

DESIDER

AN INSIDE LOOK INTO LIFE AT DEFENCE EQUIPMENT & SUPPORT



DELIVERY THROUGH PEOPLE

Proudly delivering for the UK's Armed Forces

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Foreword

BY SIR SIMON BOLLON



This is a challenging time to work in Defence. The world around us continues to shift at pace, presenting new and emerging threats to our national security. What we are witnessing in Ukraine is sobering example of this, reinforcing the importance of DE&S' efforts supporting the UK Armed Forces, but also aiding our close allies overseas. We are driven by our commitments to those who place their trust in the equipment solutions we provide. We continue to be efficient, flexible, and innovative in our approach, safely delivering defence-critical outputs for them at the pace they require, whilst embracing new technologies that provide an active operational edge.

You will see in this edition alone that DE&S has contracted for 100 extra Boxer vehicles for the Army, renewed a five-year, £360-million, support and training wrap for the Wildcat helicopter, and awarded

a £32-million contract to provide cutting-edge autonomous mine-hunting systems to the Royal Navy. Our achievements are shared with our partners – in industry and internationally – and we continue to strengthen these relationships, working collaboratively to implement the defence and security industrial strategy.

Our people remain key to our success; they are at the heart of everything we do, and their dedication, resilience and professionalism never fails to impress. I have been incredibly proud of how we have all pulled together over the past two years, especially throughout the Covid crisis. Our people have shown the determination, agility, and ability to get on with the task at hand, as well as the comradery to support each other to overcome obstacles. Recent successes bring me to congratulate the DE&S teams whose exceptional achievements were formally recognised

at the annual Minister for Defence Procurement Acquisition awards – very well done to you all. You can read more about our team's success on page 8.

Looking ahead, meeting the evolving needs of Defence over the coming years will be a continual challenge – but one DE&S is well prepared for. By continuing to deliver against our strategy – through people, technology, and innovation – with a major focus on collaborating with our allies, we will become the reference organisation we strive to be. Take a look at page 6 to hear from Stacy Cummings, NATO Support and Procurement Agency General Manager, talk more about the importance of international collaboration and her views on how we will work together in the future.

SENIOR LEADER COMMENT

Roger West, DE&S Director Logistics and Support

Talks to Desider about
DE&S' pride in delivering
for the UK Armed Forces

The Logistics Support Operating Centre (LSOC) are at the heart of delivery for DE&S and Defence more broadly. We cover a huge remit, from our UK logistics services including mail, courier, rail and truck freight moves through to commodity procurement, fuel procurement jerry-can filling and even disposal of the things that defence no-longer needs. We also lead in setting the improvement direction for Support Improvement, look after the iLog function consisting of 3300 staff, and providing deep technical expertise in the management of equipment through life. In all this, we are extremely proud to deliver daily to the service men and women of our Armed Forces.

We value the diversity of our teams, blending civil servants, military and private sector colleagues to deliver the very best for our clients. We are experienced professionals, able to deliver some of the most complex projects and support arrangements in the public sector - nationally, and around the globe. The last two years has been exceptionally busy, first supporting the country as it dealt with Covid-19 and now in the support of Ukraine. During Covid-19 we supported the NHS through managing the supply of over four million items of critical medical equipment, including some 6,000 ventilators.

This was an amazing team effort. Since the end of February, our teams have been working around the clock to support Ukraine in its opposition of Putin's invasion. DE&S across all our delivery teams have received recognition from government for our speed of response. Working with our delivery partner, Team Leidos, we have worked around the clock to fulfil the processing and packing requirements. It has been a fantastic collaborative effort from everyone involved and shown what excellent teamwork can achieve. We have procured at pace and delivered where it is most needed - demonstrating we are capable of meeting the most demanding of needs.

Our Defence Fulfilment Centre (DFC) has played a huge part in this, enabling more efficient and effective support to the whole of Defence. Its role during the COVID-19 pandemic, has shown the value of moving our thinking from 'storage' to 'fulfilment'. The DFC recently made the press showing how we have processed and packed 84,000 surplus helmets in support of the Ukraine.



The support we provide is vital and I'm extremely proud that this has been recognised at the recent DE&S CEO awards. Our RESET team were recently commended for delivering a significant contract amendment to one of Defence's largest contracts, which will now guarantee a minimum of £272-million in efficiency savings and drive increased performance across the expansive contractual scope. We take total accountability for the service we provide and acknowledge where we need to do better. There is still much more that we can do, and I am constantly searching for the next big thing to implement. I hope in driving these changes at pace, while uncomfortable at times, we can show that we really do push the boundaries in LSOC and are there as a core component to make defence better.

