



Defence Suppliers Forum Executive Group 2025 - Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Defence Suppliers Forum (DSF) Executive Group were revised and agreed at DSEI '23. With a renewed focus on collaboration and the development of capability at pace, they will ensure the DSF delivers a coherent programme of activity that addresses the most important and pressing issues facing defence and ensures the future competitiveness of the UK Defence enterprise.

The new Executive Group Aims are to:

1. Secure delivery of the capability and capacity required by Defence, on time and on budget
2. Deliver a stronger and more productive sovereign UK defence enterprise, able to deliver the capability and capacity required to meet the needs of the Armed Forces
3. Enhance collaboration, bringing together leaders from UK Industry and Government to jointly develop capability, innovate, solve challenges and deliver the best outcomes for UK PLC.

What will the Executive Group deliver by 2025?

By 2025 we will secure delivery of the capability and capacity required by Defence, on time and on budget.

This will be achieved by:

- Reducing the time taken pre-contract by 50%
- Improving the availability of defence assets and services by 50%
- Developing mutually agreed commercial & technical mechanisms to incentivise UK defence industry to increase defence acquisition and industrial productivity to world-class levels
- Embracing emerging technologies to achieve information superiority critical to winning the digital arms race
- Increasing Defence Enterprise capacity and capability through digital specification, digital acquisition, and by links to the “factory of the future” and adoption of industry 4.0
- Applying Machine Learning to data from Op Scorpius / Kindred to improve on future large-scale offensives and replenishment demands.



By 2025 we will deliver a stronger and more productive sovereign UK defence enterprise, able to deliver the capability and capacity required to meet the needs of the Armed Forces.

This will be achieved by:

- Developing and publishing a timely and adequately defined procurement pipeline that the whole enterprise can have confidence in. This should include a feedback loop to provide evidence that the procurement pipeline is driving industry investment and R & D
- By 2025, use the Collaborative Capability Development approach to embed consideration of exportability during problem setting and capability analysis, and use to assess solutions throughout approvals, acquisition and through-life support life-cycles
- Increasing the attractiveness of the UK defence sector as an investment proposition in order that it is funded to maintain its innovative edge
- By 2025, use the Collaborative Capability Development approach to embed consideration of contribution to UK S&T Superpower status during problem setting and capability analysis, and use to assess generation and protection of IPR in solutions throughout approvals, acquisition and through-life support life-cycles
- Ensuring that all organisations have 8% of staff in 'Earn While You Learn' by the end of 2025
- Defining a Defence Enterprise D & I Charter by the end of 2023 and have 75% of organisations sign-up by the end of 2024
- Baselining the Defence Enterprise Outflows by the end of 2023 and enhance retention by 5% by the end of 2024
- Defining a mechanism for 'Recycle Recruitment' by the end of 2024.

By 2025 we will enhance collaboration, bringing together leaders from UK Industry and Government to jointly develop capability, innovate, solve challenges and deliver the best outcomes for UK PLC.

This will be achieved by:

- Having systems in place to work collaboratively with industry on future requirements that are baked into our force development system
- Developing and maintaining a Capability Priority List that reflects the military needs that underpin the procurement pipeline, and helps industry and government make technology and investment decisions
- Creating and embedding a method of defence enterprise data sharing at OS and above which enhances collaboration and optimised supply chain management, driving improved capability, availability and sustainability.
- By 2025, develop a system and associated measures of effectiveness to improve UK Defence Enterprise supplier development and Supply Chain Resilience.
- Both MOD and Industry evidencing increased spend through SMEs by 2025 (in line with the MOD SME Action Plan)



- Delivering enhanced sustainability of the defence enterprise, ensuring that 90% of defence primes have or are working toward Net Zero targets by 2025
- Ensuring a better, more integrated approach to the application of Social Value criteria in defence procurement
- Reducing the reporting burden associated with the Single Source Contract Regulations and reviewing the balance of risk to allow earlier commitment.

The above targets will be supported by a workplan of initiatives delivered by the DSF Working Groups whose progress will be measured and reviewed on a regular basis.

Signed on behalf of the DSF Executive Group by the Co-Chairs

Andy Start
Chief Executive Officer, DE&S

John Howie
Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Babcock International Group

