

Competition

For this issues competition, all you have to do to win a fantastic mystery prize is correctly answer the following questions relating to aviation. Good luck.

'George' is a common nickname for what aviation system ?

In aviation, what does STOL stand for ?

What does RADAR stand for ?

The Eurofighter Typhoon can reach supersonic speed in less than 30 seconds and take off in under 8 seconds. How many G's can the Typhoon pull ?

What is the top speed of a Tornado GR4 ?

No 617 Squadron was formed at Scampton under the command of Wg Cdr Guy Gibson specifically to undertake an operation to breach the Ruhr Dams using Barnes Wallis' 'Upkeep' weapon – the bouncing bomb. In what year was the squadron formed ?

Please send your entries to Hannah Jukes-Jones by

30 September 2016

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Name

Department

Telephone number

Rules of entry
One entry per person



Defence Electronics &
Components Agency

DECA news

August 2016

2015 - 2016: a milestone year for DECA

Celebrating the Defence Electronics and Components Agency's successful first year



Editors foreword

As well as an introduction from DECA's Chief Executive Geraint Spearing, this issue also contains a 'view' from our former MOD Customer lead, Air Marshal Sir Simon Bollom on his hopes and vision for DECA and how its capabilities can play a key part in reducing future support costs for MOD.

In our capability section, we focus on DECA's Cryogenics and Test Solutions capabilities with John Tipping and Pete Cassidy. This soon to be regular section will provide a spotlight on DECA's in-house capabilities, including planned articles on specialist avionics and obsolescence management support capabilities. In this issue we also provide an overview of our previous Owner, Minister for Defence Procurement Philip Dunne MP's first hand capability experiences on his first visit to DECA in November.

During this visit he reinforced MOD's retention of DECA stating, "DECA has been strategically retained within MOD as an executive Agency to provide access to support for current and future MOD platforms across defence." He went on to say that as a new Agency DECA has a bright future as the assured MOD provider for electronic and component expertise.

We have also taken the opportunity to provide an overview of DECA's revised governance arrangements to ensure that the business continues to be managed efficiently and effectively in line with government policy.

The final section of this inaugural edition celebrates some of DECA's successes in our first year since formation including staff achievements and some fantastic work carried out by DECA staff to develop a timeline celebrating Sealand's historical significance in aviation history.

DECA news is intended to become a key internal and external communications tool and one that we hope to establish as a regular window into our work and I would like to thank everyone for their contributions and encourage readers to come forward with suggestions and ideas for future editions.

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Front page photographs: Clockwise from top left; Replacement of surface mount components using infrared rework station; Teradyne automatic test solution; shot blast facility and WESCAM European service centre
Inside front cover photograph; A Royal Air Force Typhoon pilot enters the cockpit as the sun sets
© Crown Copyright

CE comment



"The beginning of April 2015, and formation of the Defence Electronics and Components Agency (DECA), saw a new chapter open for us all and I would like to take this opportunity to express how proud I am of our achievements in what has been a very demanding and successful first year for us. Not only did we achieve a significant milestone in launching DECA as a new Agency, but we did this whilst maintaining our high levels of quality and operational delivery to customers and effectively established the DECA brand and identity within the market place with the external launch at Defence and Security Exhibition International 2015 (DSEI).

"Since launch, I have been extremely pleased with the renewed levels of interest being shown in DECA by both MOD and Industry, demonstrated by the significant number of high profile visits including Ministers, government officials and VIPs from industry and overseas. Without exception, these visits have left our visitors with a lasting impression of a highly professional team that they would like to do business with in the future. My sincere thanks to you all in so ably supporting these critical business development opportunities. It is very encouraging indeed to know that both MOD and Industry continue to consider DECA as a key component in developing support strategies for current and future MOD platforms across all of defence as a result.

And this high profile interest shows no sign of slowing down with the numerous visits we have seen during June and July and I know I can count

on your full support for the many more being planned throughout the year!

