

DESIDER

AN INSIDE LOOK AT DEFENCE EQUIPMENT & SUPPORT



**PROTECTING OUR NATION, OUR TERRITORIES AND OUR ALLIES
TODAY, TOMORROW, TOGETHER**

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LOGISTICS,
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The Editor's Lens

Welcome to the October edition of Desider.

And a special welcome to Rupert Pearce, who joined the MOD this month as the new UK National Armaments Director (NAD).

Long-time readers of our magazine will, by now, be familiar with the NAD Group, which brings together many of the MOD's enabling organisations, including Defence Digital, Defence Commercial and our own DE&S. The new organisation is responsible for developing, procuring and maintaining the UK's national arsenal, and ultimately for ensuring our armed forces have all they need to deter, fight and win. It's an exciting time to join our ranks as we focus on cohering the new group and delivering early successes alongside our front-line and industry partners.

While this might be Rupert's first role in Defence, it builds on a successful career as an entrepreneurial industrialist in the commercial technology sector – spanning international business, start-ups, venture capital and private equity.

This is exactly what UK Defence needs. Gaining the upper-hand on the modern battlefield increasingly means drawing rapid insight from the front-line and innovating at speed to deliver the right capabilities faster than our adversaries. Ukraine's battlefield victories have proven this time and again, and the UK's £400 million investment into defence innovation shows our Government agrees.

In one of his first public statements, Rupert had a clear message for our defence partners, "We want to invite industry into that conversation with us, to help us understand how we can meet each other's needs, how we can get the right capabilities, at the right time, at the right price from them, but also deliver the defence dividend back to them to ignite growth, skills and leadership in the UK defence economy."

That message of partnership is at the heart of the Defence Industrial Strategy and its vision of our defence enterprise as a powerful engine for national security and UK-wide

growth. Every part of our defence community will need to be engaged, empowered and employed in service of that vision.

Many of the stories in this month's edition showcase the energy that successful partnerships can release when they break through silos and bypass old notions of customer and supplier.

For example, the Maritime Sensor Enhancement Team tells us about their "fairly revolutionary" approach to team-working that does away with 'us and them' and embeds a culture of shared goals and collaborative working. Working with openness and trust is paying dividends for their programme and for the Royal Navy.

And we highlight the Typhoon Total Availability eNterprise (TyTAN) team whose efforts ensured that, when the call came in for UK Typhoon jets to bolster NATO's Eastern Sentry mission, they were ready to go. TyTAN – a joint DE&S, RAF and BAE Systems enterprise built on integration and cooperation – has reduced the cost of the service, while improving levels of support.

And, while not within these pages, Desider can heartily recommend "UK Defence Footprint: Making Defence an engine for growth" as essential reading for all those interested in our growth mission. Newly published by the MOD, it sets out the huge economic contribution Defence makes in each region of the UK in a clear digestible format.

As he hands the baton to Rupert, Desider would like to take this chance to thank Andy Start. Many of you will have read Andy's regular Desider column, Start Talking, over the last few years. DE&S and UK Defence as a whole have benefited from Andy's leadership. He has brought incredible energy and focus to the roles of DE&S CEO and NAD, and tempered these with the compassion needed to help teams deliver even as we went through seismic organisational changes. So, from Desider, thank you Andy and welcome Rupert.

SENIOR LEADER COMMENT

Enabling "Support with a capital S"

With the opening of the Longtown Defence Storage Facility this month, John Farrow, DE&S Director of Logistics, Services and Commodities, highlights how his team and this milestone are supporting wider defence and driving economic growth.

The best way I can describe Logistics, Services and Commodities (LSC) is that we look after all DE&S support-enabling and logistics activity, providing all the kit and the support services our Armed Forces need for war-fighting.

Using Air as an example, my colleagues in Core Delivery provide the aircraft and then maintain them alongside the RAF teams. But think wider, and it's probably LSC teams procuring and supporting the airfield equipment that enables these aircraft to operate. It is LSC providing the food, clothes and medicines, and the logistics systems to manage inventory and maintenance, or the codification of all the parts supplied. LSC will be moving, storing and distributing the majority of spares and munitions needed at the airbase. We would then be recycling and disposing of items at the end of their lifecycle, as well as testing and repairing potentially obsolete parts. We're even delivering the mail to our Service personnel.

