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# desider

**Issue 153**  
**May 2021**

*the magazine for  
defence equipment  
and support*



**DE&S sparks  
development of new  
NATO multi-role  
helicopter**

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# Foreword

By Sir Simon Bollom, CEO



— “ —  
**We are pivotal in  
pioneering a world-class  
defence for the UK**  
— ” —

Following the ambitious Integrated Review and the associated Defence Command Paper and Defence and Security Industrial Strategy, we have an important role in turning the strategy into reality.

This investment in Defence will enable the UK to accelerate the development and acquisition of next-generation and innovative capabilities faster and more efficiently, while supporting skills and economic growth across the UK. DE&S is central to the development of this. We are pivotal in pioneering a world-class defence for the UK. We must be agile and adaptable to the rapidly changing character of conflict and global engagement. The Integrated Review signals a pivot towards the technologies and industrial capabilities needed and DE&S must invest in these capabilities. It is an exciting time of great change and renewed energy.

In an era of systemic competition and changing threats, the upcoming Carrier Strike Group's (CSG21) maiden operational deployment will bolster the UK's ability to deliver its defence, foreign policy and trade objectives alongside key allies. CSG21 will comprise the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, Type 45 destroyers, Type 23 anti-submarine frigates, tanker and support ships, F-35B Lightning II fast jets, and Wildcat and Merlin helicopters. It makes me extremely proud to know that our talented people, across the whole of the organisation, have played a huge part in providing this to our Armed Forces. But it doesn't finish here. The Group will travel more than 26,000 nautical miles throughout its deployment to

the Indo-Pacific region and the task of sustaining the Carrier Strike Group with vital stores and technical support will be a 24/7 task for our teams.

COVID 19 has accelerated the move to new ways of working and we have shown that we can work either remotely, in person or a hybrid of the two. Keeping the business needs and our people's safety in mind, I encourage you all to support one another with personalised ways of working. It is our people that are at the heart of what we do and we must champion our decisions as we maintain the delivery of premium equipment and support.

The exceptional work of our people was recently recognised at the Minister for Defence Procurement Acquisition awards. I was proud to see that our performance, innovation, effort and commitment in the field of acquisition with DE&S teams receiving seven of the awards.

I would also like to highlight the recent success of our apprentices and graduates who raised £10,000 for the Princes Trust charity and were recognized with the Dream Team Award. It is inspiring to learn of their hard work and commitment to raising money for young people. Very well done.

Finally, I should mark the passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip. The Duke of Edinburgh epitomised commitment and duty and remained devoted to the Armed Forces throughout his life. Let us all mirror his dedication as we continue to provide the very best equipment and support for our Armed Forces.

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[www.gov.uk/government/publications/desider-2021](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/desider-2021)

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## Printing

*desider* is distributed free to DE&S employees and the equipment capability organisations. Copies may be sent to readers outside MOD, including in the defence industries and is published on the world wide web via GOV.UK and [www.des.mod.uk](http://www.des.mod.uk). While the editor takes care to ensure all material produced is accurate, no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Views expressed in *desider*, and products and services advertised, are not necessarily endorsed by DE&S or the MOD. All editorial submissions must be cleared by the relevant MOD authorities.

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## On the cover

Image shows an RAF Bell 212 helicopter in transit. New NATO helicopter not pictured

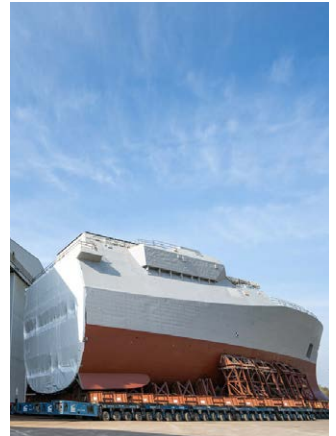
(Sgt 'Matty' Matthews RAF)



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## Chris Bushell, Director General Land, talks to Desider about the future of defence.



As you will all be aware, the long-awaited Integrated Review (IR) has now been released. The IR sets out a vision for Global Britain in a more competitive age. It outlines a new framework that defines the UK's national security and international objectives.

Following the IR, the Defence Command Paper (DCP) and the Defence and Security Industrial Strategy review (DSIS) were also published. The DCP underpins the IR's vision for a stronger, more secure, prosperous and resilient nation. This paper sets out the detailed outcomes from the IR and the changes to our equipment programme.

The DCP follows up on the commitment to rapid modernisation, shipbuilding and accelerated research and development in Defence, driving strategic advantage and prosperity for the UK. It also reinforces the importance of being more proactive and adaptable, engaging with partners to protect our people and compete with our adversaries. DSIS provides the new policy foundation for the way in which we will approach acquisition in the context of the IR.

Engaging with our industrial and international partners on what the IR means to them will be critical and will be pivotal to our success going forward.

Following any review of this scale there will be a degree of uncertainty. The IR, DSIS and CDP all describe how we must change in order to be able to adapt quickly to the new and evolving threats of a more competitive age and the

opportunities of a Global Britain.

Change can be unsettling, but there will be many new opportunities created as a result of the IR. What is clear is that we will need to be flexible and reconfigure quickly to accommodate the evolving Defence landscape and match the demands of our customers.

As we move forward together into a new financial year, we can anticipate that in the future our Armed Forces will be more persistently engaged around the globe. They will be a more productive, relevant and ready force, supporting UK interests around the world with a more consistent and focused global presence, while being ready to reconfigure for war-fighting with decisive, lethal effect if required. To do this they need our continued drive and determination to succeed.