"As you will be aware, the focus for the Executive Management Board for our first trading year has been ensuring alignment with MOD's emerging strategies following the publishing of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2015. This work will help ensure a pivotal role for DECA on current and future defence platforms.

"We will continue this effort through work agreed with our previous Ministerial Owner to help ensure DECA grows its capabilities and MOD maximises utility of our capacity and capability to provide best value for Defence support solutions for equipment across all Defence environments. This includes current activity to update procurement regulations to reflect DECA's in-house' status and provide strategic guidance to MOD teams on utilising DECA that will be published in August.

"Building on work last year with the cascade of the Corporate Plan, the Executive Management Board and I are looking at more ways of improving communication across the business this year; my aim is to ensure we keep you all up to speed with future business strategies and how we are performing. This regular newsletter will be one way we will look to do this and I encourage you all to pass on any comments or ideas for development of future editions through the Editor."

The dawn of DECA

DECA's heritage and pedigree

DECA's journey as an Agency began in 2000 as the Electronics Business Unit of the Defence Aviation Repair Agency (DARA) before becoming the Electronics and Components Business Unit (ECBU) of the Defence Support Group following the merger of DARA and ABRO in 2008.

During this time, and up to the point of separation from DSG, ECBU had developed an impressive and enviable pedigree in the delivery of critical support of electronic components, niche deployable services and engineering capabilities.

Why MOD retained DECA

To fulfil MOD requirements set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010 and Comprehensive Spending Review and overcome Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and International Traffic in Arms (ITAR) issues, MOD retained

ECBU during the sale of DSG to Babcock International Group.

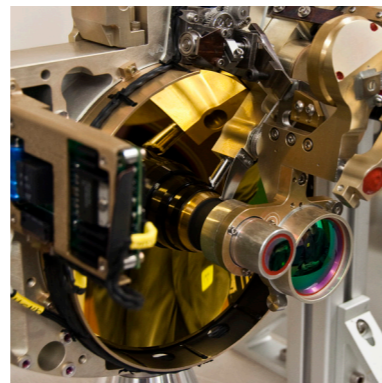
On 1 April 2015, the MOD owned DECA was formed, assuring MOD on-shore access to through-life specialist avionics maintenance, repair, overhaul, upgrade and obsolescence management capability for the future support of UK defence. The Agency has also been charged by MOD to grow its capabilities to provide best value for Defence support solutions for current and future platforms across MOD.

As well as expecting DECA to continue to provide electronic component and general engineering support to legacy platforms, MOD's strategy for DECA is to further develop its pivotal role in current and future avionic support strategies through its development as the UK's avionics hub in Europe. In addition, MOD is looking to align DECA with wider-

departmental initiatives and grow the value adding capabilities of DECA across Air, Land, Sea and Cyber to the benefit of both defence and the tax payer.



Air Commodore "Dolly" Neville Parton, former DECA Customer focal point makes his address at the DECA launch event on 1 April 2015



WESCAM European centre of excellence - L3 approved service centre



Ground support equipment maintained at DECA Stafford

DECA capability

DECA employs over 430 specialist staff across its two sites in Sealand, Flintshire, North Wales and Stafford as well as deployed teams throughout the UK and overseas that provide support to equipment at the heart of our defence infrastructure.

DECA provides specialist capability to enhance the reliability of equipment, extend the life of legacy equipment and deliver value to our customer. On-site and mobile services include:

- maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade of electronic, avionic and mechanical equipments
- calibration
- customised test solutions
- medical & dental and cryptographic support services
- obsolescence management
- procurement services
- design, support and manufacture
- deployed operations support
- specific to content container manufacture
- cryogenic operations, installation, ground equipment and plant
- cryogenic training services
- airborne cylinder inspection and test

- armament container refurbishment
- maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade of:
 - aircraft components
 - aircraft structures
 - ground equipment
 - lifting tackle
 - safety and survival equipment
 - launcher weapon rail
 - specialist role deployable cabins

Our ethos

Recognising that our workforce is our key asset, DECA has developed its purpose, aims and values with senior managers, employees and the Trades Unions to align with defence objectives and MOD's strategic requirements for DECA. Under the roll-out of DECA's "Transformation Programme", business improvement projects have been developed and agreed with the Customer and Owner to embed DECA values within the Agency and ensure DECA continues to provide efficient, value adding services to Defence. Through this work, and the roll-out of the complementary Human Resources and People Strategy, we have set out our intention to create an environment where employees are proud to be part of DECA.