All these activities combine under one LSC roof – with a workforce 2,000 strong – to provide support to our delivery teams and our Armed Forces. But it's more than just logistics; LSC is all about support with a capital S and it is these 'support-enabling' capabilities that makes LSC so vital to Defence.

A very recent capability is the new Longtown Defence Storage Facility (LDSF) in Carlisle. LDSF provides Defence with 76,000 square metres of modern warehousing. It is primarily designed to manage bulkier, slower-moving items, but it can flexibly accommodate anything our armed forces need. LDSF is a perfect example of how Defence is working to bring economic growth to the UK. This £100 million investment created 450 jobs during the construction phase and now supports 25 full-time roles in its operational phase.

We know that our focus in Defence right now is 'readiness'. Our new Defence Readiness and Industry Minister, Luke Pollard, who recently opened the new facility, even has it in his job title.

The additional capacity that Longtown provides will significantly enhance our defence network's readiness and resilience. We've now built ourselves the additional capacity we need to do strategic base outloads. This is where we gather together everything our war-fighters will need to sustain themselves in the fight – all of the spares, provisions, parts and more – and then transport this to wherever in the world it is required.



Strategic base outloads are the biggest thing that we enable. We need that flexibility and extra capacity in our system to do all the necessary preparation.

When I look to the future of LSC, I see opportunity. I see the opportunity to further cohere support activities and drive an essential "through-life support" approach into everything we do.

Just think how much more effective we can be if we build support in at the front-end of every capability and then relentlessly sustain those capabilities through life. This would significantly reduce the risk of obsolescence and the costly effort (in terms of time and money) of sustaining platforms and services when essential support arrangements that should exist simply don't.

And I see the opportunity to allow our people to work in a more joined up way. As Director of LSC, my focus is on ensuring a continued safe and smooth transfer into the NAD Group. I see an opportunity to remove barriers and allow our people to work and innovate, knowing they will be adding real value to Defence. Regardless of organisational changes, regardless of investment, it's our people that make the difference.

The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a B-2 Spirit stealth bomber in flight, viewed from a low angle. The aircraft is white with dark markings on the nose and tail. It has four engines mounted on the wings. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. In the upper right corner, there are large, stylized geometric shapes: a green arrow pointing right and two blue diamonds. The Siemens logo is in the top left corner.

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NEWS

New UK National Armaments Director takes up post

Rupert Pearce has been appointed as UK National Armaments Director, one of the four most senior positions within the MOD, responsible for developing, delivering and maintaining the national arsenal.



The UK National Armaments Director (NAD) is a critical MOD role, responsible for helping to shape the future of UK Defence – speeding up decisions, tackling waste and improving outcomes for our armed forces.

As one of the four most senior positions in the MOD, the NAD is directly accountable to Defence Secretary John Healey and leads the NAD Group to deliver the UK's national arsenal.

As the NAD, Rupert Pearce brings extensive leadership experience from the private sector, including 16 years at FTSE100 satellite telecommunications company Inmarsat, where he served as CEO for nine years.

He took up the role on 14 October on a five-year fixed term contract. Andy Start, who has been establishing the NAD Group over the past six months in an interim capacity, will support him for the first few months of his tenure.

Rupert has a proven track record of managing large organisations, driving innovation and building international partnerships, making him ideally suited to lead the transformation of how defence works with industry to deliver for UK Armed Forces.

His venture capital experience will bolster his work with UK Defence Innovation – one of the new organisations set up as

part of the NAD Group – supporting firms of all sizes to take state-of-the-art technology from the drawing board to the production line.

The NAD Group, which includes MOD delivery agencies such as DE&S, will change how defence partners with industry to grow the UK economy, create jobs across the country and deliver UK exports. This will drive economic growth while bolstering national security.

Rupert Pearce said, “I am deeply honoured to be appointed as the UK's National Armaments Director. It is vital that our armed forces have cutting-edge capabilities at their disposal to project an effective deterrent, both alone and in conjunction with NATO and our other allies.

“To deliver this, we will transform MOD's relationship with its industrial partners so that the UK defence industry becomes a strategic asset, innovating at wartime pace and driving economic growth. I look forward to working with all my new stakeholders to deliver on this vision.”