To assist us the new DE&S Strategy will soon be published. The key tenets of which will percolate down throughout the business to every level and function. The strategy will realign our strategic direction, vision and areas of focus for the next four years. This will be an exciting and challenging time for us all. I know that together, with DE&S' unfailing commitment and steadfast determination, we will continue to succeed, evolve and deliver to meet the needs of our Armed Forces, now and in the future.

“  
**I know that together, with DE&S' unfailing commitment and steadfast determination, we will continue to succeed, evolve and deliver to meet the needs of our Armed Forces, now and in the future.**  
”

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# HMS Glasgow one step closer to completion

The aft block and bow of the first City Class Type 26 frigate have now joined together bringing HMS Glasgow another step closer to completion.

The forward section of HMS Glasgow – known as the bow – contains the bridge, operations room and accommodation spaces and was manoeuvred into position in just 90 minutes on the hardstand at the Govan yard.

Pat Browning, DE&S Type 26 Programme Team Leader, said: "The Type 26 is a highly capable anti-submarine warfare warship designed for joint and multinational operations across the full spectrum of warfare and will serve at the heart of the Royal Navy's surface fleet for decades to come."

"The roll out of the forward section of HMS Glasgow; the first of the Type 26 class, hails a landmark moment for this cutting-edge vessel and a huge step forward for the programme. I pay tribute to the hard work and skill of all those involved in the design and manufacture of this ship".

The bow was later followed by the aft block that contains the versatile mission bay and hangar which is capable of supporting helicopters, boats, mission loads and disaster relief stores, while the flight deck is capable of landing a Chinook helicopter for transport of embarked forces.

HMS Glasgow is the first in a new generation of cutting-edge Type 26 frigates, designed and built in the ship's namesake city. Supporting more than 4,000 jobs across the UK, the programme is making a significant contribution to the nation's economic recovery by maintaining much-needed skills and capabilities.

Simon Lister, Managing Director of BAE Systems' Naval Ships business, said: "The emergence of HMS Glasgow is a very proud moment for everyone involved and is testament to the skills and passion of our workforce.

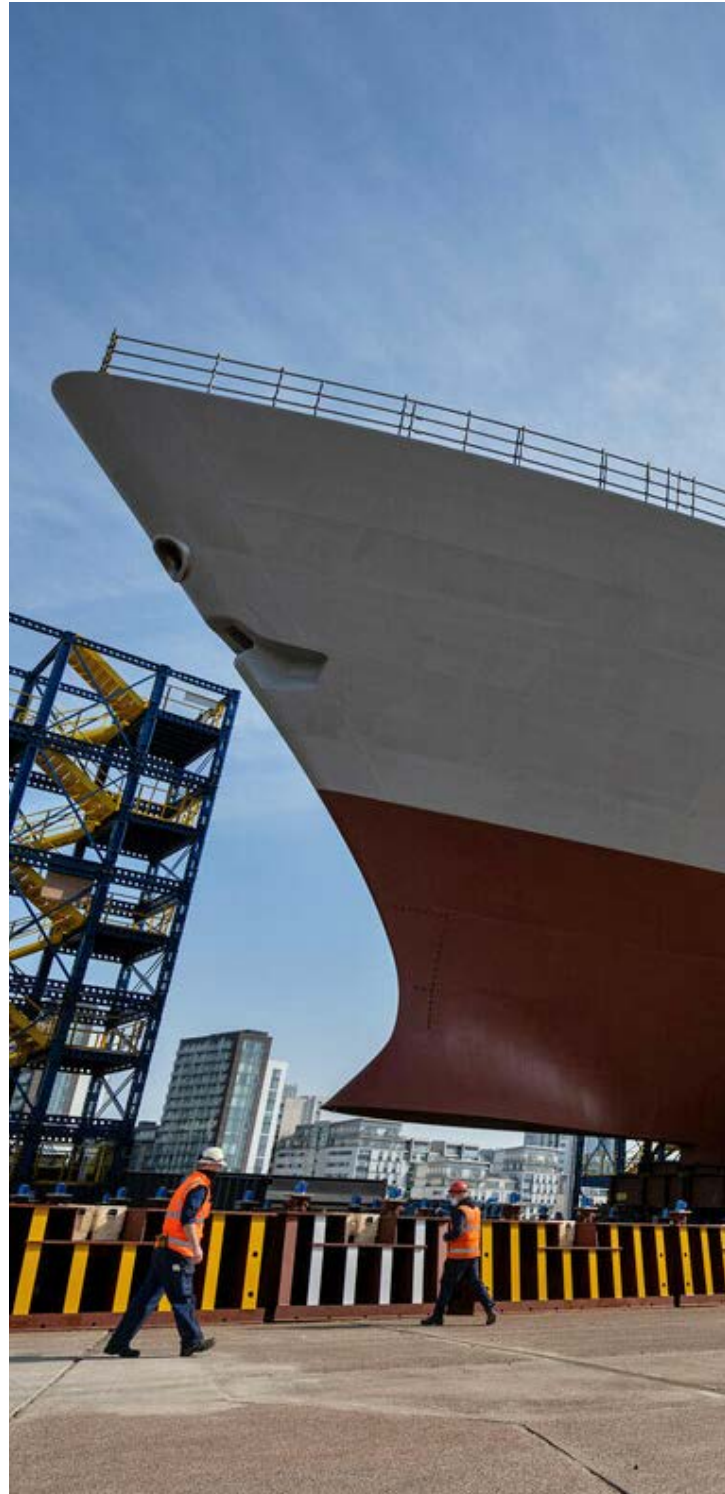
"The roll out is a huge milestone for the Type 26 programme. It's evidence of our solid progress in building the first of a new class and presents an opportunity for us to celebrate the progress being made with our colleagues, our suppliers, our customer and the City of Glasgow."

