continued from page 21

This includes the core fleet of nine, flown by the RAF, and a further five – the surge fleet – which are available for AirTanker to lease. This could include release to the civil market, without its military equipment, or to partner nations in a military capacity with the MOD's agreement.

The last aircraft for the surge fleet is scheduled for delivery by the end of 2016.

To reach its current state, the Voyager programme has survived a number of technical challenges. Stringent contract conditions around delivery resulted in industry switching conversion work from Cobham to Madrid, while problems encountered with the air-to-air refuelling equipment during the initial flight trials were successfully solved. Changes in military aviation regulation have also led to a greater MOD involvement in continuing airworthiness issues. All challenges have been successfully overcome.

Alongside its air-to-air refuelling – 'tanking' – role, Voyager is able to perform air transport and aeromedical evacuation, carrying up to 291

passengers or 40 stretchers, providing a step-change in capability.

Voyager aircraft have so far flown more than 13,000 hours and carried more than 172,000 passengers. In its tanker role, Voyager has offloaded more than 4,000 tonnes of fuel to receiver aircraft in 230 sorties, including in support of Typhoon and UK air defence.

AirTanker secured clearance to begin air-to-air refuelling operations with Typhoon and Tornado last summer, followed by the start of operations in support of the Afghanistan airbridge in December.

Chris Dell, leader of DE&S' Strategic Transport and Air-to-Air Refuelling team, said that relationships were important to Voyager's success with, unusually, a number of the key people in the private and public sectors remaining with the project after contract signature.

"The challenge that now faces everyone involved with Voyager is to build on the success. As described by Wg Cdr Ronnie Traslor, commanding officer of 101 Squadron and a former requirements manager in the project team, we have replaced the VC10 and TriStar capability, which is a significant

achievement. We must now take the project into the 21st century and deliver a truly world class service."

He added: "It has been an honour to lead the project team and work with our partners in industry, the RAF and the regulators. This complex and ambitious project has set a number of challenges and it is a testament to the dedication and skill of everyone involved that this significant milestone has been achieved. I would like to thank them all but especially past and current team members for their dedication and commitment."

Phil Blundell, chief executive of AirTanker, said, "The RAF now has access to the most capable tanking and air transport fleet in Europe. We will continue to work in partnership with the RAF to refine this service. The delivery of the ninth core fleet aircraft into RAF Brize Norton represents a sizeable achievement."



Main picture: Bernard Gray, Chief of Defence Materiel, is shown around Voyager at RAF Brize Norton and is pictured on the flight deck, far right

Above: Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne is joined on the flight deck at the Farnborough Air Show by Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford, Chief of the Air Staff



The first ground-breaking civil leasing deal for Voyager has been agreed in principle between AirTanker, the company behind the project, and Thomas Cook Airlines.

Under the terms of the three-year agreement, Thomas Cook Airlines will lease a single Airbus A330-200 from the AirTanker/FSTA 'surge fleet', to support long haul routes as part of its UK flying programme.

Flying under the new Thomas Cook Airlines livery, the aircraft will be operated by AirTanker under its civil Air Operator's Certificate from May 2015 in support of scheduled routes from Glasgow, Manchester and Stansted to Las Vegas, Cancun and Orlando.

Dave Mitchard, Managing Director, AirTanker Services, said that the deal represented 'a first in civil aircraft leasing'.

He said: "AirTanker and Thomas Cook Airlines have reached provisional agreement on leasing terms against one of our A330-200 surge fleet aircraft with a full agreement expected shortly.

"This is a significant milestone and achievement for AirTanker and one which is representative of the significant

progress that we are making across both our core service to the RAF and in our developing aircraft leasing capability."

In its civil specification, the aircraft will be delivered from Airbus and set up by AirTanker to an all economy Thomas Cook Airline 323 seat configuration.

As part of the 'wet leasing' agreement six Thomas Cook Airlines captains and four first officers, will be seconded to AirTanker, flying alongside AirTanker's own civilian pilots. The cabin service will be performed by a cabin crew provided by Thomas Cook Airlines. Thomas Cook will also provide line maintenance with base maintenance delivered by AirTanker. Thomas Cook Airlines seconded flight crew will also support AirTanker's civil/charter service in support of the Falklands airbridge. This is operated by AirTanker on the Civil Aircraft Register under an independent Air Operators Certificate, with its own pilots and civilian cabin crew.



Report: Emma Hallett





Mk2 heralds happy hunting

On budget and four months early, the latest Merlin has been delivering the goods

One of the world's most technologically advanced helicopters has successfully been put through its paces over the Atlantic Ocean after entering service four months early and on budget.

For the first time, nine of the UK's next generation of submarine-hunting Merlin Mk2s embarked on *HMS Illustrious* for a high tempo exercise named "Deep Blue".

Fifteen of the aircraft have been delivered to RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall as part of an £800 million DE&S-managed programme.

In total 30 Mk1 aircraft will be upgraded – with the remaining helicopters on schedule to arrive over the next 18 months.

The 14.6-tonne Merlin Mk2s will play an important part in anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, while also being able to mount the M3M machine-gun when operating in counter piracy and maritime policing roles.

The flexibility of the helicopter means it can also be configured for troop transport and casualty evacuation.

Preparing for its future role in anti-submarine warfare the Deep Blue exercise saw the Merlin's cutting edge technology tested over four weeks, with the helicopters completing a total of 480 hours flying time.

The exercise was overseen by Commander Ben Franklin, Commanding Officer of the Merlin Helicopter Force, who praised both the aircraft and his men and women who he said 'delivered in spades'.

Speaking at the Farnborough Air Show Commander Franklin acknowledged the effort made by DE&S and its partners to deliver the technology and, importantly, the training on time.

He added: "Practice makes perfect; it doesn't come about by chance. While the exercise is very exciting, this is what we do – it is what we are paid to deliver and I am very pleased to say, we did deliver it."

From its inception the Merlin Mk2 has broken new ground, with a glass cockpit, an updated combat system, and 40km of new cabling in each aircraft.

Data is collected and processed using the helicopter's radar, sonobuoys and dipping sonar which is lowered into the

sea to search for and track submarines and denying them space to go in to.

The Mk2 will form a crucial part of the future capability of the *Queen Elizabeth* aircraft carrier, while also operating from frigates, destroyers and Royal Fleet Auxiliary support ships worldwide.

Captain Ed Tritschler, DE&S Merlin team leader, said: "The success of Deep Blue represents a decade of design, development and manufacturing.

"It has been delivered ahead of time and to cost, and not many programmes can say that. This has been down to a shared vision, understanding and responsibility between DE&S, industry and Royal Navy operators at RNAS Culdrose to get it right. It has been a true team effort."

Working with Lockheed Martin UK, based in Havant, and AgustaWestland, in Yeovil, at its peak the programme has employed around 1,400 in UK industry.

Minister for Defence Equipment Support and Technology, Philip Dunne, said: "Delivering the Merlin Mk2 into service four months ahead of schedule and to budget is a real achievement and shows how MOD is working well with industry to deliver equipment to our Armed Forces."

For the future, the MOD plans to add an airborne surveillance capability that will arguably stretch the multi-role concept well beyond any other military helicopter in the world.

Pete Worrall, Chief of Materiel (Joint Enablers) at DE&S, in overall charge of the upgrade programme, said: "This is a world class achievement in anyone's books, especially noting the significant technologically complex and challenging Merlin programme.

"Taken with our recent delivery of the Chinook Mk6 programme, also early and to budget, this shows that the hard work, commitment and professionalism being expended by DE&S staff, in conjunction with key MOD stakeholders, is supporting the delivery of our promises to our Armed Forces."

Following Deep Blue the Royal Navy has fully validated the capability and declared that the Initial Operating Capability of the Merlin Mk2 has been achieved.