Everything I have mentioned so far can only be achieved by having great people at the heart of it. It will continue to be the talent, commitment and professionalism of our people, and our workforce of the future, which will drive the change required to deliver that battle-winning edge for the UK Armed Forces. Our people remain at the core of everything we do, and our achievements are not possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of our staff. I'm extremely grateful for their continued dedication and contribution and I must say thank you more often for the brilliant work that they do.

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FEATURE

Stacy Cummings

Stacy Cummings, NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) General Manager, talks to Desider about the importance of collaborating across international allies and her future vision for NSPA and DE&S

As NSPA's General Manager, I'm responsible for the delivery of capabilities across acquisition, logistics, medical and infrastructural capabilities, operational and systems support and services to the NATO nations, NATO Military Authorities and partner nations. We cover a very, very wide breadth of activities that ultimately rely on successful collaboration. Collaboration really is a huge part of the job.

From an acquisition and logistics perspective, we provide a hub for cooperation across allies and this is vitally important. When we're in the planning stage, when we're talking about deterrence, and when we're talking about defence, it's important that we're thinking about that throughout the lifecycle of our planning and operations.

From an NSPA perspective, one of our biggest strengths or opportunities that we bring to other nations is the ability to bring requirements together. By doing this, nations can have the benefit of working together to develop requirements and have the benefit of speaking with one voice to industry by creating economies of scale. And for this reason, we come from a better negotiating point with industry, can get the best price, and can also share maintenance capabilities. This also translates into interoperability of systems across the alliance, bringing further evident benefits. When each nation invests independently in that capability, it means that we're spending more money across the Alliance that can be spent doing something else that's adding more value. It really is important that nations are able to have a framework to come together and NSPA provides that framework.

We have a strong relationship with the UK, and I think that there are things that we've traditionally done together that we do very well and should continue to do. But what I'm really interested in doing more of, is bringing more nations together to buy military off the shelf type equipment.

To buy things that have already been tested, have already been proven and can then operate together to create those economies of scale within that one voice to industry.

In parallel, I'd also like to see us increasingly bring nations together for multinational requirements for new complex capabilities. So we keep building our acquisition competencies for those systems that we know are going to interoperate together, or even want to have interchangeability across allies. I think that there's a great opportunity for us to think about that now. By working together on the acquisition projects, and by bringing together requirements, we can maximise efficiencies.

I therefore see opportunities for us to provide support in those areas where the UK and DE&S is interested in collaborating with other nations. I certainly believe that, with what's going on in the in the current environment, many individual national systems are going to face the challenge of finding the right people to help with requirements and the right people to contract with industry. I think these strong partnerships, like NSPA working together across nations, can help bring people together. Let's make sure we're spending each dollar - or euro, or pound - as efficiently as we can. And in many cases, working together makes that possible.

The defence landscape is constantly evolving, and we need to be quick to respond to the way it's changing. The biggest challenge I see coming up is that we're going to need to continue to invest in resources. We need to invest in the people and the skills that we need for the future, while continuing to deliver excellence to our customers. It's a challenge that I think a lot of organisations are facing and it is a good challenge to have. We must continue to plan for the future while continuing to be excellent at the things we're excellent at now.

We need to invest in the people and the skills that we need for the future, while continuing to deliver excellence to our customers



NEWS

DE&S is proud to have been recognised at the annual Minister for Defence Procurement (Min DP) Acquisition Awards

Amongst all the remarkable procurement programmes within MoD, it is an absolute honour to receive this Min DP recognition of achievement award for our outstanding contribution to defence acquisition

The list of awardees includes the Future Maritime Support Programme (FMSP), our Entry Talent Centre of Expertise (ETCoE) for apprentices and graduates, and the Vehicle Support Team in the Land domain.

The Min DP Acquisition Awards were created to acknowledge and commend the outstanding contributions of teams in the defence acquisition field, celebrating exceptional performance, innovation, effort and commitment.

DE&S teams were recognised at an awards ceremony at MOD main building in London along with others from across UK defence.

Congratulating the award winners, Minister for Defence Procurement, Jeremy Quin, said: "These awards recognise and reward excellence and celebrate innovation and first class delivery."

"The standard of applications for this year's awards was very high. Congratulations to all the teams who won an award and thank you for all your hard work in support of our Armed Forces and the continued defence of the UK."