While HMS Glasgow moves out into the open air for the first time, work continues on the second in class, HMS Cardiff, with construction to start on HMS Belfast later in the year.

The Type 26 frigate is an advanced anti-submarine warship that will deliver critical protection of the Royal Navy's Continuous at Sea Deterrent and Carrier Strike Group. The ships will replace the UK's Type 23 frigates, with the first set to enter service in the mid-2020s.

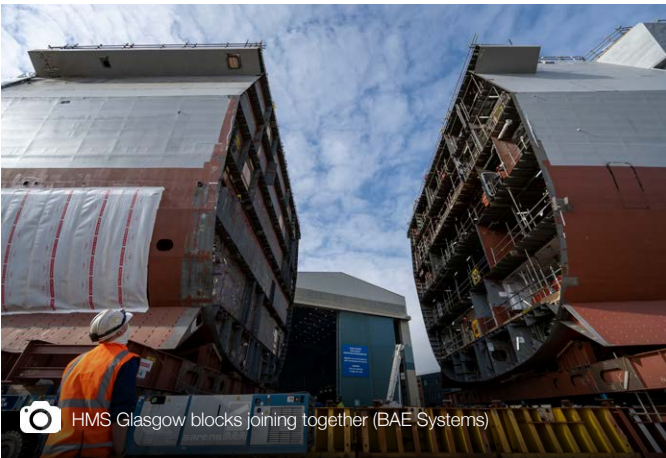
Each Type 26 will be equipped with a range of world-class capabilities including the Sea Ceptor missile defence system, a 5-inch medium calibre gun, flexible mission bay, Artisan 997 Medium Range Radar, and towed array sonars. The flight deck will be able to accommodate helicopters up to the size of a Chinook, while the mission bay can quickly adapt to house and deploy vessels, vehicles and containers.

The Type 26 is the original variant of BAE Systems' Global Combat Ship, which supports a close partnership between the Royal Navy, Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy. Australia and Canada both selected a variant of the Type 26 design for their anti-submarine frigate programmes, supporting greater procurement, operational, training and intelligence ties between the three nations.



“The Type 26 is a highly capable anti-submarine warfare warship designed for joint and multinational operations across the full spectrum of warfare

Pat Browning, DE&S Type 26 Programme Team Leader



## New Combat Water Supply System delivered to British Army

DE&S Operational Infrastructure Team have successfully delivered the first elements of the new Combat Water Supply System to the Field Army. The first 14 sets of the Modular equipment have been received by DE&S' delivery partner KBR, to manage into service and through the first five years of service life.

Major Gary Allen, Military Engineering Infrastructure delivery team, said: "This equipment represents a step change in capability, with each set, allowing Field Army to deliver up to 1,800 litres per hour of potable and palatable fresh water into the field and replaces the aged and now obsolete Water Purification Unit. The new system can also be deployed across the globe from the arctic to the desert.

The new equipment allows the Army to "stop managing the equipment and start managing the water." It's testament to the hard work of the combined Army Headquarters and DE&S team that the project was delivered

through all the uncertainty and challenges of COVID-19 which saw manufacturers, both UK and EU-based, temporarily shut down and key suppliers, linked to medical and key industries, working at reduced capacity. The government restrictions had to be overcome in order to deliver the training package and complete acceptance tests to ensure progress and delivery of the project remotely." Gary, added: "The declaration of Initial Operating Capability in January 2021 has marked an achievement that has been possible due to the drive and commitment of the Delivery Team but also due to the Strong and collaborative relationship with our Customer."

The modular equipment is the first of three stages of the project to be delivered by KBR as part of a £39 million supply and support contract. The next stages include the demonstration and manufacture of the force level water supply and packaging plants which will contribute to achieve Full Operating Capability in 2025.



Picture shows new Combat Water Supply System (pic submitted)

## HMS Tamar receives iconic wartime paint scheme

An iconic paint scheme has been applied to Royal Navy warship – HMS Tamar – for the first time since World War 2.

DE&S worked at pace alongside A&P Falmouth and BAE Systems to deliver the unique paint scheme

that includes different shades of black, white and grey in an irregular and jarring pattern.

The new Offshore Patrol Vessel's (OPV) 'dazzle camouflage' was first introduced by the Royal Navy towards the end of World

War 1 and adopted by many of the world's navies at the time. The different shapes, angles and colours were chosen to confuse submariners peering through periscopes and make it hard for them to identify ships as well as

confuse their calculations about the target's speed and direction.

Tamar entered service last year and has been given this iconic new look before being deployed later in the year.



HMS Tamar with new 'dazzle' paint scheme pictured in the water in Falmouth (Crown copyright)



## Queen Elizabeth Class carriers most capable yet

As HMS Prince of Wales prepares for her departure on operational training and sea trials, another major milestone for the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers has been achieved, thanks to the efforts of the UK Missions Systems Enterprise, including the MOD and wider industry.

The recent successful installation of HMS Prince of Wales' innovative Shared Infrastructure (SI) networks and an integrated facility to trial systems (known as a sandbox) delivers a secure private cloud on warships. With new agile approaches to installation, integration, assurance and trials, this has enabled the rapid insertion of scalable computing technology and an accompanying sandbox, allowing the Royal Navy

to host, trial and deploy new mission capabilities on one single, reliable digital platform.

Also installed in her sister ship, HMS Queen Elizabeth, the technology and collaboration endeavour will continue as Shared Infrastructure is rolled out to other ships involved in Carrier Strike Group, such as the Type 23 Frigates and Type 45 Destroyers.