Long live the new Queen

The UK's biggest warship, *Queen Elizabeth*, has taken to the water for the first time at her builder's yard in Scotland.

The 65,000 tonne aircraft carrier, named by the Queen on 4th July, made the short journey from the dry dock in which she was assembled at Rosyth, on the Firth of Forth, to a special berth in a flooded basin where she will remain while she is fitted out and prepared for the start of her contractor's sea trials in 2016.

DE&S Director Ships Tony Graham said: "HMS *Queen Elizabeth* was quite majestic as she left the dock which has been her home for the last three years. The weather was calm which added to the sense of occasion. Her movement from the dock to the berth was silky smooth. She looked magnificent and the DE&S Ship Acquisition team should take great pride in achieving another significant milestone on this challenging programme."

The ship will shortly begin the next part of her programme: test, integration and commissioning. This challenging phase will include the installation of

remaining external fittings and finishes, including catwalks, deck coating and landing lights for her complement of Lightning II fighters and helicopters. Internal equipment including her combat system, navigation systems and flight control equipment will also be installed. All of these systems will be comprehensively tested before the ship leaves Rosyth. Following a full series of contractor sea trials the ship will be handed over to the Royal Navy in 2017.

The assembly phase for her sister ship, *Prince of Wales*, is expected to begin in earnest later this summer, with the joining of Lower Blocks 02, constructed in Portsmouth, and 03, which was constructed at Govan on the Clyde, in the dry dock that the *Queen Elizabeth* has just vacated.

The operation to float the *Queen Elizabeth* started when the dry dock was flooded for the first time to allow the ship to float. It then took only three hours on Thursday 17th July to carefully manoeuvre her out of the dock with just two metres clearance at either side and then berth her alongside a nearby jetty.

Newly-appointed DE&S Director Ship Acquisition, Rear Admiral Henry Parker, said: "The move of *HMS Queen Elizabeth* into the basin at Rosyth is a massive tribute to my predecessors and the whole team in MOD and industry. Importantly, it happened on time and with quality standards upheld. Watching the move live as I did in the first week in post was a highly symbolic event for me personally. It signifies a new stage for the programme as we move into the next equally hard phase of work. There is still a long way to go to meet Initial Operating Capability in 2020 but this milestone marks our commitment to achieve it."

The float out came just 13 days after the vessel was named by the Queen in a spectacular ceremony. DE&S staff were praised for their work on what has been described as a 'giant floating advertisement for Britain's manufacturing'.

In a letter to staff on the same day, then-Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said the ceremony was more than just a milestone in the project.

"It is a great day not just for the Royal Navy but for the entire nation. *Queen*



Elizabeth is a testament to what a united Britain can accomplish," he said.

"*Queen Elizabeth* will not just be a military, diplomatic and humanitarian capability, but a giant floating advertisement for the high calibre of Britain's manufacturing and industrial base. She will demonstrate that not only do we punch above our weight militarily, but that we have the skills and ingenuity in this country to rival any in the world."

The naming ceremony saw Prime Minister David Cameron and First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir George Zambellas join allies from around the world and more than 3,500 people involved in the design and construction.

The event marked the first time in more than 15 years that the Queen has christened a Royal Navy warship and Her Majesty gave her blessing as a bottle of finest Scotch whisky shattered against the hull.

Ian Booth, Managing Director of the Aircraft Carrier Alliance, said: "This is a proud moment for more than 10,000 people across the UK who have worked together to deliver *Queen Elizabeth*."

"I congratulate everyone involved in making today possible. This ship truly reflects the very best of British design and ingenuity and we all feel an

enormous honour to see Her Majesty name her today."

Thousands more people involved in the design and construction of the carriers joined in the celebrations at 15 sites across the UK. From Abbey Wood, Appledore and Portsmouth to Derby, Tyneside and Glasgow, local politicians, schoolchildren, veterans and Royal Navy personnel joined employees to watch events relayed live on giant screens.



DVD2014 – innovation is

Scout showcases a step change in armoured fighting vehicle capability for the future British Army

Scout and Warrior, a major part of the planned make-up of Army 2020, were both on show as DVD2014 proved another hit with the UK's land equipment stakeholder community.

The first Scout Specialist Vehicle production representative prototype, a Protected Mobility Reconnaissance Support (PMRS) variant, showcased the step change in armoured fighting vehicle capability being delivered to the British Army.

This first variant rolled off the production line at General Dynamics European Land Systems on 12th June at a ceremony attended by Chief of Materiel (Land) Lt Gen Chris Deverell, Director General Capability Maj Gen Nick Pope and key members of the DE&S Land Operating Centre.

It is the first realisation of the Common Base Platform which is the basis for all variants. More production prototypes are due to start trials over the next 18 months.

All Scout variants will be highly agile, tracked, medium-weight vehicles, which will provide the Army with the most up-to-date protection. The vehicles are fully digitised and support open electronic architecture principles.

Also on display was Lockheed Martin UK's pre-production demonstration upgraded Warrior, developed as part of the Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme. Improvements to fightability and lethality include an improved turret that will allow more accurate firing on the move. Visitors also enjoyed a preview of the 40mm cannon which will provide the main weapon for Scout and new generation Warrior.

More than 4,000 visitors mixed with 170 exhibitors at the event at Millbrook Proving Ground in Bedfordshire on 25th-26th June for the eleventh year of DE&S' major event bringing industry and the Forces together to discuss how lessons can be learned from current operations to shape future capability.

Off-road demonstrations of Army vehicles proved popular while a static display represented an armoured battle group where representatives from 12 Brigade explained the

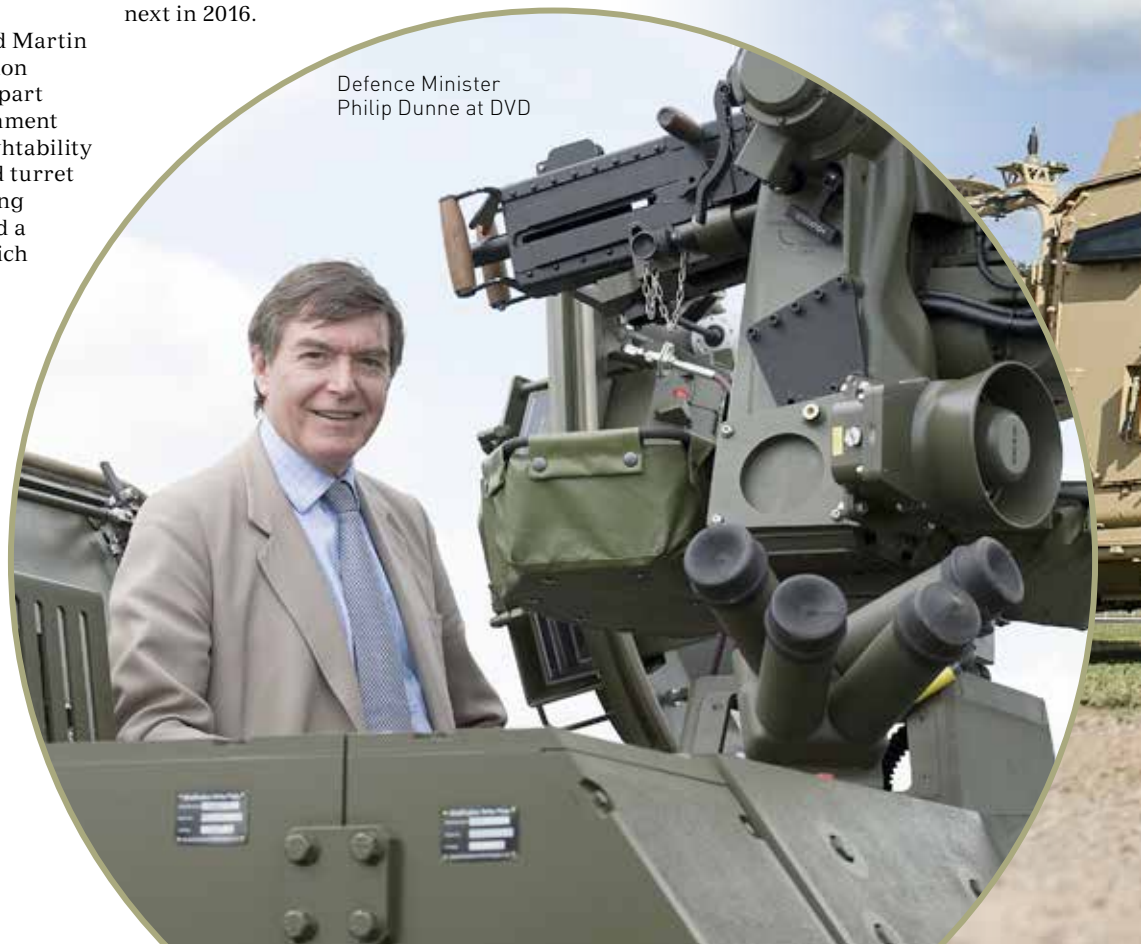
capabilities of vehicles which have excelled on operations, including the heavily armoured Mastiff and the Foxhound protected patrol vehicle.