The appointment comes at a crucial time, following the Prime Minister's commitment to the biggest sustained increase in defence spending since the end of the Cold War, with spending rising to 2.6% of GDP by 2027 and an ambition to reach 3% in the next parliament.

The role will see Rupert implement the recently published Defence Industrial Strategy and oversee a new single investment budget, consolidating eight separate procurement lines. This streamlined approach aims to cut procurement waste and duplication while boosting NATO interoperability and ensuring a resilient supply chain.

Defence Secretary John Healey said, “The National Armaments Director will be a cornerstone of defence reform, positioning the UK to meet evolving global threats whilst making defence an engine for growth in communities across the nation.

“Rupert is an exceptional leader with extensive experience in high-value budgets, effective reform, and delivery on the global stage. He will ensure our forces have the equipment they need, on time and on budget.

“The threat we face is growing; this is a serious appointment to spearhead the national arsenal and help make Britain secure at home and strong abroad.”

NEWS

The “fairly revolutionary” One Defence approach to programme delivery

The Royal Navy’s Kerry Thomas, DE&S’ Philip Spalding and Thales’ Claire Van Schalkwyk tell Desider about bringing One Defence to life through a collaborative enterprise approach.

The Maritime Sensor Enhancement Team (MSET) has a 15-year support contract, jointly managed by DE&S, Thales and Navy Command.

It launched in January 2024 with an aim to transform how we optimise and sustain the Navy’s mission critical sonars and maritime sensors, and in doing so increase platform readiness.

Ordinarily, Defence talks in terms of sides, about the customer and the supplier, or DE&S, industry and the end-user. From the start, we wanted MSET to be different. We wanted to develop an enterprise approach, to embed a culture of continuous improvement, shared goals, and collaborative, trusted working. With MSET there’s no ‘us and them’, all of us are in it together. How we work together to deliver this is fairly revolutionary.

The 15-year contract allows us to have a strategic, long-term view about what’s working well, what needs to change, what the opportunities are, and how we can collectively make sure we deliver the best outcome. We have put a lot of effort into aligning our strategic plans and ways of working to deliver for the Royal Navy as One Defence.

With three interested parties we could easily end up trying to share the same information with a different flavour. But we agreed right from the start on the importance of a single, collective enterprise approach.

We have developed a common language, common reporting, common data standards, and a definitive view of our progress, so that regardless of whether you’re looking through a DE&S, Navy Command or Thales lens, you end up with the same perspective on the programme.

And we produce single packs of data, with the motto ‘create once and use multiple times’, so that all seniors – whether DE&S, Thales or Navy – receive the same information.

We have a joint operating centre at Thales’ Bristol office, where staff from all three stakeholders work together. It is a physical deliverable that has helped to embed the programme’s behaviours. Working shoulder to shoulder on a regular basis fosters collaborative relationships, and it means that, regardless of whether you’re a DE&S, Navy or Thales employee, you are MSET and you have a home.

The point of a contract is to articulate what is going to be delivered and how it will deliver the benefits outlined in the business case. Rather than each stakeholder working on this in isolation, we worked together as a team, making sure everybody was on the same page, speaking the same language, using common templates and definitions. We collectively mapped these benefits to the business case and the reason they were contracted to give us and our stakeholders confidence that our plans link directly to outcomes.

Ultimately, we’re all trying to achieve the same thing, so it makes sense to aim for consistent, unified messaging, information and reporting. This has already reduced bureaucracy and the risks of miscommunication and positivity bias, and is driving real efficiency.

It’s a genuine one-team ethos, where we’re all asking, ‘how do we help each other?’ As a collective, with all of our experiences and all of our reach, we are so much stronger as a team.



Claire Van Schalkwyk



Kerry Thomas



Philip Spalding

NEWS

UK Defence readiness enhanced as new Longtown facility opens

The new DE&S Longtown Defence Storage Facility has officially opened, marking a significant milestone in modernising and streamlining the UK's defence logistics infrastructure.

Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry Luke Pollard visited Cumbria earlier this month to officially open the new Longtown Defence Storage Facility.

At 76,000m², the facility is as big as 12 football pitches and represents a major investment in the UK's defence capabilities. It demonstrates the Government's commitment to ensuring the UK Armed forces have the resources they need, when they need them.