Reflecting on the recent HMS Prince of Wales achievement, Captain Kevin Noakes of DE&S Maritime Combat Systems, commented: "A global, modern and ready Royal Navy continues to require warships capable of dealing with the full gamut of future threats. The latest app hosting capability afforded by the open architecture of MOD's Shared Infrastructure enables

HMS Prince of Wales to be agile in its operation and adaptable in configuration, fully exploiting the force multipliers of autonomy and artificial intelligence in its delivery of operations around the world."

Amelia Gould, Naval Ships Combat Systems Director, BAE Systems, added:

"This is a great example of the skill and dedication demonstrated by each and every member of the UK Mission Systems Enterprise. Working hand-in-glove to overcome immense challenges to deliver state-of-the art capability to our nation's defence through an unprecedented pandemic has made us stronger, more agile and better positioned to support the Royal Navy's future evolution requirements."



Captain Kevin Noakes RN and Amelia Gould, Naval Ships Combat Systems Director, BAE Systems on board HMS Prince of Wales with some of her ship's crew (BAE Systems)

## Investment sets new standard in Training, Test and Evaluation

The addition of three new state-of-the-art helicopters at MOD Boscombe Down will deliver unrivalled training, testing and evaluation capabilities to a British training school for test pilots and flight test engineers of fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft at MOD Boscombe Down.

Under the Long Term Partnering Agreement, DE&S and Qinetiq have worked with RAF Air and Space Warfare

Centre to deliver this capability. The investment will provide pilots, engineers and aircrew access to advanced, systems-rich helicopters that are fitted with an integrated Electro-Optical and Infra-Red (EO/IR) camera turrets and a modern, complex avionics suite, deploying the latest, innovative technologies for helicopter training.

All courses at the training school comply with European

Aviation Safety Agency regulations and is one of only three flight test schools in the world – and the first in the UK – to be recognised as an EASA Approved Training Organisation.

The investment is part of the wider £16.5 billion modernisation efforts to provide UK armed forces with the latest technologies for training and deployment.

# Paying tribute to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

**Following the announcement of the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on 9 April 2021, DE&S pays its respects to the late Prince Philip.**

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh had a close personal relationship with the Armed Forces throughout his life and will be greatly missed. His Royal Highness was hugely significant in the Armed Forces having served operationally himself for many years and was respected by all who served alongside him and after him.

HRH Prince Philip enjoyed an active Naval career between 1939 and 1951 and was a Veteran of the Second World War. In 1942 at the age of 21, he became one of the youngest first lieutenants in the Royal Navy.

Since ending his active Naval career, The Duke of Edinburgh kept a close connection to the Armed Forces and in 1953 was promoted to Admiral of the Fleet and appointment Field Marshal and Marshal of the Royal Air Force. Until 2017 HRH was also Captain General of the Royal Marines, a role currently held by Her Majesty the Queen. He was also Colonel and Colonel-in-Chief of a number of British and overseas regiments.

The Armed Forces are proud to have taken part in the commemorations to mark his passing and DE&S were extremely proud to support the requirement for the 41 gun salute.

Gun salutes have been fired to mark significant national events since as early as at least the 18th century. Defence Munitions Gosport provided the munition cartridges for the portable saluting gun used by the Royal Naval team in Portsmouth and the blank cartridges were fired to produce a loud sound and create smoke.

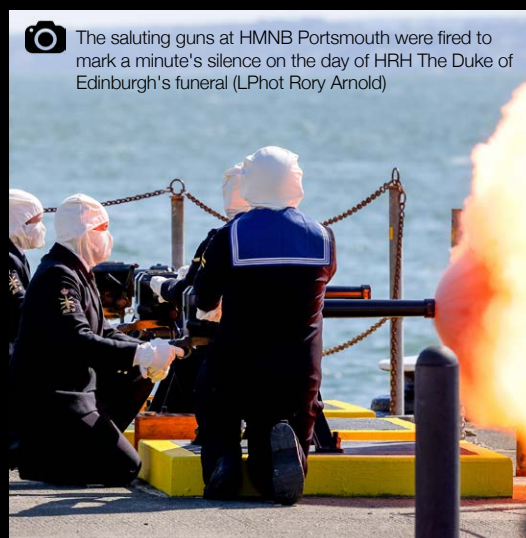
The salutes for the Duke took place in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast, as well as Gibraltar and from Royal Navy warships HMS Diamond and HMS Montrose.



Photo by Andrew Linnett



Prince Philip visiting Abbey Wood in 2015  
by Andrew Linnett



The saluting guns at HMNB Portsmouth were fired to mark a minute's silence on the day of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's funeral (LPhoto Rory Arnold)



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# DE&S sparks development of new NATO multi-role helicopter



Image shows an RAF Bell 212 helicopter in transit. New NATO helicopter not pictured. Photo by Sgt 'Matty' Matthews RAF (Crown copyright)

It started with an “interesting science and technology study” initiated by DE&S.

Now NATO is on a path to develop a new medium, multi-role helicopter to serve the UK and its allies.

France, Germany, Greece and Italy have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to collaborate with the UK on Next-Generation Rotorcraft Capabilities (NGRC), dedicated to modernise existing fleets.

Several military helicopters including Merlin will reach the end of their life cycles from 2035 and beyond, meaning replacements need to be developed.

NGRC aims to provide the solution, and experts from all five nations will define a robust statement of requirements and multi-phase co-operation plan before pushing on to make the vision a reality.

The idea has significant roots at DE&S. In late 2011, Adrian Baguley, then Director Helicopters, asked Pat Collins, who was on secondment from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) in the Science Gateway role, to investigate what other nations were planning in terms of helicopter development for 2030 and beyond.

Pat initiated a study under the NATO Science & Technology

Organisation's Applied Vehicle Technology (AVT) panel to determine future rotorcraft requirements, eventually leading to a conference on the subject in 2015. Not only did Pat chair the conference, he also supported the NGRC Team of Experts that was later formed.