Maj Gen Paul Jaques, Director Land Equipment at DE&S, said: "The uniqueness of DVD is that it brings together in one environment DE&S which acquires and maintains the equipment, the Army who are the users, and industry to discuss and showcase what is required to meet our future equipment needs."

Director General Logistics, Support and Equipment from Army Headquarters, Maj Gen Richard Semple, added: "DVD has moved from strength to strength and is now firmly cemented in the calendar as the premier land environment equipment and support stakeholder engagement event. As the Army returns to a contingent posture we need to reset the breadth and depth of military capability to cope with the range of potential future commitments.

"This will require continued innovation and flexibility, but above all further strengthening of the close relationship now developed between the MOD and industry."

DVD will be held next in 2016.



Defence Minister
Philip Dunne at DVD

key



NEWSREEL

Enhanced training

DEFENCE Science and Technology Laboratory has appointed SEA, a subsidiary of the technology group Cohort, to deliver a £4million research programme as part of the Synthetic Environments Tower of Excellence. Research will focus on future training and experimentation environments, to develop exploitation of advanced live, virtual and constructive simulation architectures, interoperability and management techniques. This will aid integration between land, sea and air operations, and support greater interoperability between Nato nations and other coalition partners.

Container backing

SUPPORT for a range of containerised deployable systems will be provided by Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group, with G3 Systems as its partner, following the award of an enabling contract. The framework contract will last up to seven years and enable equipment to operate successfully as Force 2020 develops. It includes deployable systems from AFV Power Pack repair facilities, to deployable engineering workshops to C4ISTAR working environments.

DE&S chart

THIS edition of *desider* contains the latest DE&S organisation chart. Further copies are available from DE&S Corporate Communications on ABW ext 30537



Protector support is signed

HMS PROTECTOR – the Royal Navy's Ice Patrol Ship – will be supported and maintained from next month until June 2018 in a £7.6 million contract with Andrew Weir Shipping.

The Contractor Logistic Support arrangement will see the ship available to the Royal Navy for 334 days per year.

The Norwegian-built vessel was chartered from commercial service by the Royal Navy in April 2011, and purchased outright from GC Rieber for £54 million last September.

In addition to the support of scientific bases in Antarctica, HMS Protector is also equipped for patrol, survey and humanitarian tasking.

Cdr Phil Russell, Hydrographic and Patrol Ship Availability Manager with

DE&S' Commercially Supported Shipping team, said: "The ice patrol ship plays a vital part in supporting UK interests in the Antarctic and south Atlantic. To be effective she must remain available and operational while alone for extended durations in one of the world's most inhospitable environments.

"I'm delighted to welcome Andrew Weir Shipping on board this project; they have many years of ship management and support experience including the support of the Strategic Roll-off ferries.

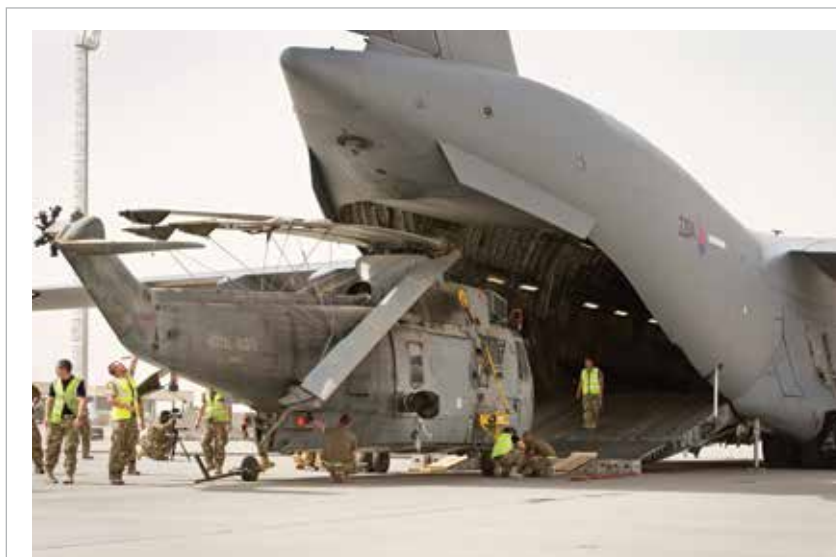
"I look forward to capitalising on best practice from the commercial sector to ensure Protector continues to deliver the 334 days a year availability expected of her."

Andrew Weir Shipping, in

the British maritime industry for almost 130 years, will be responsible for vessel maintenance, planning and supervision of refit periods and purchase and supply of spare parts and consumable stores.

The company will be involved in any design changes to the vessel and assist with emergency response situations in partnership with Steller Systems who will provide emergency naval architecture support.

Andrew Weir's Managing Director Steve Corkhill added: "We are proud to announce the successful bid to provide our services to the MOD. We are looking forward to working with the MOD and the crew of HMS Protector to support the UK's presence in the Antarctic."



Joint Movements Unit personnel load one of the last Sea Kings in Afghanistan onto an RAF C-17 aircraft to be sent back to the UK. With the end of Operation Herrick approaching the Sea King is no longer required in Afghanistan. Unit staff are busy sending equipment back to the UK as it becomes surplus to requirements in Afghanistan.

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Thank you for listening . . .

It's not easy to be a listening organisation. I suspect many of us find it easier to do things, or give instructions, than really to listen to what people around us are saying.

But I do think there are signs that we are getting better at it.

When I look at the freedoms we now have, I see something professionals in DE&S have been asking for for years. When we launched the new DE&S in April, we received a huge range of constructive and thoughtful ideas for what really needs to change – immediately and longer term.

Board members made it their business to think long and hard about every single one, and publish what they had concluded. I've been at a number of Talk to the Board sessions (see page 34 for the latest session) – where senior colleagues are listening, not broadcasting.

There are some other examples of when we have tried not just to listen more but to get more involvement and sense that this business is one for all of us to be engaged in together:

- a new staff suggestion scheme
- families days
- a travel to work survey for Abbey Wood staff, the results of which go to the Board next month
 - a new emphasis in sharing best practice – with published examples and a new Learning from Experience study.
 - Chief of Defence Materiel and

'I'm incredibly proud to have the chance to help shape the new DE&S. I'll be even prouder if others all across the business feel the same way'

David Ball, DE&S Director HR, talks about the actions taken forward as a result of 2013 Your Say feedback, and what is planned this year with DE&S' new trading entity status

business area commendations

- all the material explaining how DE&S will operate as a trading entity
- the work on professional and career development across the functions, including the new Engineering Skills framework

At its July meeting, CDM'S Executive Board discussed what we could do to engage even more. And we decided to find out what you think of our proposals: so we are going to publish a new draft communications and engagement strategy and take views on it before issuing it next month. Please look at it and tell us what you think.