We will continue to offer development opportunities for staff to realise their potential, recognise their achievements and foster a positive presence in our local community in doing so.

We strive for excellence in every aspect of our work and aim to care for our customers and stakeholders, understanding their needs and forming strong relationships by committing to delivering responsive, flexible and reliable services, high quality products, new capabilities and forward thinking solutions.

Geraint Spearing, DECA Chief Executive concluded, "The retention of DECA as an Executive Agency was an extremely positive first step in developing a trusted partner for MOD and industry that will focus on supporting the UK's armed forces by delivering assured capability for existing and future platforms.

"The future for DECA is extremely positive and we will continue to strive for excellence in every aspect of our business."



DECA employees at the launch event.



DECA shot blast facility at DECA Stafford



Supply Platform Air Delivery System (SPAD) for Air Portable Fuel Container (APFC)



Teradyne automatic test equipment in the DECA Automatic Test Equipment centre of excellence

DECA officially launched by former Min(DP) at DSEI

Chief Executive Geraint Spearing along with members of the DECA Board, Business Development, Commercial and Test Solutions teams represented DECA at the Defence Security Equipment International (DSEI) in September 2015.

DSEI is the world's leading defence and security exhibition which brings together the entire defence and security industry to source the latest equipment and systems, develop international relationships, and generate new business opportunities. 2015 was no exception, welcoming over 30,000 attendees over the four days.

Following the lifting of General Election restrictions that prevented our previous Ministerial Owner, Philip Dunne MP officially launching DECA on 1 April 2015, the event was the perfect opportunity for Minister to officially showcase DECA to the widest possible defence audience.

Minister addressed VIP guests from MOD, the DECA Board, industry and defence media stating, "DECA has been strategically retained within MOD as an Executive Agency to provide access to support for current and future MOD platforms across defence.

"DECA is one of the jewels in the MOD crown and is a world leading electronic and components business. We want DECA to maintain its focus on supporting MOD and grow its capability to become the UK's avionics hub in Europe.

"As a new Executive Agency, DECA has a bright future as the assured MOD provider for avionics expertise on current and future platforms.

"I would like to extend my congratulations to DECA's Chief Executive Geraint Spearing, DECA's new chairman Alex Jablonowski and all DECA employees and wish them every success for the future."

DSEI also provided the opportunity to promote the new DECA brand and the full range and breadth of our capabilities, raising awareness and helping to develop stronger links with Industry, MOD and other government bodies.

Valuable contacts were established with DE&S and Army HQ, both keen to explore opportunities with DECA including DE&S Armoured Vehicle Programme, SPSCM and Army HQ Equipment Division. There was interest too from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) centring around our capability, capacity and retained status as an in-house 'trading' executive agency owned by MOD.

Visitors from many MOD departments and agencies such as DSTL and MOD Main Building were also very keen to understand where we fitted within MOD and the capabilities we offered. Many remembered RAF Sealand and

Stafford but very few were aware of the changes following the sale of the Defence Support Group (DSG). In short, this was the perfect opportunity to tell everyone DECA was still here and embarking on a new journey following sale of the rest of DSG.

Speaking after the event Geraint Spearing said, "DSEI was a great way for us to showcase to the international defence community

what DECA has to offer and that we are still very much alive following the sale of DSG.

"The high degree of VIP interest with visitors from across UK and Welsh Government, all four pillars of MOD, major OEMs as well as existing and potential customers was extremely important in raising awareness across both MOD and industry and strongly endorsed the importance of DECA as a strategically retained in-house MOD capability."

“We want DECA to maintain its focus on supporting MOD and grow its capability to become the UK's avionics hub in Europe.”