Numerous meetings were held with NATO bodies in 2018 and 2019 where it was recognised that NGRC provided the opportunity to develop an innovative solution collaboratively across nations. The LOI was signed by the five nations in November, 2020.

NGRC is now in its pre-concept stage. The concept stage, which will see considerable involvement from industry, is expected to be in train by 2022.

The long-term aim is for the first aircraft to be delivered to customers, which may include the Royal Navy and Joint Helicopter Command, from around 2035, with evolved versions from 2045.

Now the technical advisor to project NGRC - led by Capability Air Manoeuvre from Army HQ - Pat said: “Personally, seeing this vision become a reality would be a great way to finish my long career in rotorcraft.

“This activity started out as an interesting science and technology study and has developed to the point where we are leading what

could become the next generation European medium multi-role rotorcraft.

“This would not only allow NATO nations to tailor the design to their specific requirements but would also help to re-energise interest in advanced rotorcraft within European industry.”

NGRC will follow a Modular Open System Approach, the benefits of which include incorporating innovation, enabling cost savings and improving interoperability.

It will incorporate advanced artificial intelligence technologies and have the potential to operate with or without crew. It will also be designed to require minimal maintenance and demonstrate high levels of availability.

DE&S Director Helicopter, Keith Bethell said: “People within the Helicopters Operating Centre have played a key and leading role in driving forward this future NATO capability, which brings together our long-standing allies to address a key emerging requirement. The NGRC programme will provide exciting opportunities for technological advancements, and should represent a step change in our next generation rotary wing capabilities.”

“  
**This would not only allow NATO nations to tailor the design to their specific requirements but would also help to re-energise interest in advanced rotorcraft within European industry.**

”  
Pat Collins, DE&S Helicopters Technology team leader and technical advisor to Next-Generation Rotorcraft Capabilities



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# DE&S success at Minister Defence Procurement Acquisition Awards

**The annual Minister Defence Procurement (Min DP) Acquisition Awards recognises teams from across defence for their exceptional performance, innovation, effort and commitment in the field of acquisition.**

Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, the Awards were created to recognise and commend the achievements of teams that demonstrate outstanding contributions in the acquisition field throughout Defence.

The awards are the highest accolade teams can achieve within this field and surpass any other departmental commendation. This year, to accommodate for the exceptional circumstances presented by COVID-19, the awards were held virtually. Director of Defence Acquisition and Approvals Transformation, Caroline Boughton acted as Master of Ceremonies and presenter of awards, alongside Minister for Defence Procurement, Jeremy Quin, who formally opened the ceremony and presented the 'Top Award'.

This year saw seven DE&S teams rewarded for their outstanding achievements, two of which were jointly awarded the prestigious 'Top Award' presented to teams that represents the most exceptional performance in the Defence acquisition community. The winners of the Top Award were the DE&S Type 31 Programme Team for their

innovative and collaborative work, and the DE&S COVID-19 Support Teams for their exceptional support to wider government throughout the pandemic.

In addition, the DE&S COVID-19 Support Teams were also recognised in a newly introduced award that acknowledges the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic.

The 'Support to the Covid Pandemic' award was created in recognition of Defence's support to the nation's COVID-19 response. The DE&S COVID-19 Support Teams were chosen collectively as the winning team for the proactive way in which they assisted the NHS and wider country, developing and procuring essential specialist equipment, as well as assisting in providing medical cover and distribution.

Congratulating all those recognised, Jeremy Quin, said: "On behalf of the whole of MOD, I would like to offer these teams, and all our award winners today, my sincerest gratitude for your outstanding work."

## Acquisition Awards 2021:

### 1. Type 31 Programme Team, DE&S DG Ships and Navy Command.

Learning lessons from other acquisition programmes, the team defined an innovative procurement strategy and embodied best practice, forming a deal that secured the fastest schedule and best price to deliver the capability the Royal Navy needs. The team attained cross-Government investment approvals and subsequently delivered – six weeks early – a Design & Build contract, modernising UK shipbuilding infrastructure, investing heavily in the UK supply chain, adding significant social value within the UK, including the Rosyth area of Scotland, all within a firm/fixed price contract with incentives to drive the right behaviours from the contractor. Moreover, the team have enhanced the collaboration between the Royal Navy and its delivery agent; proving the One Team method.

### 2. P-8A Poseidon, DE&S and DG Air.

The efforts of the joint DE&S and RAF P-8A team were recognised for the timely acquisition of a £2Bn fixed-wing maritime patrol capability for the RAF. With five of nine aircraft already delivered and crews trained, the DE&S team enabled the declaration of Initial Operating Capability in April 2020. In September 2020, a state-of-the-art Strategic Facility was handed over at RAF Lossiemouth. Support and maintenance are now being carried out following the negotiation of a 25-year aircraft and training support framework contract that created over 150 jobs, mainly in Scotland. Training devices and classrooms are now being installed.

### 3. Mine Hunting Capability Team, DE&S DG Ships and Navy Command.

The Future Mine Hunting Capability team excelled to create a world leading system in a joint UK-French collaboration, introducing innovative technology and novel ways of working that will replace ageing and obsolete legacy mine hunting vessels. This advanced mine hunting system using a combination of autonomous aircraft, boats and submersibles will reduce the risk to life of our people and help keep the sea lanes open in the toughest conditions with a safer, quicker and more effective mine hunting and disposal system.

### 4. Mechanised Infantry Vehicle (MIV) Delivery and Programme Teams, Army Command.

Harnessing professional expertise across MOD, DE&S and Army teams worked innovatively and collaboratively to deliver a world-class BOXER contract with major international interoperability and UK prosperity benefits. This significant milestone culminated from three years of thorough preparation, lengthy stakeholder and industrial engagements, and strong international engagement across four Nations, to secure the best possible deal for the UK in the global market and strengthen the UK industrial base.