As you'll see in that draft strategy, we've decided to have a dedicated Communications and Engagement workstrand in the DE&S change programme. It is led by Pete Worrall, Chief of Materiel (Joint Enablers), with a number of directors (Air Vice-Marshal Sue Gray, Tony Graham and Paul Blakiston) providing senior business championship.

Staff will really be the judge of how well we listen and engage. We will have our own version of 'Your Say' this year – the DE&S Employee Engagement Survey. It will have the same questions you'll recognise from previous surveys,



but some extra questions of our own. Please find time to do that survey and tell us what you think.

As I said at the start, listening is hard. It's something that everyone at every level just needs to keep working at.

But the whole point of the freedom that comes with the new DE&S is that it makes the business ours. And engaging with one another, listening to one another as we design the future is what puts the 'ours' into 'Ours to Deliver.'

I'm incredibly proud to have the chance to help shape the new DE&S. I'll be even prouder if others all across the business feel the same way.'

A PROJECT to provide a capability for training personnel in ship-to-ship replenishment has won a major award.

The Heavy Replenishment at Sea (HRAS) demonstrator at *HMS Raleigh*, near Torpoint in Cornwall, is trialling designs and equipment to be used to transfer stores from Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships to the new *Queen Elizabeth* carriers while at sea. When trials complete later this summer the demonstrator will be converted into a training facility.

The trainer will also include replicas of Type 23 and Type

Demonstrator wins out for design and innovation

45 reception points, and a working Type 23 bow structure is also included to teach wider seamanship skills.

The project has won the top infrastructure award in the south west for innovative design, procurement and construction by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The award goes to Ward Williams, sub-contractor of Rolls-Royce who won the £25 million contract to build the

demonstrator, conduct trials and deliver it in January 2011.

Nigel Andrews, HRAS Project Manager for DE&S' Commercially Supported Shipping team, said: "This award recognises the engineering excellence and construction innovation that underpinned the HRAS land-based demonstrator and integral future replenishment-at-sea-trainer at *HMS Raleigh*.

"The trials programme is coming to its conclusion

now. When the RAS and Seamanship trainer is handed over to the Royal Navy School of Seamanship, it will provide a fantastic capability to enable affordable and realistic personnel training for the next 20 years."

To replicate transfers in all weathers, HRAS consists of a delivery platform, including a 25-metre steel mast, and a steel ship structure, which mimics the receiving points for stores on the carriers.

AIR VICE-Marshal Sue Gray – DE&S' Director Combat Air – sponsored the latest in Director Technical's series of Learning from Experience seminars at Abbey Wood based on challenges encountered as part of the Watchkeeper Unmanned Air System programme.

She opened the event by emphasising the huge challenge of the unique programme which saw a number of firsts for DE&S, including the first UAS core programme and the first UAS to operate in the UK.

Gp Capt Paul Lloyd, the UAS Type Airworthiness Authority, provided an insight into the effort of his team in achieving type certification for an unmanned system, uncharted territory for the project team, the design organisation and the Military Aviation Authority.

He noted the importance of an unambiguous certification process where all parties' roles and responsibilities were defined, the value of setting and agreeing a clear baseline from the outset with all stakeholders and the importance of suitably qualified and experienced personnel in delivering a technically complex programme.

Richard Maguire, the UAS team's software specialist, was responsible for co-ordinating the effort to achieve certification for the Watchkeeper system software.



Watchkeeper: lessons learned

He identified six lessons to achieve safe, functional and certifiable software. These included the need to know the basis of the standards employed, contracting for access

to developers and their evidence, contracting for what you want to see and happen as well as planning for the time when there is no evidence.

Applying science to the future

THOUSANDS OF visitors were wowed by the Atomic Weapons Establishment-Imperial College stand at the Summer Science Exhibition last month.

Leading academics, policymakers, teachers, schoolchildren, families and the public visited the stand called 'Set the controls for the heart of the sun' at The Royal Society's week-long exhibition in London.

The event demonstrated AWE's commitment to promoting the national STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) agenda through schools liaison activities and links with UK academia.

AWE is run by a Government-owned, Contractor-operated (GoCo) company – a consortium including Serco, Lockheed Martin and Jacobs Engineering – through a contract with DE&S.

The interactive display, supported through AWE's engagement with

Imperial College London under the aegis of the Centre for Inertial Fusion Studies, showcased how the world-leading Orion laser can recreate conditions close to the centre of the sun.

AWE Chief Scientist Professor Andrew Randewich said: "I commend everyone involved for making a significant difference to AWE's reputation and also for furthering UK science generally. I'm sure that applications from AWE and our links with universities will be very favourably received in years to come."

Exhibits included a laser-balloon popping demo, a target fabrication training microscope with a specially manufactured 'telescope target' and a 'How Hot is Hot?' game which consisted of large fridge magnets showing images which you had to guess the temperature of in the right order!

The exhibition, held annually since 1769, is The Royal Society's premier opportunity to present to visitors pioneering UK science and engineering that can change lives and understanding of the world.

DE&S is hosting a Sustainable Procurement Industry Day on 15th September to stimulate awareness and build a wider understanding about the need to reduce the Armed Forces' reliance on fossil fuels.

It will also tackle other pan supply chain vulnerabilities that pose significant military and operational risks.

With a keynote address given by Air Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier, Deputy Chief of Defence Staff for Military Capability, it aims to bring together defence industry partners and an audience of MOD stakeholders from business areas in DE&S and Front Line Commands.

Industry partners and key suppliers are invited to present on developments such as new technologies to address emerging sustainability risks and realise the benefits to the front line.

These include escalation of energy costs and threats to supply, as well as tackling risks to the availability of the materials, and the potential impacts of climate change on capability performance and supply chains.

MOD's energy costs are about £1.13 billion each year or just over three per cent of the defence budget. Every 1p increase to the price per litre of fuel adds £13 million to defence costs.

To help deal with increasing fuel costs and risks to supply, the MOD has set a target to reduce the Armed Forces' fossil fuel consumption by 18 per cent by 2020.

For more information e-mail DESTECH-QSEPSustProc@mod.uk, or contact Richard Brewin on 020 7218 9438.



DE&S BOARD members had the opportunity to engage with staff at the latest Abbey Wood Talk to the Board 'Live' event.

The event was hosted by Chief of Materiel (Land), Lieutenant General Chris Deverell, Director Materiel Strategy Barry Burton and Director Human Resources David Ball.

Questions raised issues on recruitment, reducing red tape and going digital by default.

On recruitment, Mr Ball said: "The solution going forward is that each of the professions will perhaps run two campaigns per year. In addition, Human Resources hopes to introduce a rolling recruitment campaign this autumn where a range of adverts will always be open."

In trying to reduce the amount of red tape staff have to go through to make certain things happen Mr Burton said: "There is a team set up to look at what we can do to reduce the amount of red tape. This is no small task and we have thousands of things that need to be done. It will take some time to do this, but there is the will to do it."

"The Board recognises that there needs to be a balance between tighter scrutiny and getting the right processes in place to enable staff to do their jobs properly."

On making better use of digital capability within DE&S, Lt Gen Deverell said: "We have discussed at Board level and we are in agreement of the need to move DE&S into a more 21st century approach."

"We should look at what is going on in other areas and businesses that could present opportunities that we could build on; as a general point, pushing increasing use of the internet and using less paper. The challenge is how we do that, but the intent is definitely there."

Staff can submit questions to the Board through the Talk to the Board mailbox. A written response will come from the relevant Board member.