The Longtown facility is run by DE&S in partnership with Leidos and supply chain specialists Kuehne + Nagel, known collectively as Team Leidos. It incorporates the latest storage technology and security systems, enabling more efficient management of defence assets while maintaining the highest standards of protection.

The new site will ensure assets and capabilities at existing defence fulfilment centres and storage at other sites in Shropshire and Oxfordshire are more readily available to meet surges in demand.

During his visit, the Minister received a first-hand look at how modern infrastructure supports military readiness. He also met with some of the 25 new colleagues involved in managing mission-critical defence equipment and supplies.

He said, "The opening of this state-of-the-art facility in Longtown will enhance our ability to store and deploy critical defence equipment to the front-line. It's an excellent example of how we're modernising our defence logistics while supporting jobs here in Cumbria – supporting our Armed Forces and boosting war-fighting readiness."

The official opening included a plaque reveal and a tree-planting ceremony to mark the occasion. The event was also attended by DE&S CEO Lieutenant General Simon Hamilton, and the DE&S Director of Logistics, Services and Commodities John Farrow.

Lieutenant General Hamilton said, "The impressive Longtown Defence Storage Facility is a testament to DE&S' dedication to providing exceptional support to our armed forces. This modern storage capability will significantly enhance our logistics operations. Working together as Team Leidos, we can deliver the right equipment to the right place at the right time."

John Farrow added that the new facility is "helping to accelerate our mission of equipping and supporting the UK Armed Forces today and tomorrow."

Simon Hutchings, Leidos Vice President and Programme Director LCST, said that Team Leidos is proud to be operating this critical hub in the defence supply chain. "In an increasingly complex and uncertain geopolitical environment, the ability to disperse, store, manage, and distribute critical materiel with speed of relevance is fundamental to maintaining operational readiness."

The build project, awarded by DE&S and managed by construction and civil engineering company McLaughlin & Harvey, was delivered on time and employed more than 450 people from across the UK.

Barry Bryce, Operations Director, McLaughlin & Harvey, said, "We are proud to have delivered the facility on time and to the highest standards, working collaboratively with DE&S and partners across our supply chain. The Longtown site is a vital asset for UK defence and we're proud to have played a key role in supporting the armed forces as well as contributing to jobs and economic growth."



NEWS

£320 million contract will revolutionise armed forces equipment management

The UK's Armed Forces will be strengthened by a new management system that will completely change how the military manages and maintains its equipment, enhancing operational effectiveness.

The MOD has signed a £320 million contract with IBM UK to deliver the cutting-edge Defence Equipment Engineering Asset Management System (DEEAMS).

The DEEAMS is a new engineering through-life support capability and will be integral to how Defence manages its assets in the future. It will replace 17 fragmented and outdated applications with one modern streamlined platform, reducing the burden on users and improving the quality and availability of engineering data.

Over phased releases, DEEAMS will supersede five separate core systems used across Land, Maritime, Air and Munitions, and 12 aging applications used across the whole of the MOD. As well as enhancing asset management, the contract will create 100 new highly skilled jobs in the UK.

The innovative system will use artificial intelligence to bring over £1 billion in benefits, such as savings on support and IT costs. It will provide personnel with real-time information to predict maintenance and repairs, stock availability and engineering planning across major equipment and platforms.

Serving over 65,000 users across more than 130 major military platforms and assets, the system will improve the quality and pace of military decision-making and support the resilience of digital networks.

John Farrow, DE&S Director of Logistics Services and Commodities, said, "This transformational new platform demonstrates how defence and industry will work hand-in-hand, ensuring our armed forces have the right equipment in the right place at the right time. Through this partnership with IBM UK, we are strengthening our military readiness and creating highly skilled jobs."

The contract builds on the Strategic Defence Review's recommendations for the UK Armed Forces to rapidly modernise and embrace the latest technology.

Andy Start, then UK National Armaments



Director, said, "This investment is about more than just technology – it's about operational effectiveness. The system will increase combat platform availability, reduce operational risk and improve decision-making speed. That translates directly into better support for our personnel and enhanced capability for our Armed Forces. As we deliver on the Strategic Defence Review, this contract demonstrates our determination to embrace digital transformation and ensure the UK Armed Forces remain at the cutting edge of military capability."