Minister of Defence Procurement (MinDP) Jeremy Quin MP (by Dave Jenkins)



“

**“I'm extremely proud of the seven DE&S teams who have been celebrated by this year's Min DP awards. This continues a long tradition of DE&S being recognised by our peers for our professionalism, our expertise and for the invaluable impact our work has across Defence.**

**“The awards are testimony to the hard work and determination shown by our people every day, and their continued commitment to delivering for our armed forces, even in the most challenging of times. This is an outstanding achievement and I offer my sincere congratulations to all of the winners.”**

”

Sir Simon Bollom, DE&S CEO

## 5. Shared Infrastructure Team, DE&S DG Ships.

The delivery of shared Infrastructure into Carrier, Destroyer and Frigate Ships formed part of the fleet-wide vision of Open Architecture Combat Systems. Shared infrastructure allows third-party application hosting without the need to change core software or hardware. By delivering an integrated approach, timeframes have been significantly reduced and new capabilities can be incorporated in weeks or months, rather than years.

## 6. UK Military Flying Training System, DE&S DG Air

UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS) proudly achieved the programme milestone of Full Course Capability in April 2020. Between 2015-2020, the programme replaced all legacy fleets of training aircraft and helicopters, certifying five new aircraft types. UKMFTS introduced into service 32 helicopters, 38 fixed wing aircraft, simulators, schoolhouses and aircraft hangars at four stations, designed 8,000 lessons, with students starting to graduate through this system before moving to frontline platforms.

## 7. Queen Elizabeth Class Delivery Team, DE&S DG Ships and Navy Command.

The Carriers were manufactured through a unique partnership between government and industry, the Aircraft Carrier Alliance. Over 51 million man-hours have gone into the design and construction of the aircraft carriers; in excess of 10,000 people, and 700 businesses and suppliers have helped build the vessels, 90% hailing from UK. By learning and embedding lessons from the first of class, QNLZ (delivered in 2017), PWLS was delivered to the Royal Navy in December 2019 approximately 30% faster and in excess of 20% cheaper than its predecessor. This programme has also catapulted the UK to centre stage in its ability to design and build world class warships, the benefits of which will be felt for generations.

A framed paper copy of the certificates will be delivered to the teams once COVID-19 restrictions allow. The Top Award and Innovation Award winners will receive an engraved trophy in addition to their certificates.

## £315M investment secures Army's Multi Launch Rocket System until 2050

DE&S have secured a mid-life extension programme to upgrade the British Army's Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS).

The MLRS is a highly mobile automatic system that fires surface-to-surface rockets in less than a minute. Under the £315M deal with the United

States Department of Defence (DOD), upgrades will be made to 44 launchers, and are expected to include a new armoured cab and upgraded automotive components.

The work will be carried out under an existing production contract with Lockheed Martin

Missiles and Fire Control at Lockheed Martin's facility in Camden, Arkansas and will keep the equipment in service until 2050.

The UK is also developing a number of systems for the new launchers including Composite Rubber Tracks, a vehicle camera

and a radar system. Plans to develop a new Fire Control System collaboratively between the US, UK, Italy and Finland are also underway.



Chinook transports sand to Pewit Island (SAC Charlotte Hopkins RAF)

## Chinook restores wildlife habitat

Royal Air Force Chinooks from RAF Benson have delivered aggregate onto Pewit Island in Portsmouth Harbour.

Fifty-six tonnes of aggregate delivered by the Chinook helicopter was delivered to enhance an important habitat for coastal birds.

Pewit Island, administered by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, was once a thriving seabird colony. The aggregate will help restore and improve a vitally important breeding and roosting area for a range of species.

Due to the remoteness of the site and shallow water, airlifting

the aggregate was the only viable option and Number 28 Squadron, from RAF Benson in Oxfordshire, were delighted to assist.

## Conversion of MAN trucks help modernise the Army's Logistic Vehicles

A major upgrade to a backbone vehicle of the Army's logistic operations has successfully completed a substantial modification programme for the British Military's Logistic Corps.

The Enhanced Pallet Load System (EPLS) conversion is

part of a £72 million contract to upgrade a number of the Army's current fleet of support vehicle platforms that are vital to keeping the Army and its kit on the move. The conversion took place in Manchester where MAN Truck & Bus Ltd. installed and integrated a

new pallet and container loading system.

With the addition of a hook lift 'top hamper' to allow it to transport flatracks and related equipment of up to 15 tonnes, EPLS can also be fitted with armour packs to protect crew

from ballistic and blast threat and forms the logistic foundation of the British Army.

The Army will receive in total 559 EPLS vehicles in the UK fleet, with the project being praised by senior officers at Army HQ.



Re-engineered Enhanced Pallet Load System (EPLS)  
MAN HX Trucks (Photo submitted)



HMS Forth in South Georgia (Crown copyright)

## HMS Forth patrols on South Georgia environmental mission

Patrol ship HMS Forth has carried out a ten-day environmental mission to South Georgia in efforts to protect the wildlife and scientists.

HMS Forth is the Navy's permanent presence in the South Atlantic and recently left her regular patrol zone around the Falklands to visit South Georgia alongside Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians from the Royal Logistic Corps.

Their mission was to locate and deal with leftover historical munitions from the conflict in 1982.

Nearly 40 years later, the disposal team returned to the Grytviken area where rocket

motors were found. These could have posed a hazard to the British Antarctic Survey scientists who work there year-round, or to seals, seabirds and penguins.