The next Abbey Wood Talk to the Board 'Live' event will be held in the autumn.

From left: David Ball, Lt Gen Chris Deverell and Barry Burton



Red tape on list of issues staff raise to board members

Kit codes to be managed by a single company

Contract builds on partnership to keep track of vital equipment

CODIFICATION SERVICES – cataloguing of all UK Forces equipment – are to be carried out by a single company for the first time.

The UK National Codification Bureau (UKNCB) – part of DE&S inventory management, based in Glasgow – has selected CMCA(UK) in a four-year enabling contract.

The UKNCB team has been working behind the scenes to ensure that DE&S benefits from seamless support as it makes the transition from the four companies that previously delivered the codification capability down to a single service provider.

The contract represents a significant milestone in the Worcester-based company's history.

Codification – the whys and wherefores

- ❑ Codification creates a detailed catalogue of everything UK Forces use from weapons to spares, food and clothing.
- ❑ Technical descriptions of every item are stored on a central system along with who makes and supplies it. This is run by the UK National Codification Bureau in Glasgow and is integral to the success of the supply chain.
- ❑ UKNCB uses the Nato Codification System. More than 60 countries are members of the system with 17 million stock numbers.
- ❑ More information on UKNCB and codification services provided by CMCA(UK) can be obtained from www.mod.uk/ncb.



Ready to do the job: CMCA(UK) has been busy reorganising its offices in Worcester to make room for extra staff to complement their experienced codification team.

Rob Crawford, Managing Director of CMCA(UK) said: "This is a very proud moment for CMCA(UK) and represents the culmination of many months of hard work and planning by the management team."

"The award of the contract pays testament to the technical skills and innovation within our workforce and the quality standards we employ across our business."

"We are looking forward to working closely with DE&S project teams to deliver a world class codification service."

Kevan Harrigan, Head of UKNCB, added: "This is the first time UKNCB has worked with a single service provider so it is a learning opportunity for both of us."

"Previous experience of working with CMCA has helped and we hope to build on this partnership to deliver effective output to our DE&S, wider MOD and Nato customers."

'Note to self: Don't start this on a Friday!'

THIS IS her second visit to the Hebrides after her first was thwarted by the weather so you can expect it to be straightforward'. I should have known at this point that a complicated serial was to follow!

Before I left Abbey Wood, I was briefed that the Hebrides Range where *HMS Defender*'s first Sea Viper firing was to take place, had an issue with the Air Watchman radar which was an essential part of the safety case for the firing.

The ship needed to fire before deploying so we decided to travel in the hope the radar issues were resolved. Sadly on arrival at the range I learned that both the Air Watchman and the T92 radars were defective – it was a Friday, and our chances of repair were slim.

Not wishing to be the harbinger of doom, we set about plan B. We had a state-of-the-art, very capable warship on the range. She should be able to provide her own range clearance and her Fighter Controller the ability to control the Mirach target.

What followed became a battle with the system to ensure we had all the correct paperwork and permissions in place to achieve a Monday firing and enable the ship to continue with her deployment preparation on time.

Note to self: if you wish to engage with multiple delivery teams, contractors and duty holders as well as getting a new QinetiQ safety case written and approved before achieving 2-star sign off, do not start your work on a Friday afternoon. It is a credit to the plethora of organisations involved that, by close of play the next Monday, the documentation was all written and the final approval was received at 5.48pm precisely.

No pressure but, due to the limitation imposed by the impact our firing has on the transatlantic routing of aircraft, the range closes at 8pm with 7.30 being the last possible Sea Viper Missile launch time.

At 7.30, the Mirach target was in the air, controlled by the Fighter Controller on board *HMS Defender*, the range confirmed as clear and the target flying a firing profile.

Command approval was given and, at the last possible moment, the Sea Viper missile was successfully launched and tracked up to the point where the Mirach air vehicle target disappeared from the screen in the range control building – a confirmed hit.



Before her maiden deployment began last month, *HMS Defender* fired her first Sea Viper missile. Lt Cdr Amy Alexander of DE&S' Maritime and Air Weapons Systems describes a busy weekend working to make sure the launch took place on time and was a success



Above: sky's the limit – Sea Viper heads for its target

Left: *HMS Defender*, in the foreground, is pictured with *HMS Diamond* off Cyprus during her first deployment last month

Sea Viper support is fully up and running

FULL SUPPORT capability for Sea Viper missile support was declared at the end of June.

The critical milestone is part of the implementation of the £300 million solution.

It is the culmination of three years' hard work, recognises that the full suite of Sea Viper support infrastructure has been delivered, is successfully supporting the fleet today and is fit for the long haul.

Full Support Capability was preceded by a stakeholder review of the Sea Viper Project Availability Support Service in Portsmouth naval base.

A panel made up of Capt Bill Evans of

Navy Command, David Jarvis of DE&S Ships Support Alliance, Maritime and Air Weapons Systems (MAWS) team leader Richard Murray and MBDA's Rob Klein endorsed achievement of the 13 support capability criteria.

This confirms that MBDA and MAWS are delivering effective and enduring support for the Sea Viper weapon system.

Declaration of Full Support Capability comes three years after Initial Support and a period of work delivering initial ranging and scaling of spares, implementing training systems and supporting the first three years of the ships' deployment.

Lusty back for the last time



HMS ILLUSTRIOUS was welcomed back in style on 22nd July as she returned home to Portsmouth for the last time.

The Navy's helicopter and commando carrier, which has clocked up 900,000 miles on operations throughout the world during her 32-year career, is being withdrawn from service and will be decommissioned later this year.

A flypast comprising Apache, Merlin, Lynx and Sea King helicopters flew over the ship as she entered Portsmouth Harbour and dozens of families lined the jetty to cheer home the veteran carrier.

Illustrious is succeeded by HMS Ocean, the Royal Navy's larger, younger and more capable helicopter carrier which has just returned to service following a £65 million refit.

Tenders have been invited from private companies, charities and trusts to secure HMS Illustrious' future.

From Scotland to Crewe – kit goes on the agenda



Factfinding: Mr Dunn is pictured with, left, Radway Green manager Nigel MacVean and, above, Stephen Doran, Managing Director, Raytheon UK Power and Control, and Richard Daniel, Chief Executive, Raytheon UK

MILITARY EQUIPMENT from freetail weapons to small arms ammunition has been on the agenda over the last month.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Philip Dunne visited Raytheon UK in Scotland for a briefing on the company's weapons engineering capability.

And he saw at first hand BAE Systems' Munitions business in Cheshire where he learned of the company's munitions export campaign.

Glenrothes is home to Raytheon's Global Paveway factory, which has produced more than 9,000 GPS-aided inertial navigation system units across the Paveway family of precision weapons.

Raytheon has also manufactured and delivered the 4,000th Paveway IV, nearly completing replenishment for DE&S. The facility also manufactures sub-systems for Tomahawk, another product used by UK Forces.

Richard Daniel, Chief Executive, Raytheon UK, said: "Raytheon sees the growth of indigenous capability as being a vital part of the future. This will be achieved by various means, through our own investment in scientific and engineering endeavour in key technologies, through our partnerships with UK universities and through our programme work with industry partners.

"Our facility in Scotland is a great

example of all of these elements."

At Radway Green BAES has recently opened a new £83 million small arms factory, built partly with money from the company's long-term munitions contract with DE&S.

Mr Dunne said: "The facility is world class and testament to the expert manufacturing skills that we have here in the UK, producing some of the best military equipment in the world.

"The site makes an important contribution to the local economy with 372 employees and its apprenticeship programme, but also increasingly to the defence export industry, supporting the revival of the UK's economy."

DE&S FINANCE staff are the toast of the MOD after walking away with two of the four top accolades in the first MOD Finance Awards.