“DECA is one of the jewels in the MOD crown and is a world leading electronic and components business.”



L-R: Former Minister for Defence Procurement Philip Dunne MP, Alex Jablonowski, Independent Non-Executive Chairman and Geraint Spearing DECA Chief Executive



Ian Cole, Business Development Director with Geraint Spearing, Chief Executive, John Prescott, Business Development Manager and Lee Price, Business Development Manager talking to visitors



Customers visiting the DECA stand at DSEI



Madeleine Moon MP with Jason Leeks, DECA Head of Strategy & Governance



Pictured L-R; Geraint Spearing Chief Executive with former DECA Customer lead focal point, Air Commodore "Dolly" Neville Parton



Air Marshal Sir Simon Bollom during his visit to DECA

A view from our departing customer lead

by Air Marshal Sir Simon Bollom

Before leaving MOD, Air Marshal Sir Simon Bollom talked about his experiences and expectations as DECA's departing customer lead following a long association with the Agency stretching back to DECA's forerunner, the Electronics Business Unit, within the Defence Aviation Repair Agency (DARA).

"Through various guises, DECA has a long and illustrious history of providing crucial support to a wide range of front line platforms from

Tornado and Chinook to tri-service calibration equipment. They are a world leading electronics and components business and have provided significant savings to the MOD over the years as well as delivering improved availability to the front line. Initiatives such as "repair-not-replace" technologies and applying innovative ways to repair components that would otherwise require replacing, have established DECA as a leader in the repair of complex avionics.

"DECA has moved with the times as well and the innovative

partnership with BAE Systems and Leonardo (formerly Selex ES) on the Tornado ATTAC contract set a new benchmark which has been replicated in many areas across Defence. This contract has saved many millions of pounds and demonstrated how DECA's accumulated knowledge, experience and investment in lean manufacturing can deliver significant benefits within a complex European construct.

"With traditional sources of revenue beginning to disappear as many of our older platforms are retired

from service, we need to look forward as a defence partnership to apply DECA's proven track record in new markets. Typhoon and Lightning are two platforms where the opportunity exists to reduce support costs and DECA has the opportunity to make its case to be at the centre of the new support initiatives being designed.

The decision to establish DECA as a 'trading' Executive Agency of the MOD last year is the perfect stepping stone to allow them to grasp the new opportunities that lie within these programmes."

"As a customer of DECA, we truly value their unrivalled skill sets and expertise that they can offer,

and are looking to develop the business relationship that has been so successful up to now. This will require continual innovation and change but the opportunity exists to seize the moment and reinforce the business model that has DECA at the centre of support to the front line."

Air Marshal Sir Simon Bollom's last day at Abbey Wood was 29 April 2016 and Air Marshal Julian Young has replaced him as Chief of Materiel (Air), DECA's Customer lead in DE&S. Sir Simon has been a true advocate of both ECBU and more recently DECA and was instrumental in driving forward the retention strategy for DECA given his first-hand experience of the critical support the Agency provides. With a great deal of thanks, we wish Sir Simon all the very best for the future.

DECA industry accreditation

- ISO 9001-2008 - Quality Management System
LRQA accredited
- AS9100 Rev c - Aviation, space and Defence Quality Management System
LRQA accredited
- AS9110 Rev b - Aviation Maintenance Organisation Quality Management System
LRQA accredited
- UKAS 17025-2005 - Calibration Laboratory 0246
UKAS accredited since 2006
- UKAS 17020-2012 - Inspection Body 0428
UKAS accredited since 2006
- MIL 145 - Military Aviation Authority, Audited by The Civil Aviation Authority
Accredited since 2009
- NSA Approved Secure Facility - Security Approved to MOD Class 4
- HSAS 18001 - Occupational Health and Safety
- ISO 14001 - Environmental Management



DECA capability enhances product reliability, extends the life of legacy systems and delivers value to our customers. In this first edition of our newsletter we begin a series of features showcasing our capability.