Vice Admiral Andy Kyte, Chief of Defence Logistics and Support within MOD, met with Rahul Kalia, Managing Partner of IBM Consulting UK and Ireland, to formally sign the DEEAMS contract.

Vice Admiral Kyte praised the hard work to date of all involved in delivering DEEAMS, saying, "DEEAMS is an enormous step forward: 17 legacy, standalone, engineering

systems replaced by one best-of-breed software solution. It will enable us to deliver better decision-making, better availability, and a better lived experience for our engineers. It's a prime example of how we are working in partnership with industry to drive forward digital modernisation and deliver game-changing performance. Thank you to all involved."

Rahul Kalia said, "IBM is proud to support the MOD to deliver the transformational DEEAMS programme to enable a next generation, full-lifecycle asset management solution for the UK Armed Forces. Working with our ecosystem partners, we will deliver this mission-critical platform with predictive intelligence and real-time data driven insights to improve planning and support strategic decision-making."

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NEWS

Hundreds of missiles delivered as UK leads Kyiv trade delegation

Crucial missiles have been received by Ukraine months ahead of schedule, as Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry Luke Pollard attends Kyiv defence industry forum.

Hundreds of Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM), manufactured in Belfast, have been delivered to Ukraine five months early under the UK gifting programme and will be used to help defend the country's airspace and people.

Belfast-based Thales UK now moves to the next phase of a £1.6 billion deal signed earlier in the year. This will enable the missiles to be integrated further into Ukraine's air defence system, in a significant step for Ukraine's own sovereign capabilities. The ongoing missile manufacturing work in the UK is directly creating 200 jobs, as well as supporting a further 700 existing roles.

The announcement was made as Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry Luke Pollard led a trade visit to Ukraine, part of the 3rd International Defence Industry Forum, Ukraine's premier defence industry event. The forum saw hundreds of government and industry attendees come together to show their collective support for Ukraine.

Businesses came from across NATO countries, demonstrating a united multinational industrial front with global allies and deepening industrial cooperation and military support. It provided a space to sustain the momentum built up at DSEI 2025, advance the UK-Ukraine 100-Year Partnership, and position the UK as Ukraine's principal industrial partner.

Luke Pollard said, "It was an honour to lead this trade delegation to Kyiv, and to see so many other countries participating in the event. Driving industrial partnerships is essential so that we can learn from their expertise and together build the industrial base we need to defend the UK, deter our adversaries and support Ukraine."

The Minister was joined by Andy Start, then UK National Armaments Director, who said, "The energy and momentum for future defence collaboration in Kyiv is truly



palpable. I'm immensely proud of the UK's steadfast support to Ukraine over the past three years. Working with trade association ADS and our dedicated trade delegation, we're facilitating increasingly sophisticated UK-Ukrainian business relationships that strengthen both our industrial bases."

Deeper international collaboration between companies of all sizes is critical to Ukraine's long-term defence industrial resilience and to bolstering its fight back against Russia's illegal invasion. Trade missions between the UK and Ukraine have already resulted in more than 30 joint ventures and partnerships, leading to jobs, prosperity and reinforced security in both nations.

Kevin Craven, CEO of trade association ADS said, "The UK's defence industry stands united in our efforts to increase production capacity, develop innovative new capabilities, and build a resilient industrial ecosystem that endures against

the most trying of circumstances. In what has been the most multinational trade mission to Kyiv of its kind, it has been an honour for industry to lead the UK in engaging both within Ukraine and with our Ukrainian counterparts."

The partnership with Ukraine has resulted in major investment in the UK by Ukraine's largest drone manufacturer. Ukrspesystems will invest £200 million in two new UK facilities, creating 500 high-skilled jobs and boosting economic growth.

UK Defence Exports (UKDE) – now part of the MOD National Armaments Director Group – has created the 'Working with Ukraine's Defence Sector' guide for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This first-of-its-kind resource provides comprehensive guidance on procurement pathways, coalition and donor mechanisms, partnership models, and contact points.

Navy strike power enhanced as Sea Venom declared operational

The Sea Venom missile is now ready for deployment with Wildcat helicopters, ensuring the Royal Navy can defend NATO and allied interests, both domestically and internationally.

Initial Operating Capability (IOC) has been met for the anti-ship Sea Venom missile. The Sea Venom provides Royal Navy Wildcat helicopters operating on front-line duties with unprecedented precision and reach.