The awards were launched to recognise the good work of the MOD's finance community, sharing best practice and promoting individual and team achievements.

And DE&S can boast the leading financier of the year, along with the best financial team across the department.

Katherine Veale took the Financier of the Year award. Katherine is financial controller for DE&S' Joint Electronic Surveillance team and impressed judges, who recognised her exceptional contribution demonstrated by innovation, commitment to sound financial management and continuous improvement.

In an impressive double for DE&S Darren Meacham, Defence General Munitions Financial Controller, was highly commended in the same category.

Finance Team of the Year also went to DE&S with the Special Projects Communication, Information, Surveillance and Reconnaissance finance team topping the bill. The team – Angelina Bell, Lisa Brownlee, Simon Blatchford, Heather Coburn, Freda Geddes, Heather Cox, Lorraine Harries, Tracey Robson and Michael McCarthy – was praised by the judges for demonstrating effective team working and working across TLB boundaries.



DE&S success: Katherine Veale, Nicola Bonfield and Darren Meacham



DE&S' Special Projects CISR finance team is pictured at the awards ceremony in Main Building last month, with the MOD's DG Finance David Williams, left, and Heather Taylor, right, Director Financial Management Transformation.

Staff hit the top in first finance awards

In a final success for DE&S Nicola Bonfield of DE&S' Financial Professionalism Enabling Team was highly commended in the Unsung Hero category, recognising people who promote the spirit of community involvement and is a role model in the finance community.

David Williams, the MOD's Director General Finance, said: "This awards scheme is the first of its kind for the MOD Finance community and I was impressed

by the strong field of nominations. They show that we have a lot to be proud of and that we can be confident about the important contribution that finance teams are making to the delivery of defence business. I congratulate all those shortlisted for their achievements in finance practice and professionalism."

Other winners of awards included DBS Finance Transformation team, who took the Project Team award, and Mona Carpenter of Hightown Barracks, Wrexham, who was the community's unsung hero for 2014.

Mr Williams led the judging panel which included David Stephens, Director Resources and Command Secretary (Army); Heather Taylor, Director Financial Management Transformation/Head HO and CS Finance; Mike Martindale, Chief Finance Officer, DIO; Sam Hill, Head of Financial Management Policy and Accounting; and Graham Williams, MOD Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Defence Audit Committee.

Warrant presentation is a moment of history

WARRANT OFFICER Andrew Farley is pictured being presented with his Royal Warrant by Gp Capt Sam Sansome at Abbey Wood last month.

Team members gathered to hear Gp Capt Sansome explain to civilian team members the history and significance of the Royal Warrant which dates back to the 13th century.

WO Farley started his career in the RAF 27 years ago interpreting photographs taken from the air.

He is a recognised expert in geospatial and all-source intelligence and is a requirements manager with the Intelligence Information Solutions team.



Hazel engineers national award

£1,000 prize rewards her commitment to encouraging women in engineering

A STRONG commitment to engineering and encouragement of women in the profession has helped an Abbey Wood RAF officer to a national award.

Sqn Ldr Hazel Reed, Military Assistant to DE&S' Director Air Support, is the winner of the Baroness Platt of Writtle Award 2014, presented by the Worshipful Company of Engineers.

It recognises the achievements of a newly-registered Incorporated Engineer (IEng). Hazel was presented with £1,000, a medal and certificate at the annual awards dinner of the Worshipful Company of Engineers in Goldsmith's Hall, London, last month.

She was nominated by the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) and judged against 18 other candidates from six professional engineering institutions who nominated some outstanding engineers from the 439 who achieved IEng in 2013.

"I am delighted to have received this award," Hazel said.

"My career in the RAF has been both exciting and challenging, and it is an honour to have it recognised by the RAeS, Engineering Council and Worshipful Company of Engineers."

Hazel started her career in



Award winner: Sqn Ldr Hazel Reed, pictured with a Merlin helicopter

the Army but was commissioned as an engineer in the RAF. She has 15 years' experience, mostly in aircraft maintenance progressing from technician on Gazelle and Lynx helicopters to responsibility for up to 110 technicians.

Throughout her career she has taken responsibility for ground-based aviation facilities, including management and resolution of incidents and assessments of airworthiness, and has devised innovative solutions for the interim repair of aircraft supporting both exercises and operations.

She produced financial documents for the investment appraisal of the £200

million Hawk Future Support Project and has demonstrated the ability to lead organisational change. She can operate at all levels, from hands-on engineering to strategic asset management.

Jon Prichard, chief executive of the Engineering Council, said: "I congratulate Sqn Ldr Reed, who is clearly an outstanding IEng registrant. We would also like to thank the Worshipful Company of Engineers and Baroness Platt for recognising newly-registered Incorporated Engineers through this award, which helps to highlight the essential contribution they make to all sectors of the engineering profession."

... while Abbey Wood celebrates further contribution of women



Left: Liz Lister from STEM speaks with Director Technical Air Vice-Marshal Julian Young at the Celebration of National Women in Engineering day in Abbey Wood

A NETWORKING event at Abbey Wood on 23rd June – organised by DE&S' Engineering Policy team – celebrated the contribution of women in engineering.

There was lots of interest from engineers across the site, from women keen to find out about the opportunities available and from men keen to help out.

The event provided a golden opportunity for people to find out more about STEM – promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics to schoolchildren.

Director Technical, Air Vice-Marshal Julian Young, said: "Those I spoke to all thought that it was a good cause, and their time had been spent on a worthwhile task to promote greater levels of opportunity and understanding in our workplace for half of our potential workforce."

"Such events help us build our engineering community within DE&S, and promote our necessary influence in the local area through STEM activity to do our bit in sowing the seed for future recruiting."

Further information on STEM activities or to register for Go4SET (Go 4 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) or Primary Engineer 2014/15 contact Rachel Dyer- DES TECH-EG EngPol-Skills1a, Ext 36769.

Trio's tour takes in sights and sounds of the battlefields



A TRIO of cyclists from DE&S have made it from Brussels to London – visiting places synonymous with World War One – to raise cash for Help for Heroes.

Lt Cdr Rob Evans (Air Engineer Officer) of DE&S' Airworthiness Team, Lt Dave Jenkins (Weapons Engineer Officer) CBRN Requirements Manager, and Andy Herbert of DE&S Ships took in Mons, Arras, Amiens and Compiègne alongside with other sailors past and present.

They were part of a team of 300 from the Armed Forces, retired service personnel and civilians from around the country.

The team also included veterans with physical and mental injuries sustained during conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It was a humbling and emotional experience to cycle alongside comrades whose grit and determination were shining beacons for all of us," said Rob.

The challenge on the continent culminated in a cycle down Avenue des Champs-Élysées in Paris.

Finally as part of the Hero Ride involving 1,500 cyclists Rob, Dave and Andy paid their respects at the Cenotaph before the cycle along the Mall in formation to represent the Help for Heroes Medal.

Rob, Dave and Andy have so far raised more than £7,000.



Left: Lt Cdr Rob Evans and Andy Herbert at L'Hôtel National des Invalides, Paris
Right: Lt Dave Jenkins at the start of the challenge in Brussels

Gun crew cleans up to capture penalties prize



Left: grit and determination is etched on the faces of the Abbey Wood team members as they battle in the annual field gun tournament

ABBEY WOOD'S field gun crew has taken the Penalties Cup – awarded for the fewest penalties during competition runs – at the annual Field Gun competition at HMS Collingwood.

Abbey Wood completed the unusual feat of incurring no penalties in all eight competition runs. Some crews incurred just one penalty so the achievement was not without challengers.

The crew formed in March with evening fitness training followed by drill on Abbey Wood's south west car park under the guidance of trainer Lt Cdr Paddy Carbery.

Pre-tournament training

took place at HMS Collingwood with all 21 crews entered for the competition present.