Future Maritime Support Programme

The Future Maritime Support Programme (FMSP) is an all-encompassing programme which drives major improvements in performance and efficiency through an ambitious procurement and commercial strategy. With £5.2-billion worth of contracts signed with industry, saving £600-million, it is the largest and most complex MOD support contract ever created, supporting the operation and maintenance of the Royal Navy's warships and submarine fleet.

This includes all frigates, destroyers, and aircraft carriers – such as the iconic Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers. The FMSP has responsibility for the operation of Naval Base services to support a better life experience for personnel stationed on base or operating at sea. This includes the management of warehousing, distribution, personnel accommodation, facilities and catering.

Chris Wardle, Performance Support Team Lead for FMSP, said: "FMSP has exploited single-source contracting regulations to the full, gathering more financial and management information about maritime support than ever before."

"After four or more years of hard work, collaboration and at times tough negotiation with suppliers, the FMSP team - made up of representatives from DE&S Ships, Naval Bases, Navy Command HQ and the SDA - are delighted to be recognised by MinDP for their contribution to Defence."

The Vehicle Support Team

The Vehicle Support Team (VST) is responsible for the in-service support of the land vehicle fleet on operations worldwide. This includes all fighting and logistical vehicles used by the frontline commands.

UK armed forces rely on us to support their demanding and dangerous roles, whether that be in training, at readiness or deployed on operations. The VST delivers safe, reliable and fit equipment, whether that be through the day-to-day management of vehicle fleets or the management of supply chain and integrated logistics. The team also drives forward the development of new vehicles deliver for a modern and capable British Army.

Chris Bushell, DE&S Director General Land, attended the awards. He said: "It was great to see and hear some really positive stories about DE&S playing such a key role in UK Defence and performing well over the past year. DE&S had a very diverse mix of award winners, reflecting the diversity of our people and teams, and the variety what we do as a business."

ETCoE:

ETCoE provides inspirational hands-on care to DE&S' 800-plus apprentices and graduates.

It delivers a holistic programme, from targeted marketing and recruitment of high calibre talent from a diverse range of backgrounds, through to nurturing, supporting and individually managing each graduate and apprentice's journey.

This ensures they are ready to join the business as fully capable professionals in a range of careers, equipped with a transferable skill-set and continued learning mindset to deliver or enable defence procurement for the frontline Commands.

Amanda Clements, ETCoE Governance Team Lead, said: "Talent is a golden thread in our organisation and developing entry talent is critical to driving DE&S' future capability."

"Amongst all the remarkable procurement programmes within MoD, it is an absolute honour to receive this Min DP recognition of achievement award for our outstanding contribution to defence acquisition."

Acquisition Awards 2022 – Full list of DE&S award winners

Acquisition Award Winners

- Future Maritime Support Programme (FMSP) (DE&S Ships)

Recognition Award Winners

- Vehicle Support Team (DE&S Land)
- DE&S Entry Talent Centre of Expertise (ETCoE)



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Vice Admiral Brad Cooper, Commander, US Naval Forces Central Command



Rear Admiral Jun Yongku, Director general of KSS-III Program Group, Republic of Korea Navy



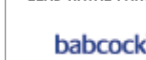
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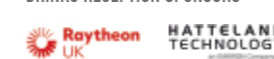
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NEWS

100 extra Boxer vehicles for British Army



The British Army will receive 100 extra armoured Boxer vehicles, ensuring more vehicles reach the frontline faster and bolstering the programme to a total of 623, as the UK maintains defence ties with Germany.

The modern digitalised armoured vehicles can be used to transport troops to the frontline and can be rapidly reconfigured to fulfil different roles on the battlefield.

The UK and Germany have worked closely together on the Boxer programme for the British Army, with the Boxer build in the UK benefitting from German expertise, data and collaboration.

Now boasting more than 400 Boxer vehicles themselves, Germany has had older variants of the vehicle in service for more than 10 years, including service in Afghanistan. Their success in the German Army means they continue to develop new variants of the vehicle.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "In these difficult times, our deep defence partnership offers reassurance to our people and the wider world, while also ensuring we are ready to respond to new threats.

"This joint programme will ensure our militaries have state-of-the-art equipment as the invasion of Ukraine shakes the very foundations of European peace and security."

Boxer production for the British Army is underway. The first 117 vehicles are being built on German production lines, as UK facilities in Telford and Stockport ramp up for the remaining 506 and begin manufacturing.

The first Boxer vehicles will arrive in units from 2023, with the overall programme protecting up to 1,000 jobs nationally, enhancing skill sets and creating an ambitious UK apprenticeship scheme.