The success of the explosive ordnance disposal team means that South Georgia is now safer for tourists, scientists and animals alike.

# DE&S sets gold standard for public sector in Prince's Trust Million Makers Challenge

A desperate scramble saw a determined team of graduates and apprentices from DE&S raise £400 in the final 12 hours of a charity challenge to hit their £10,000 target.

Since 2008, more than 640 teams have taken on the Prince's Trust Million Makers challenge and have collectively raised an incredible £15-million to support young people across the UK.

Team DEStinct – a determined team of graduates and apprentices from DE&S – encouraged their friends, family and colleagues to help them reach the impressive £10,000 milestone as part of the Prince's Trust Million Makers Challenge.

Driven by the knowledge that the coronavirus pandemic has left many young people in difficult circumstances, the 15-strong team had just seven months to raise enough money to reach their target and were competing against 26 teams from across the UK.

Team DEStinct were praised by organisers of the award-winning challenge who said the coronavirus pandemic made this

year the toughest challenge since the entrepreneurial competition began.

With traditional methods hampered by the pandemic, the team kickstarted fundraising in August, with team members pushing themselves physically and artistically to raise money.

Highlights included 10km runs, triathlon style challenges, a 24-hour hobbython and a series of raffles as well as the Lapland Challenge – where teams needed to travel the equivalent distance from Bristol to Lapland walking, running or cycling which saw more than 5,000km covered, and £3,000 raised.

The team's mentor, Scott Murray, DE&S Head of HR Operations, said: "I am hugely proud of what the team has achieved. They have shown passion; resilience and sheer determination to reach the £10,000 target.

"They have all developed key skills in teamwork; leadership; project management; financial controls and public speaking but, perhaps more importantly, they have developed lasting friendships and networks giving them insights across functions and DE&S.

"I know they were committed to raising money for the outstanding work undertaken by

the Prince's Trust and should be incredibly proud that they have set the gold standard for public sector teams in this prestigious challenge."

Additionally, Team DEStinct's efforts were acknowledged at the Million Makers national final where they received the Dream Team Award for overcoming challenges and demonstrating collective team resilience.

Sinead Ward of the Prince's Trust, said: "Team DEStinct really were a dream team in what has probably been the most difficult year of Million Makers yet.

"The team demonstrated unbelievable commitment to the challenge and remained motivated despite all of the hurdles - raising an incredible total in the process."



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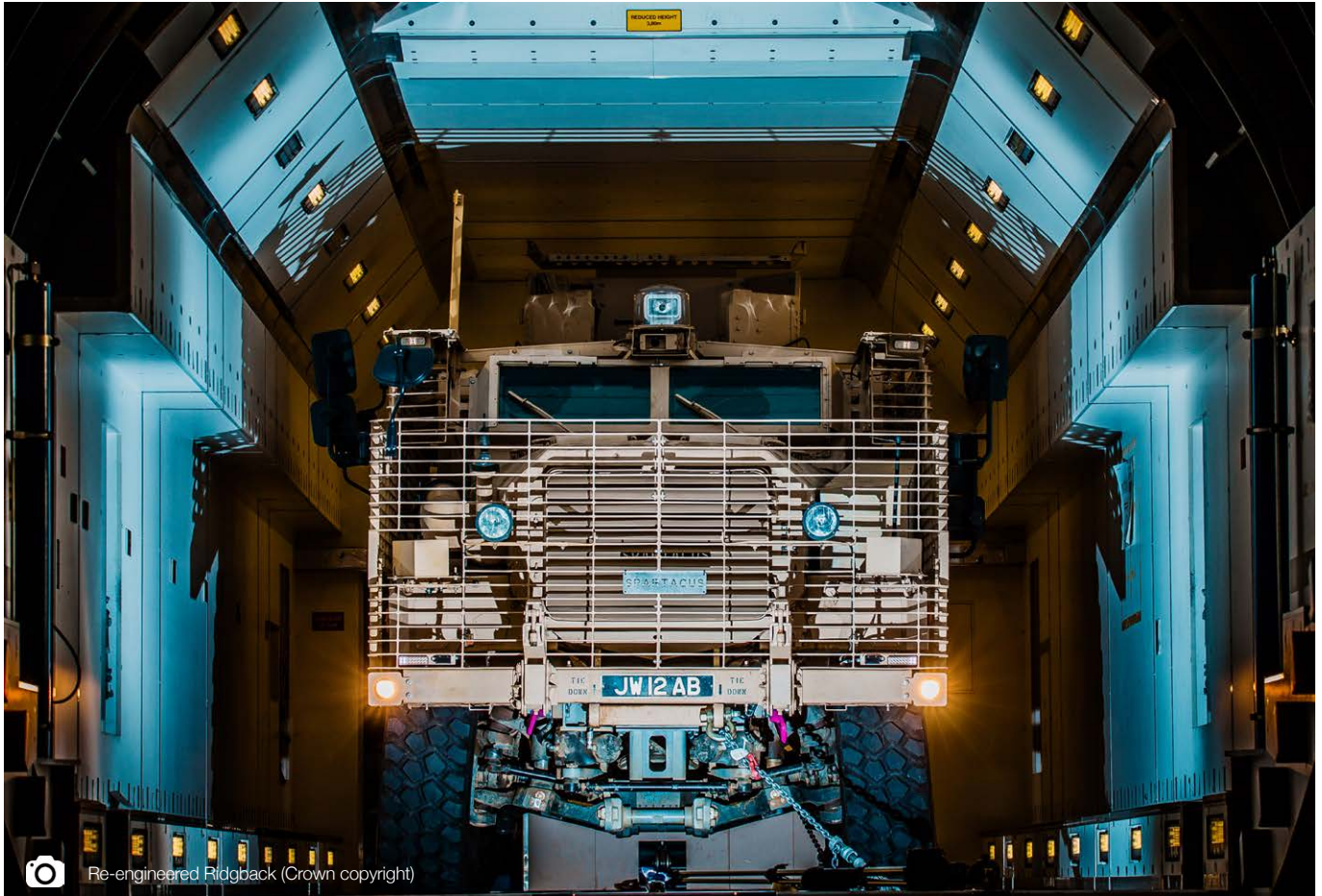
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## Ridgback and Mastiff vehicles ready for deployment in Mali

The British Army Ridgback and Mastiff have recently been re-engineered for an urgent capability requirement in Mali, Africa, under the MOD Protected Mobility Engineering & Technical Support (PMETS) contract.