Each Wildcat helicopter can carry up to four Sea Venoms with the ability to engage multiple targets in a single sortie or concentrate firepower against a single high-value target. The missile carries sufficient destructive power to neutralise larger warships, including corvettes and patrol vessels, while complementing the existing lightweight Martlet missile system designed for countering boat swarms and smaller craft.

The IOC milestone was achieved during Operation Highmast, the UK Carrier Strike Group's eight-month deployment to the Indo-Pacific region led by flagship HMS Prince of Wales. Four Wildcats from 815 Naval Air Squadron are now armed with Sea Venom missiles across the Carrier Strike Group, distributed between HMS Prince of Wales, Type 45 destroyer HMS Dauntless and Norwegian frigate HNoMS Roald Amundsen.

Commander James Woods, Commanding Officer of 815 Naval Air Squadron, called the introduction of Sea Venom "a step-change in our combat power". He said, "This delivers a lethal combination of precision, reach and flexibility that allows us to strike decisively against a wide spectrum of threats in the maritime, coastal and land domains. This transformational capability for the Fleet Air Arm ensures we are ready to defend and protect NATO and Allied interests at home and abroad."

The Sea Venom forms the long-range component of the Future Anti-Surface Guided Weapon (FASGW) programme, working in conjunction with the Martlet missile to provide comprehensive anti-surface warfare capabilities across all engagement ranges. It has a sophisticated targeting system, which features an advanced 'operator-in-the-loop' capability. Infra-red imagery from up to four

weapons is transmitted simultaneously back to the operator, enabling precise control over targeting and trajectory adjustments mid-flight. This level of control ensures maximum effectiveness while minimising collateral damage, something that is particularly crucial when operating in complex coastal environments.

Along with engaging large coastal patrol vessels and corvettes, Sea Venom's versatility extends to coastal installations and land-based targets, making it a valuable asset for modern naval operations across multiple domains.

Commander Andrew Henderson, Commander of the Wildcat Maritime Force, noted the operational significance of Sea Venom, saying, "Its precision, range and versatility ensures that our front-line crews are equipped to meet the challenges of a multi-domain and complex environment."

Sea Venom's IOC milestone reflects the diligence and strong partnership between Navy Command, industry and teams across DE&S, including the Wildcat Delivery Team and the Lethality and Protect team.

Ben Turner, DE&S Programme Director for Sea Venom, said, "Declaring IOC for Sea Venom marks a significant milestone in the programme and is testament to the hard work and collaboration across the enterprise over a sustained period. The DE&S teams have been instrumental in every step of delivering the capability, ensuring equipment was delivered and critical clearance paperwork was in place on time."

"The strong working relationship DE&S has forged with industry has also been key to successful delivery and I've been hugely impressed by the One Team ethos that has permeated through the enterprise with DE&S firmly at the centre. This capability is critical in giving operational commanders choice in how they respond to threats today and in the future."



DE&S supports RAF Typhoons as part of Operation Eastern Sentry

Thanks to the work of the TyTAN and TESS teams, DE&S and its industry partners are ensuring that Typhoon aircraft are available and ready to support NATO operations.

RAF Typhoon fighter jets have conducted their first operational sortie as part of NATO Operation Eastern Sentry.

Typhoons from 3 (Fighter) Squadron, based at RAF Coningsby, supported by a Voyager aircraft from 101 Squadron, have patrolled NATO's eastern flank as part of the Alliance's ongoing measures to deter aggression and reassure our allies. These types of vigilance activities are routine, defensive operations that demonstrate NATO's ability to respond swiftly to potential threats while maintaining the security of member nations.

On the ground, the Typhoon aircraft continue to be supported through the Typhoon Total Availability eNterprise (TyTAN) and the Typhoon Engines Support Service (TESS), both delivered by DE&S.

Since 2017, TyTAN has ensured that a consistently high 80 percent of the Typhoon fleet is routinely allocated to the Forward Available Fleet, while the remaining aircraft undergo routine maintenance and modification upgrades.

When TyTAN – an arrangement between DE&S, the RAF and BAE Systems – began, it introduced new ways of working for the MOD and its industry partners. The most important change was a move towards a fully integrated enterprise approach,

which has reduced the cost of the support service by around one-third, while improving levels of support to the Typhoon fleet.