Defence Procurement Minister, Jeremy Quin said: "This order will accelerate the delivery of the Boxer

fleet to the British Army and increase its numbers.

"The land equipment upgrade is a vital element of the Integrated Review, on which we continue to deliver. Doing so, alongside our German allies, creates opportunities for both our Armed Forces."

In addition to the £2.8-billion contract announced in 2019, manufacture of the additional vehicles will commence shortly. UK production is focused in Telford through Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land (RBSL), and Stockport through WFEL, with supply chain sub-contracts across the UK, including in Glasgow with Thales.

Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Sir Christopher Tickell KBE said: "This is a significant announcement for the Army in enhancing this key capability under the Integrated Review. Boxer will form the core of our modernised Armoured Brigade Combat Teams and it is great news for our service personnel getting more of these excellent platforms as part of delivering Future Soldier, whilst investing in the UK's defence industry and supply chains."

Enhancing and accelerating Boxer production ensures warfighting remains at the heart of the British Army and today's announcement reaffirms our threat-led approach, as outlined in the Integrated Review. Chris Bushell, Director General Land at Defence, Equipment and Support said: "This contract extension is great news for the Boxer programme and committing to buying an extra 100 vehicles demonstrates our confidence in the programme and the benefits of the capability. Not only is this great news for the future of the British Army but it will also boost our commitment to investing in the UK's defence industry and supply chains, meaning we can retain critical engineering and manufacturing skills in the UK."

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FEATURE

Wildcat helicopter contract supports more than 300 UK jobs

A five-year £360-million support and training contract for the Wildcat helicopter has been renewed with Leonardo Helicopters UK.

A total of 340 jobs will be sustained at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton and Leonardo with jobs also supported at second and third-tier suppliers including Morson Group and Light Helicopter Turbine Engine Company.

Part of the 34-year Wildcat Integrated Support and Training (WIST) arrangement, the contract includes spares provisions, a three-year scheduled maintenance service, enhanced technical support including aircraft safety management, as well as delivering synthetic and ground-based training for aircrew and aircraft maintainers.

Keith Bethell, DE&S Director Helicopters, said: "The maiden operational deployment of Carrier Strike Group emphasised once again the important role Wildcat helicopters play, and will continue to play, as the UK faces emerging and evolving threats.

"The third pricing period of WIST will ensure the frontline personnel of the Royal Navy and British Army continue to be expertly training, supported and equipped to keep our nation and allies around the globe safe."

The Wildcat helicopter is a key element of the UK's Carrier Strike Group (CSG), providing a multi-role attack capability as it operates from the frigates and destroyers that accompany the Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers.

Able to strike with a range of weapons including missiles, torpedoes and guns, during the maiden deployment of CSG21 last autumn, the new Martlet missile system achieved initial operating capability with a successful test firing from an embarked Wildcat HMA Mk2 in the Bay of Bengal.

Meanwhile, the Wildcat AH Mk1 performs a range of important tasks for the Army including reconnaissance, command and control, transportation of troops and equipment, as well as force protection with its heavy and general-purpose machine guns.

Flexible, agile and adaptable, as part of the 1st Aviation Brigade Combat Team, the Wildcat AH has led the way during recent deployments to Oman and Estonia in 2021, and Lithuania in 2022. Its capability will be significantly increased over the next few years with the addition of a secure Tactical Data Link, further enhancing connectivity across the battlefield.

Defence Minister Jeremy Quin, said: "Wildcat helicopters play a vital role in supporting our Armed Forces through reconnaissance, protection and transport. I am delighted they will continue to receive high-quality technical support and training from Leonardo UK."

Wildcat was the first UK military helicopter to enter service with a fully integrated support and training solution at the outset, delivering serviceable aircraft to operational units.

The maiden operational deployment of Carrier Strike Group emphasised once again the important role Wildcat helicopters play and will continue to play as the UK faces emerging and evolving threats



NEWS

£32 million Mine-hunting systems contract creates over 70 jobs

£32-million contract awarded for autonomous mine-hunting systems.
 50 jobs created at Atlas Elektronik in Dorset, with a further 23 across Europe.
 Significant leap ahead in autonomous mine-hunting capability for the Royal Navy



A £32-million contract to provide cutting-edge autonomous mine-hunting systems to the Royal Navy has been awarded to Atlas Elektronik (UK) in Dorset.

Building on ambitions outlined in the Integrated Review, the three sets of Medium Autonomous Underwater Vessel (MAUV) systems will help to ensure Royal Navy personnel can combat the rapidly evolving threat of naval mines.

The new technology will also help maintain the freedom of movement for UK ships and submarines when defending the UK at sea.