Cylinder inspection and test

The cylinder inspection and test facility at DECA Stafford has a proud history as part of 217 Maintenance Unit (MU) at RAF Cardington from 1985. The facility migrated to 16 MU at RAF Stafford in 1999 becoming a stand-alone section in 2000. Here John Tipping, Cryogenic Manager details the service provided by his section.

Core activity at this bespoke facility involves the inspection, testing and re-certification of airborne and ground cylinders as well as pressure vessels. Over 70% of these cylinders are required for safety and life-saving systems for various in-service military platforms for the Tornado and Air Commodities Project Teams (PTs). We are currently working to develop new work packages within the Protected Mobility and International Guns, Missiles and Rocket PTs. We are also proud to be able to provide continued support on heritage platforms such as The Battle of Britain Memorial fight, Swordfish and prior to its recent final flight the last flying Vulcan Bomber.

Highly skilled technicians in the Airborne Bottle Bay achieved UKAS accreditation as a Type B Inspection Body in 2006, to meet rigorous Health & Safety and quality directives and have extended these to include meeting requirements under BS EN ISO/IEC 17020:2012.

Inspections can test cylinders up to a whopping 10,000psi hydrostatically and perform a final pressure test up to 4,960psi before issuing these back to our customers across defence and industry. The team offer exceptional service and support including a technical helpline.

New inspectors undergo comprehensive training covering all aspects of cylinder inspection and testing supported by industry standard courses.

Cylinder test capabilities

Composite cylinders

- welded carbon steel gas cylinders
- seamless aluminium alloy gas cylinders
- seamless steel gas cylinders
- Non-Destructive Testing (NDT)

Test criteria

- BS EN 1968:2002
- BS EN 1802:2002
- BS EN 1803:2002

Accreditations

- BS EN ISO/IEC 17020:2012 - Criteria for Inspection Bodies
- BS EN ISO 9001 - Quality Management Systems
- UK SI 19999:2001 - Pressure Systems Regulations
- UKSI 2007:1573 - The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2007
- Council Directive 1999/36/EC - Transportable Pressure Equipment
- Asset Code of Practice - Procedures for Approved Test Stations for inspection and test of transportable pressure receptacles for use with breathing and inert gases
- American Department of Transport (DoT)



Pictured above; The pressure test cell. Cylinders under test

Pictured right; Liferaft cylinders awaiting powdercoat



Dedicated test solutions

The dedicated test solutions facility, located at DECA Sealand, is the MOD's in-house Automatic Test Equipment (ATE) centre of excellence. In this article Pete Cassidy, ATE Development Engineer explains how our highly skilled engineers solve ATE problems by specifying and creating a full ATE test suite or simply providing impartial advice.

Pete explains, "ATE can be used to test various items such as Line Replaceable Items (LRIs), power supplies, circuit cards and chassis. A typical modern ATE test suite will usually consist of a computer running software to control a variety of instruments, which then apply signals and measure responses from the piece of equipment under test. The computer runs a Test Program which carries out the testing and reports the results to DECA operators."

"The Test Program and its associated hardware, called the Interface Test Adaptor (ITA), is known as a Test Program Set (TPS). The creation of these TPSs is where DECA Test Solutions' engineers are experts. Established and highly knowledgeable in developing low cost TPS/ATE solutions and understanding fully the critical importance of risk reduction management, our highly skilled teams can provide In-Circuit, High Speed Dynamic Digital, DC to 26 GHz and Analogue testing."

Pete continues by explaining, "The in-service life of some of the equipment we test can often outlast the life of the ATE. Another area where DECA excels is in "migrating" old TPSs onto more modern, supportable ATE that provide vital through-life obsolescence management of aging and legacy equipment where the only