Abbey Wood's first run in the tournament, while not spectacular, was clean with no penalties incurred. Penalties are punished by addition to the running time. The crew had achieved consistent clean runs in training, so were delighted with the result.

As the runs progressed Abbey Wood continued their clean ways and finished ninth in the competition, earning a place in the second final.

Lining up with five other teams in front of several

thousand field gun fans the crew were well placed at the halfway stage.

But a drill error forced a delay, and saw the team cross the line in fifth. There was a tense wait for judges' deliberation before the news came that the run had been clean.

The Penalties Cup was presented by Air Vice-Marshal Julian Young, DE&S Director Technical, to Lt Cdr Carbery and crew captain Lt Tom Sheehan.

Abbey Wood's next outing will be at the Birmingham International Tattoo at the National Indoor Arena on 29th and 30th November.

MOTTO – THE MOD LOTTERY

May winners

- £10,000:** Sylvia McComb (Lisburn).
- £5,000:** Lindsey Chilcott (RAF Wyton).
- £2,000:** John Winwright (Hereford). **£500:** Susan Bovingdon (Worthy Down), Janette Pitman (Bicester). **£100:** Bridgid Wall (Abbey Wood), Joseph Chapman (Abbey Wood), Neill Ward (Bath), Michelle Swithenbank (Sennelager), Alexandra Walker (Shrivenham), Sharon Dean (Portsmouth), Gavin Humm (DSG), Carolyn Johnson (RAF Shawbury), Carol Garland-Forbes (Lymptone), Catherine Hack (RAF High Wycombe), Michelle Davison (Stirling Lines), Stephen Welch (Abbey Wood), Lyndsay Spark (Abbey Wood), David Fairweather (Cheadle Hulme), Jennifer Blackmore (Abbey Wood), Colin England (Shrewsbury), Mark Crawshaw (Imphal Barracks), James Clark (Boscombe Down), Charles Baker (Wimbish), Malcolm Wroth (Feltham).

■ Team intranet page: [http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/Community/Social/Pages/DefenceSportsandRecreationalAssociation\(DSRA\).aspx](http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/Community/Social/Pages/DefenceSportsandRecreationalAssociation(DSRA).aspx)

Submarine crew hosts a team of all Talents

MEMBERS OF DE&S' Torpedoes, Tomahawk and Harpoon team have visited *Trafalgar* class submarine *HMS Talent* for a first hand look at the support they provide to the Royal Navy's Spearfish torpedoes.

The torpedoes are carried on *Trafalgar*, *Astute* and *Vanguard* class submarines while *Talent* also has a land attack capability through the Tomahawk missile.

The team was represented by service and civilian personnel, with a cross-section of grades, functions, and experience levels including new recruits from the bulk external recruitment campaign.

During the visit a series of informative briefs guided team

members through the complexities of the submarine environment. Crew members shared experiences and explained individual areas of expertise.

Team members also enjoyed supervised 'hands-on' experience, which included viewing the inside of the torpedo tubes and the broader elements of the Tactical Weapon System.

Engagement with their customer, together with the opportunity to observe equipment in its operational environment, gave team members clearer understanding and context for their outputs.

Likewise, the crew welcomed the opportunity to feed back to the team and broaden their knowledge of acquisition processes.



Perspective: a uniquely *Talent*-ed view of the world for the team's Jason Fearn

Seven in seven as Geoff survives marathon effort



ORIENTEERING CHAMPION Geoff Ellis of the Falcon team has completed the equivalent of seven marathons in a week to raise awareness of a terminal lung disease.

Geoff, left, from Trowbridge in Wiltshire, managed 312km in just under 40 hours' running time on Wainwright's 'Coast to Coast Walk' which crosses the Lake District, Pennines, Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors, linking St Bee's Head and Robin Hood's Bay.

The 38-year-old was raising awareness of mesothelioma, an asbestos-related lung cancer which struck his father-in-law Glynn last December.

Each run – Geoff began on 28th June – was at least 42km, mainly over mountain passes and across bleak moorland. On some days he ran ten per cent further than the standard marathon distance.

He said: "I had never undertaken a challenge of this proportion before and I was

under no illusion – it was hard – but that all pales into insignificance when you think of the battle my father-in-law and other cancer patients go through every day."

For 'marathon number seven' Geoff was joined by brother-in-law Andy who brought news that Glynn's cancer has been controlled following chemotherapy.

Geoff added: "It has not been eliminated, but controlling the condition was the best result that we could have hoped for."

Geoff, no stranger to the pages of *desider* through his orienteering successes, has also raised more than £600 for the disease's awareness group HASAG and Macmillan cancer support.

He said: "When my father-in-law was diagnosed the hope and support provided by the small number of dedicated people working for HASAG and Macmillan Cancer Support was, and continues to be, most helpful."

Don't forget we're Navy – Yeovilton puts the flags out

A NEW banner is in place to remind the public they are passing one of the Royal Navy's largest air stations.

The idea was hatched by Cdre Jock Alexander, Commanding Officer of RNAS Yeovilton, to raise public awareness as they commute up and down the A303.

Yeovilton is home to the Lynx Wildcat Maritime Force and the Commando Helicopter Force with more than 4,000 people, service and civilian and contractors, employed on the base.

Steve Murdoch and his team from contractors Babcock commissioned the banner to be in place before the station's International Air Day on 26th July.

Pictured right: Commodore Jock Alexander and Mike Nixon of the Fly Navy Heritage Trust at Yeovilton



Emma proves the best of MOD apprentices



Above: the DE&S team in Cheltenham

Left: Submarine work: for Emma Quigley, the MOD's apprentice of the year 2014

EMMA QUIGLEY is the toast of her DE&S apprentice colleagues after being named the MOD's 2014 apprentice of the year.

Emma, who has graduated from the MOD apprentice scheme in Plymouth, won gold and joins Stuart Redford, formerly of Devonport and now at Abbey Wood, who secured the bronze award, in a naval base double.

Abbey Wood apprentice Joshua Beddis took the silver award.

To secure gold Emma demonstrated confidence, positivity, self assurance and a passion for her work. She acted as a role model and her initiative and drive for educating herself was proven with knowledge beyond her local area.

Proud Emma said: "I have had an interest in the Royal Navy ever since I joined the Cadet

Force at the age of 14. When I found the apprenticeship it seemed the perfect opportunity to be involved and work alongside the Royal Navy, while remaining at home with family and friends.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the apprenticeship, and for anyone who is considering an apprenticeship I would definitely recommend it.

"For those who are thinking of going to university, I would suggest seriously considering the apprenticeship route; it only opens doors and there is the opportunity to gain a degree at a later date, while you are earning and in a job.

"The apprenticeship is a great way of building a strong foundation, with the opportunities to apply and reinforce what you have learned."

Since completing her apprenticeship four months ahead of schedule Emma has been with Superintendent Submarines at Devonport.

Capt Richard Carrick said: "I'm delighted to see Emma's hard work, commitment and talent recognised nationally.

"My whole team understand the importance of investing time and effort into the apprenticeship initiative and work hard to support them, ensuring that they develop the skills and experience that will help them in a challenging but rewarding environment.

"This is a huge achievement and one which Emma should be extremely proud of."

All award winners will be formally presented at the Apprentice of the Year ceremony in MOD Main Building in December.

Inspiring the next generation

GRADUATE ENGINEERS and apprentices from DE&S held three hour-long workshops for students, and hosted a variety of activities at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' stand at the Cheltenham Science Festival.

Themes - this year was 'Superhuman' were co-ordinated by DE&S' Lt Col Ian Parsons, Chair of the Institution's western region, with workshops organised by Mark Sanders,

Alex Wolf and Luke Farrier, graduate engineers who have been working at Abbey Wood since last September.