Re-engineered Ridgback (Crown copyright)

The off-road mobility upgrade contract covers 12 vehicles and associated spares and has seen new vehicle systems implemented within the Ridgback and Mastiff to increase mobility, enhance safety and introduce new capabilities. These enhancements delivered by Coventry-based NP Aerospace and include state-of-the art, independent suspension systems incorporating Ride Height Control, along with upgraded driveline, steering and braking systems, central tyre inflation systems and increased diameter tyres.

Brigadier Anna-Lee Reilly, DE&S Head Vehicle support team, said: "Our close relationship with NP Aerospace has been fundamental in our ability to deliver this capability to the Army in unprecedented timelines. From requirement to delivery, we have worked hand-in-hand to develop, trial and ultimately deploy this capability on operations in less

than a year. Reviews have been extraordinarily positive, and the added capability has helped ensure that our soldiers are able to conduct their operations in a safer and more effective manner."

David Petheram, Chief Operating Officer, NP Aerospace, said: "The off-road mobility upgrade is a significant development for the UK MOD. It has potential to extend the life of Ridgback and Mastiff which have saved lives on operation, while delivering performance improvements to match other high mobility vehicles.

"The speed at which we and our partners have re-engineered the platforms, with fully functional prototypes delivered in just over 80 working days, has shown that we have the capabilities to meet challenging military requirements even in a global pandemic with supply chain restrictions."

“  
**The off-road mobility upgrade is a significant development for the UK MOD. It has potential to extend the life of Ridgback and Mastiff which have saved lives on operation, while delivering performance improvements to match other high mobility vehicles.**

”  
David Petheram, Chief Operating Officer, NP Aerospace,

# Recruitment Case Study

## Mark Langrill

### Job:

Head of the UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS) Team.

### What does your role involve?

I'm responsible for leading the UKMFTS Team to deliver a world-class flying training system for our Armed Forces. We operate alongside our customers and industry at six airfields around the country as well as from our main site in Bristol. UKMFTS is a partnership, and so I work closely with my opposite numbers in Industry and 22 Group (Training Command) to ensure that we act in our joint best interests.

### What do you most enjoy about your job?

The sheer scale and variety of the UKMFTS portfolio, which encompasses everything from Air Cadet gliders through to fast jet, rotary-wing and multi-engine fixed-wing training aircraft makes it a hugely exciting challenge and having only recently joined the team it's already clear that no two days are going to be the same. The next phase of UKMFTS' evolution will see us getting the most out of our aircraft while exploring greater use of virtual and synthetic technology to deliver the best possible training and I'm really looking forward to being part of it.

### What is your greatest accomplishment to date?

Having only been in post for a matter of weeks it's a little early to be claiming accomplishments myself, but I'm delighted that the efforts of those who have gone before me have just been recognised through a MinDP Award for the achievement of UKMFTS Full Course Capability. That's a short description of a huge achievement by many people across DE&S, Industry and the Services which has seen the entirety of the flying training fleet replaced along with the introduction of state-of-the-art synthetic training systems, courseware and training facilities.

### What keeps you energised about working at DE&S?

This is my fourth assignment in DE&S or its predecessors, and for an organisation so committed to change it is the constants across those tours that stand out. The first is the way that DE&S brings together Service personnel and Civil Servants in a way that enables us to get the very best out of each other, and in UKMFTS the added dimension of being integrated with both our customer and our prime contractor amplifies that even further. The second is the drive for continuous improvement. Having been privileged to lead the outstanding Wildcat delivery team through DE&S transformation I've seen how the adoption and exploitation of better programme management tools and techniques have given us a far greater ability to manage our business and ensure successful outcomes. However, the constant that really energises me is the consistent excellence of our people; professional, considerate and completely committed to doing the best that they can for our Armed Forces and the taxpayer.

### Who or what has shaped who you are?

When I asked my wife what she thought has shaped me she said cake – which I think is a bit harsh – so instead I'll cite the friends and colleagues, at all levels, who have shown me the way that groups of disparate individuals can achieve great things when they're united by a common purpose, a shared identity and a culture of inclusion.

### What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I'm a keen trail runner and hill walker, and as I live in Devon my ideal day involves getting up onto Dartmoor with my dogs Merlin & Juno – and with my wife and our three children if they promise not to stray. I'm also a season ticket holder at Exeter Chiefs and in less constrained times enjoy watching the teamwork and commitment to each other that has taken them from the second tier of rugby to the top flight.



### What might surprise people about you?

Although I've been in the Royal Navy for 27 years, I was born in the RAF Hospital in Ely, and I was lucky enough to live in Germany, Malaysia and India as my family supported my Dad in his RAF career. Despite that lineage the Fleet Air Arm has proved to be a great choice of home for me!

### What's the best advice you've ever been given?

In the long run people may not remember what you said or what you did, but they will always remember how you treated them.

———— “ ————

**In the long run people may not remember what you said or what you did, but they will always remember how you treated them.**

———— ” ————



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