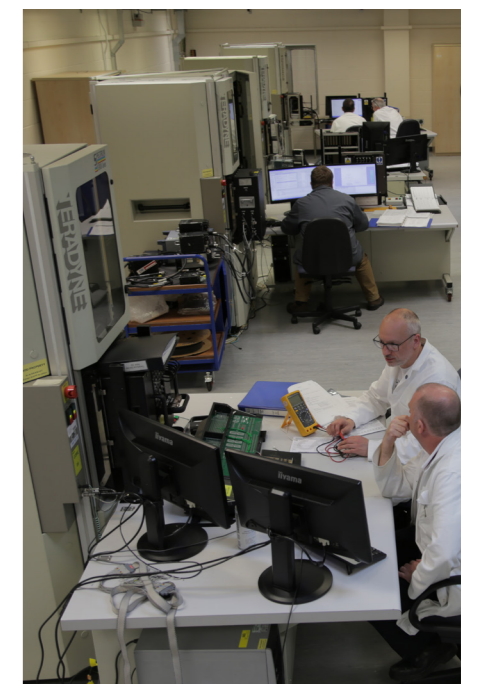
alternatives would be costly support solutions or even worse the need for development of replacement equipment. To date, we have successfully migrated over 1000 TPSs onto modern supportable ATE, successfully extending the life of many critical MOD equipments."

"The DECA team also create new TPSs to replace less efficient and older manual testing systems. We have recently re-hosted a large complex unmaintainable test system onto a well-supported, simple to use ATE. The reduction in testing time from two days to three hours provides a substantial cost saving and the new TPS has also added reliability and extended the support of the legacy system in service until their out of service date."

"In partnership with the MOD and Sphera Test & Services, DECA Test Solutions are leading the way in promoting and informing Project teams to adopt ATML and IEEE 1641 standards. This enables development of TPSs that conform to Defence Standard 66-31 and will allow long term support of equipment thorough the creation of Test Platform independent TPSs. New TPSs, some created from original source documents, are provided to MOD and industry partners helping semi-skilled operators to locate failing components using reverse trace

technology significantly speeding up diagnosis and repair times for complex circuit cards."

Pete concludes by saying, "The world of Test and ATE can be confusing, with a diverse range and types of test methodologies. DECA Test Solutions are providing a comprehensive Subject Matter Expert consultancy service for ATE testing to overcome customer issues."



DECA Automatic Test Equipment room housing MOD General Purpose Automatic Test Equipment

A first-hand experience of extensive electronics capability

Having launched DECA to the Defence community at DSEI 2015 in September, the former Minister for Defence Procurement (Min DP), Philip Dunne MP, visited the Sealand site and head office in November 2015.

In doing so, he was the first minister to visit DECA, demonstrating our growing status as an in-house strategic asset following retention within MOD. The visit provided DECA's Chief Executive, Geraint Spearing, the opportunity to brief him on the significant progress made since the Agency's formation and for DECA staff to further showcase DECA's capabilities.

Following an introductory meeting with the DECA Executive Management Board, Minister formally addressed staff at Sealand saying, "I've seen the opportunities here already at DECA, particularly in supporting the Air domain of the future, an opportunity which I know you will all grab."

Minister was also keen to highlight the hard work being undertaken at DECA to secure additional work, whilst DECA's place in these future avionics solutions matured stating, "I have encouraged DE&S to support DECA wherever they can to make sure there are enough hours to keep everybody fully engaged while we get these new opportunities on stream."

Minister finished his address with his own personal thank you to staff saying, "I just really wanted to congratulate you on standing up as an organisation and thank you for the work that you do in supporting so many platforms across the services. It's invaluable work and you're playing an utterly vital role every day in supporting our military right across the scope of what we do."

Following the address, Wayne Baker, Operations Director hosted the minister on a tour of the Sealand facility highlighting Sealand and Stafford capabilities and meeting some key members of staff as well as DECA apprentices. Minister was particularly impressed with the innovative 'repair not replace' solutions that were being taken forward with the Typhoon Project Team and the other future potential DECA growth opportunities in support of defence.



Former Min(DP) talks to a DECA apprentice about Standard Instruction Modification

Geraint Spearing concluded, "Philip Dunne is the first minister to visit DECA; a visit that has left him with a lasting, hugely positive impression of DECA, what it does and its place in supporting defence for the future."