Activities included bio-medical developments, thermal imaging, remote-controlled robots, and flood defences, as well as giving visitors of all ages the opportunity to climb into a Formula Student race car, provided by Team Bath Racing, and to complete a bespoke computer-simulated oil-drilling challenge.

Mark Sanders, on a two-year graduate scheme at DE&S, said that organising workshops required time and effort, but that he wanted to help to "give something back to communities, having enjoyed my studies. I'm inspired by these technologies, and want to spread that awe and enthusiasm among younger people."

Other DE&S volunteers in the Superhuman workshop were Alex Wolf, Luke Farrier, Rosie Smith, Victoria Crackett, Elspeth Winthorpe, Ben Jackson, Rebecca Brennan, Jack Martin, Emily Plummer and Sam Kantor.

Jon Batteson of DE&S organised a model to simulate flooding - with real water - which encouraged visitors, using putty and blocks, to build the defences to save towns, farms and villages when water flows down a mountainside. They had to consider cost, uses of water, its storage and power-giving potential.

Graduate trainees Matthew Trayner and Daniel Knight presented tactile models of skulls and prosthetic ears to demonstrate developments in biomedical engineering.

On balance, charity benefits!

SIXTEEN TEAMS of six players, most in fancy dress and with colleagues to support them, decamped to the Civil Service Sports Club in Filton last month for the Royal Naval Engineers' Quart Club annual charity Mangold Dangling.

Players took it in turns to launch a sack stuffed with rags at the members of the other team who were trying to balance on one leg on top of a beer barrel. Only the fearless (and co-ordinated) survived the onslaught.

The event raised more than £700 for St Peter's Hospice and the Chew Lake Association of Disabled Sailors. Next year's event is pencilled in for 16th July.



'Fifty Shades of Plumbing' - the fancy dress winners
Picture courtesy Claire Rossiter

Crowds make merry at Merryfield

WHILE ABBEY Wood and Clyde naval base are among sites DE&S staff have invited relatives to have a look round in recent months, a more obscure site opened its doors towards the end of June.

The Naval Air Station at Merryfield, near Ilminster in Somerset, opened its gates to the local community for an evening, with more than 1,500 people taking the chance to find out what happens there.

Merryfield is the satellite airfield for the main Fleet Air Arm base, RNAS Yeovilton, 13 miles away. Much of Yeovilton's helicopter flying training takes place at Merryfield but many people don't

know where the base is, or what it is used for.

Merryfield accommodates much of the Commando Helicopter Force, Aviation Reconnaissance Force and Maritime Lynx and Wildcat Force training.

Maintaining flying skills and readiness for operations is a demanding task and, as many who live in the Merryfield area know, sometimes noisy.

Community Relations Officer Jeremy Greenop said: "We acknowledge the impact our operations at Merryfield have on the local community and we do all we can to minimise the disturbance while maintaining the operational effectiveness of our aircrew."



TALL TREES Community Centre in Ilchester has been relaunched following a £69,000 renovation funded by the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

Commodore Jock Alexander, Commanding Officer of RNAS Yeovilton, was at the relaunch.

The centre is open to local civilian and military communities as a venue to relax, socialise, engage in new activities and meet new people.

Forces cash helps wider community

Refurbishment includes new doors and windows, improved disabled access, a new kitchen and improvements to the playroom and children's play area. The project aims to increase community usage and broaden the range of services available.

Jeremy Greenop of RNAS Yeovilton, who is a member of the Somerset Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership, said, "Of the five aims that underpin the Covenant this project meets two by encouraging activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces into local life, and by encouraging the Armed Forces community to help and support the wider community."

Bristol signs up to back the Forces

New covenant will help families in the community

THE CITY of Bristol has pledged to help Armed Forces personnel and their families in the community.

The Armed Forces Community Covenant represents a pledge by Bristol City Council and partner organisations to make sure serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families are supported to help them live and fully participate in their local community.

The covenant, signed in the city in the build-up to Armed Forces Day at the end of June, also recognises the special requirements personnel and families have due to their work and that, for some, the transition to civilian life can be hard after the structure of a military career.

Among commitments, the council and partners pledge to improve access to community services and easy registration with local doctors when personnel move to the area.

There will also be Forces' champions for housing and education, and promotion of work opportunities for partners of servicemen and women.

Mayor George Ferguson said: "By signing the covenant Bristol commits to acknowledging the



Help for the Forces: Mayor of Bristol George Ferguson signs the covenant, flanked by the Lord Mayor of Bristol Councillor Alastair Watson and the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol Mary Prior. Watching on are, from left, Wg Cdr Matt Lane of DE&S, Lt Col Howard Wilkinson and Cdr Tom Herman

service of personnel, reservists and veterans and their families and to providing the best opportunities to participate fully in city life."

Bristol area RAF Armed Forces Community Covenant Project Officer Wg Cdr Matt Lane added: "It has been fantastic to work with Bristol Council, local organisations and Armed Forces

colleagues over the last year to produce the Bristol Armed Forces Community Covenant.

"The commitment of Bristol organisations and people to supporting our Armed Forces personnel and their families is clear to see, and a big part of what makes Bristol and surrounding areas such a great place to live and work."



ABBEY WOOD'S netball players are pictured, above, after dominating the annual MOD sports day competition in Bath at the end of June. With bad weather causing some of the outdoor competitions to be abandoned, attention switched indoors where the three Abbey Wood teams showed their superiority, two of them contesting a hard-fought final

Picture: Kevin Slade

Devonport provides taste of naval life

A GROUP of students gained an insight into life inside Devonport when they went on board a warship and a working tug and were put through a fitness test.

The youngsters were on a programme of work experience spending a week looking at all aspects of the Royal Navy and support activities keeping warships and submarines on patrol worldwide.

They also saw MOD Police dogs showing off their skills and visited *HMS Raleigh* to see new Royal Navy recruits learn about the world of submarines.

The group also visited Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth where newly-qualified officers took part in a ceremonial parade marking the beginning of their naval career.

Lt Paul Lettington looked after the work experience students. He said: "We hope to give the students an interesting and enjoyable experience having a rare insight into life in the Royal Navy and into all the organisations that support the Navy.

"As a bonus this sows the seed for possible job ideas in the future."

Heritage tours

DEVONPORT OPENS its gates to visitors two days a week this month.

Two tours will be available to the public at 10.30am and 1.30pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Gates will be open 30 minutes before each tour.

Opening of the Devonport Naval Heritage Centre follows increasing popularity during Plymouth History Week.

Visitors should arrive 30 minutes before tours at the heritage site entrance.

DINs - released this month

Defence Instructions and Notices (DINs) are defence-wide instructions, guidance and notices for military and civilian staff, containing up-to-the-minute information to help people carry out their duties. Some of the latest issued on Defence Equipment and Support are:

2014DIN04-115: All proposals to gift strategically controlled equipment must be assessed against the Consolidate EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. This DIN contains guidance on seeking the required approval as part of the end-to-end gifting process. The policy is also applicable to other government departments who sponsor gifting.

2014DIN04-116: All in-service lifejackets feature an automatic/manual distress light. At present there is a wide range of lights in circulation. The Water Safety Equipment project team is in the process of procuring a suite of lights to replace all existing lifejacket and liferaft lights currently in service.

2014DIN01-119: This DIN provides direction to military and civilian staff who have contact with suppliers, irrespective of DE&S involvement, and potential bidders during the Materiel Strategy Managed Service Providers competition.

2014DIN01-147: This deals with support available for staff who may face legal proceedings as a consequence of their actions while conducting their duties as civilian employees or members of the Armed Forces, and sets out the ways in which such liability could arise.

Further information and more details on the latest DINs see:
<http://defenceintranet.diif.r.mil.uk/Reference/DINsJSPs/Pages/DINsindex2014.aspx>

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