Creating 50 highly-skilled jobs in the UK and a further 23 jobs across Europe, the contract will enable a significant technological leap for the Royal Navy. The systems will help detect and neutralise mines quickly while being controlled remotely by operators either at sea or on land.

Minister for Defence Procurement, Jeremy Quin, said: "This innovative technology is a huge leap forward for the Royal Navy and will be crucial to protecting the security and safety of our personnel. Supporting wider British industry, it also reinforces our focus on ensuring the UK remains at the forefront of tackling defence threats."

Supporting other autonomous assets, including the joint FR/UK Maritime Mine Counter Measures (MMCM) and Combined Influence Sweep (SWEEP) systems,

the MAUVs will become part of a "system of systems" that will enable the Royal Navy to search, detect and neutralise mines from a remote distance while on operations worldwide.

Commander Neil Griffiths Royal Navy, Commander Mine Threat Exploitation Group, said: "This is another exciting step as we move from conventional Mine Counter Measures to a system of integrated capabilities. This new capability is quicker, provides greater precision and will put the latest technology in the hands of our sailors, reinforcing their reputation as some of the best MCM practitioners in the world."

The contract was negotiated by the Mine Hunting Capability (MHC) team at DE&S. The first MAUV equipment delivery is expected in Spring 2023.

DE&S CEO, Sir Simon Bollom, said: "The threat posed by sea mines is constantly evolving and DE&S are working with industry to ensure the Royal Navy has a world-class network of capabilities to protect the UK's maritime interests as well as improving the safety of Royal Navy personnel."

Outlined in the Integrated Review, investment into cutting-edge new autonomous systems demonstrates how the Royal Navy and UK Defence are modernising to address threats across the globe.



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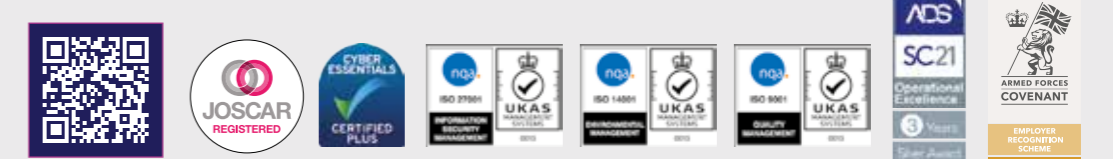


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FEATURE

DSIS one year on

One year on from the Defence Command Paper (DCP) and Defence and Security Industrial Strategy (DSIS) being published, DE&S continues to play a key role in delivering the ambitious vision set out for the UK.

Responding to the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy (IR), the papers marked the beginning of a significant and far-reaching evolution in how defence is equipped and operates.

As the Ministry of Defence's procurement arm, DE&S performs an important role in its realisation and has already made significant strides to that end.

Key themes of the Command Paper included evolving for the future, defence's contribution to global Britain and modernising the military for a competitive age to make them more agile, lethal and integrated.

While £6.6-billion was pledged for research, development and experimentation, Space has become an even more important arena for the UK over the next decade.

Since publication in March 2021, DE&S has delivered a cutting-edge autonomous mine-detecting system to the Royal Navy, has been involved in 'Team Tempest' driving forward the next generation of combat aircraft and is working with industry to develop the new ECRS Mk2 radar for Typhoon fighter jets.

Steel has been cut on the Challenger 3 tanks upgrade programme, 100 new Boxer armoured vehicles have been procured and the first batch of new Apache AH-64E helicopters have been test flown.

The Sky Sabre Ground-based air defence system has been delivered to the British Army and the future maintenance of Wildcat helicopters – key attack capabilities over land and sea – secured with the latest five-year support and training period signed with Leonardo Helicopters.

In October, a Wildcat deployed with Carrier Strike Group 21 successfully fired the new lightweight Martlet missile system to achieve initial operating capability. DE&S played a significant support and maintenance role before and during that successful maiden operation. Meanwhile, the Type 26 and Type 31 frigate builds continue to progress in Scotland.

The first five contracts of the Future Maritime Support Programme (FMSP) were awarded, sustaining more than

9,400 British jobs while supporting and maintaining Naval Bases in Portsmouth and on the River Clyde.

DE&S CEO Sir Simon Bollom said: "DE&S has been working collectively and collaboratively to ensure UK defence is modernised, threat-focused, financially sustainable and ready to counter 21st Century challenges.

"Both the IR and DCP conveyed a significant responsibility on DE&S to make these changes happen, providing world-leading equipment and support to our service men and women.