TyTAN covers all availability services, including training, maintenance, ground and air crew, and round-the-clock technical support. The enterprise environment helps the team to quickly understand the impact of a change to operations on the fleet and to consider the best ways to accommodate additional demands, aiding decision-making and providing clarity on complimentary support arrangements.

Under TESS, which began operating in April, DE&S has assumed greater control of the Typhoon Propulsion Support Facilities (TPSF) at RAF Coningsby and RAF Lossiemouth. DE&S will continue to work with industry partner Rolls Royce, which provides in-depth engine repairs. The TPSFs deliver on-base support for the Typhoon's EJ200 engine. They play a key part in safeguarding engine availability, reducing turn-around times and helping MOD personnel control the costs associated with engine through-life support.

Lyndon Hoyle, Head of the DE&S Typhoon Delivery Team, said, "The excellent response to the latest

operational commitment brings home that getting jets off the runway is an enterprise approach and only possible with the front-line, industry and DE&S working together to get the very best from the support solution. As such, I remain incredibly proud of the essential contribution we make and the hard work I see day in, day out to make that happen."

When the call came in for the UK Typhoon fleet to support NATO Eastern Sentry, the TyTAN and TESS teams quickly stepped in to work with RAF HQ. Using advanced modelling, they determined the effect increased flying hours would have on the Typhoon Forward Available Fleet and any changes to their maintenance plan this would require which was key to informing operational planning. The engines team ensured that sufficient serviceable spare engines, engine spare parts and the necessary ground equipment were present to support the Typhoons.

Eastern Sentry involves personnel and aircraft from a number of NATO nations, operating together to ensure a unified response to any potential challenge. The RAF Typhoons will continue to conduct regular sorties, integrating with other NATO air forces.

NEWS

Assuring the accuracy of industry data-modelling

The DE&S Serpens team has successfully employed an innovative new way to assess the quality of industry-supplied modelling data, delivering significant cost savings.

As part of the Serpens Programme, a highly cost-effective data gathering exercise has been conducted by DE&S and partners to assess three prototype dismantled radar systems.

The Serpens Programme aims to deliver a new Close Find Radar for the British Army. The radar systems were tested on Salisbury Plain by 2 PARA Mortars and 34 Battery Royal Artillery, with support from the newly formed King's Ghurkha Artillery and industry partner QinetiQ.

The developers of the prototype radar systems had previously evaluated the effectiveness of their designs against 745 rocket, artillery and mortar shots using their proprietary data models.

A traditional way to assure the accuracy of each developer's modelled data would have required each of the 745 shots to be repeated 30 times at a firing range to ensure 'statistical significance'. Across the three suppliers that would have amounted to over 2,200 shots with an estimated cost of around £67 million.

Instead, a strategy was devised to evaluate the accuracy of their modelling in conjunction with QinetiQ experts. Each radar system was required to respond to five shots in the virtual representation of their systems and then track the same five shots live-fired on Salisbury Plain. The differences between the virtual and real-

world results contributed to a confidence score for the modelled data. All of the suppliers were consulted throughout the process and helped identify issues and opportunities along the way.

Following this, the DE&S Serpens team is running three-day due diligence workshops for each candidate radar supplier, where models, software and existing validation evidence are scrutinised through scripted questions. These workshops provide further information which is combined with the live-firing results to generate an overall confidence score for each supplier's model.

Ben Moles, Serpens Close Find Radar Lead Engineer, said, "The use of predictive modelling in the evaluation has been an experimental journey, utilising QinetiQ experts, the Army Joint Effects Trials and Development Group and industry partners to understand the art of the possible, and the user in prioritising what elements in performance were important. It will deliver clear differentiation in the assessment of a key criteria in the wider Close Find Radar tender evaluation."

The Close Find Radar will replace the Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar, which was originally bought as an Urgent Capability Requirement for use in Afghanistan, delivering significantly enhanced speed, accuracy and effectiveness.

The Close Find Radar is one sub-system within the full Serpens system. The backbone of Serpens will be a C2 network – made up of a number of networked passive and active systems – that speeds up the dissemination of information and enables faster responses. This will allow the British Army to better track artillery, more accurately identify the location of hostile artillery assets and provide better warning of incoming artillery to friendly forces.

Major Oliver Whitton, