

DEFENCE SUPPLIERS FORUM MAIN MEETING

23 March 2021

ATTENDEES

Government

Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP – Secretary of State for Defence
Jeremy Quin MP – Minister for Defence Procurement
Sir Simon Bollom – DE&S CEO
Air Mshl Richard Knighton – DCDS (Mil CAP)
Damian Parmenter – SPO DSIS Review Director
Andrew Forzani – CCO
Huw Walters – SPO ESP Director
Jim Carter – SDA Comrcl HQ Director
Morag Stuart – DE&S Comrcl DG
Helen Sawford – SSM Hd
Alexandra Bailey – SPM Hd
Mark Goldsack – Director Defence Security Exports, Dept. for International Trade
Dave Coggins – DSF PMO TL
Emma Baker-Webb – DSF PMO
Hannah Weir – DSF PMO
Ceri Hutchinson – DSF PMO

Industry

Charles Woodburn – CEO, BAE Systems
Norman Bone – CEO, Leonardo UK
Jon Hall – Chief Innovation and Technology Office, Babcock
John Howie – Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Babcock and Director SMI
Richard Franklin – MD, Airbus Defence and Space UK
Steve Wadey – CEO, QinetiQ
Chris Allam - MD, MBDA UK
Peter Ruddock – CEO, Lockheed Martin UK
Paul Livingston – CEO (as 01 April), Lockheed Martin UK
Steve Rowbotham – COO, GDUK
Jeffrey Lewis – CEO and MD, Raytheon
Anna Keeling – MD, Boeing Defence UK
Andy Start – CEO Government Services, Capita
Andrew Barrie – President Government Solutions EMEA, KBR
Simon Fovargue – CEO, Leidos UK
Rupert Soames – Group CEO, Serco
Alex Zino – Director Business Development and Future Programmes, Rolls Royce
Alex Cresswell – CEO and Chairman, Thales UK
Simon Pryce – CEO, Ultra Electronics

Jon White – Sales Director Europe, GE Aviation
Tim Gibson – VP Defence and National Security, Fujitsu
Magnus Lewis-Olsson - Chairman, Saab UK
Michael Ord – CEO, Chemring
Andrew Naismith – MD, CAE UK
Nick Chaffey – CEO UK and Europe, Northrop Grumman
Monty Long – Business development Director, BMT
Neil Skelland - Head of Government Relations, Atlas Elektronik UK
Andrew Thomis – CEO, Cohort
Mark Baker – MD Government and Agencies, Sodexo
Neil Timms – Senior VP Space Defence and Intelligence, CGI
Graeme Mackay – VP, L3Harris UK
Katherine Williams – Head of Public Affairs, Marshall ADG
Rob Humphries – Director of Business Development, Marshall ADG
Kevin Craven – Interim ADS CEO
Andrew Kinniburgh – Director General, NDI
Fred Sugden – Head of Defence Programme, techUK
Andy Johnston – Defence Policy Advisor – ADS
Andrew Cowdery – Defence Growth Partnership

Item 1: Welcome and Introductory remarks

1.1 Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP, The Secretary of State for Defence, and Jeremy Quin MP Minister for Defence Procurement, welcomed representatives from across MOD and Industry.

Item 2: Integrated Review / Defence Command Paper

2.1 The Secretary of State highlighted that the reform and renewal of our Armed Forces will underpin a stronger, more secure, prosperous, and resilient Union bound by three fundamental interests in sovereignty, security, and prosperity.

2.2 He noted key challenges including cyber vulnerability and expressed his determination to make sure the Armed Forces were configured to face future challenges, with a commitment to rapid modernisation, shipbuilding, and accelerated research and development, which will drive strategic advantage and create new foundations for prosperity across the whole UK.

2.3 We have committed at least £6.6 billion to accelerated research and development to drive strategic advantage, outpace adversaries, and give us a decisive edge as a global science power. Some capabilities will be retired earlier. reassured by Secretary of State and the papers' acknowledgment of the importance of generating a sustainable defence industrial base. The Defence industry recognises they have a role to play in the commitments made in the Command Paper and look forward to working closely with MOD.

2.5 Industry also welcomes a commitment within the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy (DSIS) to a departure from global competition by default and a move to a more flexible approach to acquisition as a means to delivering and growing the onshore skills the UK needs going forward.

2.6 Industry noted the concept of operational independence contained within the paper and asked how this compared with sovereign independence. Secretary of State advised that we wanted to be interoperable with our partners and allies, but we also wanted to be able to operate independently if we chose, citing recent experience in Hormuz where due to other priorities we were left with valuable assets in theatre but limited ISR.

2.7 Secretary of State noted that he is determined to build on the Levene model, improve our acquisition processes, and particularly requirement setting where it drives overspend or over specification. TLB leads have a responsibility to give Industry a clear direction of travel.

Item 3: Defence and Security Industrial Strategy

3.1 Secretary of State welcomed the Minister of Defence Procurement, congratulating him on a successful announcement in Parliament. Minister Quin explained that the defence industry is a strategic asset to the country and DSIS

recognises this as well as the contribution Industry makes to the prosperity of our Union.

3.2 He noted that since his announcement in the Commons, commentary had focused on two key headlines; Naval procurement and ending the 'global competition by default' policy. However, he advised that DSIS is broader than that and MOD will give more clarity as we go forward. He encouraged all to read the Annex to the report as this sets out more details on where we are expecting to be working with Industry in the decade ahead and beyond.

3.3 Minister Quin continued by explaining that whilst competition will remain an important tool to drive value for money in many areas, and in the supply chain, DSIS will provide the framework for greater flexibility in designing capability and acquisition strategies to deliver and grow onshore skills, technologies and capabilities.

3.4 He also highlighted the determination to provide greater support to UK Industry in winning business overseas. He encouraged industry to be demanding of MOD in helping to drive this outcome.

3.5 Minister Quin concluded with a commitment to work closely with industry as we implement the recommendations of this policy and realise its benefits.

Item 4: Closing remarks

4.1 The Secretary of State reminded all that the UK is the biggest Defence spender in Europe and that UK prosperity matters. He thanked everyone for their time, advising that he aims to meet more in person in 2021.