“ Thank you for the work that you do in supporting so many platforms across the services ”



Jason Cook (centre) showcasing DECA Stafford capability to Min(DP)



“ It's invaluable work and you're playing an utterly vital role every day in supporting our military ”

Pictured L-R; Operations Director, Wayne Baker explains the Coordinating Measurement Machine to former Min(DP), Philip Dunne, MP

In addition to the formation of the new Executive Management Board, the separation of DECA from the Defence Support Group has seen the development of a revised governance structure being established to ensure the business is effectively managed in line with Government policy.

DECA Steering Group

The DECA Steering Group is chaired by the Director General Head Office and Commissioning Services (DG(HOCS)) who has delegated responsibility for oversight of DECA on behalf of MOD's Permanent Under Secretary and the former Minister for Defence Procurement.

The Steering Group provides advice to the Minister for Defence Procurement and DG (HOCS) on the review and setting of DECA's strategic objectives and Agency performance as well as the approval of the Corporate Plan and major business decisions. The Steering Group meet up to three times during the year and membership includes Chief of Materiel (Air), DECA's MOD non executive director (NED) as well as DECA's Chief Executive and Chairman.

DECA Board

Our Board comprises an independent non-executive chairman, Alex Jablonowski, two independent non-executive directors (NEDs), Peter Shortt and

Tim Walton and a Departmental NED, Elliot Brinkworth as well as the DECA Chief Executive, Geraint Spearing, Finance Director, Lin Longman and Head of Strategy Governance and Secretariat, Jason Leeks. Our initial Departmental NED, David English has moved on to a new role in Dstl and we would like to thank David for his expertise and support from DSG through to the launch of DECA.

The DECA Board provides expert advice, challenge and guidance to the Executive Management Board including reviewing the performance of DECA against the Corporate Plan, DECA's risk appetite and controls for risk management as well as developing and endorsing the Corporate Plan and Annual Report and Accounts. The Executive Management Board continues to be responsible for leading, directing and managing the Agency to ensure the business operates safely to achieve delivery of these targets and objectives agreed through the ministerially approved Corporate Plan.

Board sub-committees

DECA's Board has two sub-committees, the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) and the Remuneration and Nomination Committee (RENCO).

The ARAC is chaired by our independent NED, Peter Shortt, and its main responsibilities are to support the Board and Chief Executive, as Accounting Officer, in monitoring DECA's corporate governance and risk and control systems.

The RENCO is chaired by our other independent NED, Tim Walton, and its main responsibilities are to advise the DECA Chair on appointments to the Board and additionally to advise the Owner, Chief Executive and Board on matters relating to DECA's pay and reward strategy. Further details on DECA's purpose, and role, together with the governance, policy and financial parameters that guide its day-to-day operations can be found in the DECA Framework Document on the DECA website, www.gov.uk/deca

In focus Chairman Alex Jablonowski

Alex Jablonowski is chairman of the DECA board. Here Alex details the wealth of experience he brings to this role.

Alex tells us, "I have been an independent board member and chair, mainly in government, for over ten years now, having previously served thirty years with Barclays Bank PLC in the UK and overseas. This was an exciting and rewarding time that even allowed me time to co-author a book, "The Art of Better Retail Banking" as well as continuing to chair a small software company.

"During this time I have gained valuable commercial, non-executive and government experience that has served me particularly well in my previous non-executive director roles on the boards of the Veterans Agency, Highways Agency, VOSA, Office of National Statistics, House of Commons and the Supreme Court. I am also currently still a non-executive director on the boards of the Valuation Office Agency, Maritime Coastguard Agency and Wilton Park.

"Some readers will remember that more recently I chaired the Defence

Support Group Trading Fund Board in the years leading up to the sale to Babcock including endorsing the decision that saw DECA retained within MOD."

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as DECA's non-executive chairman. A year that has seen increasing importance being placed in DECA by MOD that bodes well for the Agency's future. I have also been pleased to be able to meet many of you on 'walkabouts' at Stafford and Sealand and look forward to meeting many more of you in the future as we continue this exciting journey together!"