"We will continue to invest in our people, streamline and improve our acquisition processes, and build on relationships with allies and industry partners as we respond to the evolving defence landscape."

DE&S has also provided the intellectual drive behind the cross-MOD Embedding Integration (EI) study.

Three contracts worth around £72.5 million have been awarded to UK industry to produce advanced laser and radio frequency demonstrators for the Royal Navy and British Army.

Last May, our Future Capability Group (FCG) launched the Expeditionary Robotics Centre of Expertise (ERCoE) in collaboration with the British Army and the DE&S Space delivery team was formed, which has already resulted in contracts to develop alternative navigation systems and cutting-edge satellites to gather digital intelligence.

DE&S has also responded robustly to the themes of DSIS, such as helping economic prosperity across the UK, procurement

transformation, strengthening relationships with industry and considering the environment and sustainability.

From the innovative methods of the FCG - including heavy lift challenges and rapid "buy and try" procurements - to DE&S' approach to intellectual property (IP), commercial liability, social value and category management, the organisation is becoming a more effective and agile procurer of defence equipment and support.

Speaking at an Institute for Government event in March, Permanent Under-secretary of State for Defence, David Williams, looked back at progress made by MOD over the past year.

"The British taxpayer spends almost £50 billion a year on defence, and we owe them maximum return on that investment," he said.

"This means increasing the deployability and lethality of the Armed Forces and ensuring they work in a way that is more integrated: with each other, with the rest of government and with our allies and partners."

"DE&S has been working collectively and collaboratively to ensure UK defence is modernised, threat-focused, financially sustainable and ready to counter 21st Century challenges." DE&S CEO Sir Simon Bollom



FEATURE

FEATURE

NEWS

News in Brief

UK bolsters defensive aid to Ukraine

The Prime Minister has announced that the UK will provide a further package of military aid to Ukraine. The new support will include:

- More than 800 more NLAW anti-tank missiles
- Additional Javelin anti-tank systems
- Additional loitering munitions
- Additional Starstreak air defence systems
- Additional non-lethal aid including ballistic helmets, body armour and night vision goggles.

This package amounts to more than £100-million and has been designed in consultation with the Armed Forces of Ukraine to ensure that it meets their military needs. This builds on the £350-million of military aid and around £400-million of economic and humanitarian support that the UK has already provided.

The Defence Secretary Ben Wallace MP, said: "The UK Government is resolute in our support for Ukraine and determined that no barbaric Russian act goes unanswered. Another 800 NLAWs will not only support the Ukrainian defence but show Putin that his brutality only stiffens our resolve."

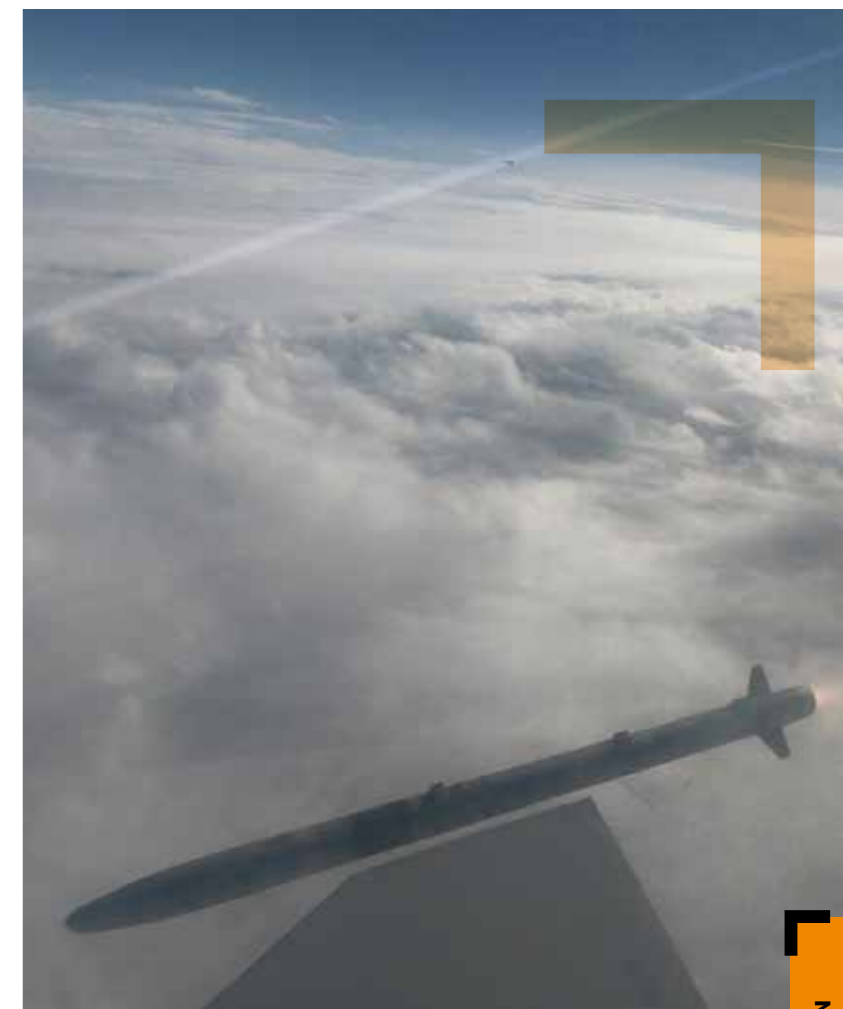


DE&S delivers Advanced Short Range Air to Air Missiles

The DE&S Weapons Operating Centre has recently delivered Block 6 of the Advanced Short-Range Air to Air Missile (ASRAAM) to the RAF Typhoon aircraft. Achieving Initial Operating Capability on time, the team met their Strategic Milestone early. Produced by MBDA UK, ASRAAM is the UK's high-speed, short-range, infra-red seeking Air-to-Air missile. Operating as an advanced heat-seeking weapon, ASRAAM will give the RAF and ultimately Royal Navy F-35B Lightning II pilots – operating from land and the UK's two new aircraft carriers – the ability to defeat current and future air adversaries.

The Category A, Block 6 sustainment programme delivers a fit, form and function replacement for the current in-service ASRAAM Block 4 missile, integrated onto Typhoon and F-35B. ASRAAM Block 4 is due to go out-of-service in 2025 when Block 6 achieves its In-Service Date on F-35B.

Clive Winter, AAM team leader, said: "The work has been complex and not without its challenges. We are immensely proud of the hard work and dedication shown by the DE&S Weapons Operating Centre. The team have provided invaluable support to delivering and certifying this capability. Well done and thank you to all those involved."



Tom Nevard Memorial Competition

The annual Tom Nevard Memorial Competition, remembering Tom Nevard, assistant secretary in the Labour Branch of the Ministry of Supply, will return this year after a two year hiatus. The event, held at Shrivenham, has been staged since the 1950s and as well as allowing DE&S apprentices to express their creativity, it gives them the valuable opportunity to meet with their peers from across DE&S sites to share their experiences and ideas.

Now in its 70th year, a combination of DE&S Project Professional, Finance and Accounting, Corporate Services, Engineering and Digital Technology apprentices will all taking part. The residential competition week brings MOD and wider civil service apprentices together to develop and test a whole range of core and functional competences including their design, problem solving, team working, communication and management skills. The week means the apprentices work with their peers from across the UK allowing them to compare experiences, foster relationships and develop networks across departments.

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HMS Glasgow veterans visit new Type 26

Falkland veterans recently visited BAE Systems' Glasgow shipyard where the DE&S-procured first Type 26 frigate, HMS Glasgow, is currently under construction.

The 44 veterans, all of whom served on the previous HMS Glasgow which saw action during the Falklands, visited the shipyard shortly after the fortieth anniversary of the start of the conflict in 1982.

Many of the visiting veterans were from The HMS Glasgow Association and were joined by Rear Admiral (Retired) Paul Hoddinott, who commanded HMS Glasgow during the Falklands.

"It has been a fantastic opportunity to celebrate these veterans who enjoy a special link with HMS Glasgow," explained Commander Mark Quinn, DE&S Weapon Engineering Officer with the new Type 26 HMS Glasgow.

"To be able to offer them a glimpse of the next generation Type 26 frigate and the capabilities that it will afford the Royal Navy, particularly in this 40th anniversary year of the Falklands conflict, has really made it a day to remember."

Sir Simon Lister, BAE Systems, Naval Ships Managing Director, said: "It is an honour to host Falkland veterans, many of whom served in the previous HMS Glasgow.

"Events such as this, where we are reminded of the risks the men and women of the Royal Navy take on our behalf, strengthens our resolve to deliver the next generation platforms and technologies that contribute to our national security and enable the Royal Navy to protect what matters most."



NEWS

Royal Navy's first Type 31 frigate keel laying ceremony



The first of five Royal Navy Type 31 frigates – HMS Venturer – has begun construction at Babcock's Rosyth facility.

Following the first steel being cut in September 2021, the traditional keel laying event formally recognised the start of the build, including placement of a specially commissioned coin under the keel. On completion of the ship, the coin will be presented to the Captain and crew.

The ceremony was held in the new build hall, the Venturer Building, which forms part of a £60-million investment programme, on top of an additional £100-million over the last ten years.

The hall is fully covered and will house two frigates for parallel assembly and will support increased productivity gains through improved access to the platforms and digital connectivity.

Sean Donaldson, Babcock Managing Director at Rosyth, said: "The keel laying ceremony for the future HMS Venturer was a great occasion as we joined with our customer and colleagues to mark this milestone. It's my privilege to work with

this talented team each day and to witness their drive, determination and relentless pursuit of quality."

"A big well done to our competition winner Josh Duffy (7), who designed the coin that we had minted for the keel laying ceremony and whose mum works for Babcock at Rosyth and to our apprentices Ian Stevenson and Naimh Charleston for a flawless job laying down the coin."

The Type 31 programme is an important part of the shipbuilding pipeline set out in the National Shipbuilding Strategy that was refreshed last month. The strategy's stated vision for 'a globally successful, innovative and sustainable shipbuilding enterprise' is being borne out in Rosyth, with the company investing in and accelerating its ship building prowess and ambitions.

Dan Bishop, DE&S Director Ships Acquisition, said: "It's great to be here today at the Type 31 Keel laying ceremony.

"This is a great example of successful

delivery through co-operative working. The Royal Navy and DE&S worked in unison to set the Type 31 requirement and have successfully championed a new competitive procurement process - the first major warship procurement in a generation to meet this challenge. We're really proud to work alongside Babcock to deliver this capability for the Royal Navy.

"Today marks a significant milestone in the programme for the Royal Navy, Defence and shipbuilding in Scotland and it's great to see the first of the British military's new Type 31 warships keel being laid at Babcock's Rosyth dockyard."

The newest of the Royal Navy's frigate fleet will undertake a variety of roles on operations including interception and disruption of illegal activity at sea, intelligence gathering, Defence engagement and providing humanitarian support.

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PEOPLE

Archie Clarke

Job title

DE&S Aerospace Degree Apprentice

What does your role involve?

Working as a DE&S Degree Apprentice means I am constantly moving around the organisation. Every 6 months I am assigned to a new placement to gain real world experience, all while undertaking my bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. One day a week is spent completing this degree, with the other four days devoted to my placement, and the completion of my NVQ Level 4 qualification. Since starting the apprenticeship in 2019 I have worked in the Glider and Apache delivery teams, leading me to my current post in the DE&S Airworthiness Team.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

Being fairly new to the air domain means I am always learning something new. Every day I get to work with experienced and accomplished individuals, who are more than happy to put their time aside to help me grow and achieve my goals.

I also enjoy the lifestyle that comes with this apprenticeship. I currently live in a 5-person house with some lads I met on the first year of the course, allowing me to have the university experience, while pursuing a professional career with DE&S.

What is your greatest accomplishment (in your role) to date?

Completing my first placement with the Glider Delivery Team during lockdown was one of my greatest achievements. Joining a new team is daunting in itself and having to work remotely for the duration of the placement had its challenges. Despite this, I was able to meet most of my objectives and deliver a number of positive outcomes, resulting in some encouraging feedback from my colleagues.

What keeps you energised about working at DE&S?

Set to complete my course in 2024, I'm looking forward to seeing where my last few placements take me. Having the opportunity to join a range of project teams excites me, and I'm looking forward to completing my remote placements in the near future.

Who or what has shaped who you are?

My parents have always demonstrated a strong work ethic which drove me to having a few jobs before joining the apprenticeship. I believe this work experience helped me gain a brief understanding into how an organisation functions, and how an employee is supposed to fit within it.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

From a young age I've had an interest in outdoor sports. I've competed nationally in surf kayaking, completed the 125-mile Devizes to Westminster marathon and I currently play kayak polo for my local team. Most sports related to a kayaking I've probably had a go at! I finished all of the Ten Tors challenges before joining the apprenticeship and I still enjoy walking my dog on Dartmoor to this day. In my spare time I also like to play the piano, although I'm not very good!

What might surprise people about you?

I used to work part time as a school cleaner and I had my own gardening business in my village.

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

Take advantage of every opportunity. Where there is none, make it for yourself.



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from 63 countries
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(exhibitors, visitors,
press, organisers)

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from 94 countries
and 4 organisations
(representing 760 delegates)

690 journalists

from 44 countries

75 Conferences
2,100 Business meetings made



2018 key figures