DECA BOARD



Alex Jablonowski
Independent
Non-Executive Chairman



Elliot Brinkworth
Departmental
Non-Executive Director



Peter Shortt
Independent
Non-Executive Director



Tim Walton
Independent
Non-Executive Director



Lin Longman
Finance Director



Geraint Spearing
Chief Executive



Jason Leeks
Head of Strategy



Ian Doughty
Support Services Director



Wayne Baker
Operations Director



Keith Pavett
Commercial and
Contracts Director



Ian Cole
Business Development
Director

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Celebrating 100 years at Sealand



1916 to 2016: 100 years at Sealand



Angela standing with the Timeline display in building 13

Many of you will already be aware that Sealand has a long and illustrious history supporting defence. To celebrate this, and with the site reaching a very significant historic landmark this year, a timeline has been developed and is displayed at Sealand.

The project to develop the timeline was led by Angela Beale who helped researched the information.

Talking about the project Angela said, "We used a mixture of published articles, books, old brochures, photo albums and the RAF station Magazine, 'The Sealand Roundabout' to gather information about Sealand's history. We also trawled the RAF museum for photographs and sifted through news articles detailing the closure

of RAF Sealand, the formation of the Defence Aviation and Repair Agency (DARA), DARA's merger with ABRO to form the Defence Support Group and finally the establishment of DECA as an Executive Agency. We also found various plaques and picture boards dotted around the site which provided fascinating information regarding important visits and the construction of some of the iconic buildings on the site."

"I have really enjoyed working on the timeline and I am grateful for the opportunity. Not only have we created something special for staff and visitors to Sealand, but on a personal note, I have learned so much about our history. Seeing how the Sealand site began and developed through time and the events and the work that have taken place here over the last 100

years, I am filled with immense pride to be part of it. I hope we have many more years to add to it.

"I am very pleased and honoured to have been given the opportunity to help create the Sealand timeline, especially now we are celebrating its 100 year anniversary.

"A lot of people are unaware of Sealand's historical significance in aviation history, so it is appropriate that we celebrate its achievements throughout the years."

If anyone would like to view the fruits of the projects labours, and learn a bit more about Sealand at the same time, you can find the timeline on the wall of Building 13, outside Test Solutions, and in Conference Room 1 in Building 15.

Staff achievements

Marathon success for John

John Evans from DECA Stafford finished three marathons recently including the prestigious London marathon.

He completed the Chester marathon finishing in a very commendable 4 hours and 52 minutes and his hometown Stafford half marathon in 1 hour 33 minutes,

a personal best. In April, John completed the London Marathon finishing in 3 hours 47 minutes.

Talking about his recent achievements, John said, "Finishing these events has given me a great sense of personal achievement; one that I share with the friends and family who supported me.

"Completing the London Marathon was an amazing experience; the support during the race is

unsurpassed, helping to drive you through the course."

John, who works in Business support, is a keen runner and has trained hard in preparation for the events.

Well done John!



Tough Mudder trio

Danny Avery, Rob Parkes and Stephanie Quayle from DECA Sealand successfully completed Tough Mudder North West.

The gruelling 11.5 mile military-style assault course included electrocution, barbed wire, 15-foot high walls, immersion in ice water, and lots and lots of mud!

Along with their team-mates Danny, Rob and Stephanie raised over £2,400 for Cancer Research UK

Danny said, "I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone from DECA who contributed and supported us and this great cause."

Well done!

Pictured L-R Danny, Rob and Stephanie at the finish line

Appeal Easter egg collection

DECA staff collected 240 Easter Eggs for the Countess of Chester Hospital.

The eggs were donated to the Babygrow appeal that is dedicated to raising over £3 million to build a new Neonatal unit on the site.

Fund raisers at the hospital were thrilled to receive the eggs in aid

of their appeal and thanked DECA staff for their hard work and help.

Pictured top; DECA staff with the Easter egg collection.

Pictured bottom; DECA staff delivering the Easter Eggs to fund raisers at the Countess of Chester Hospital

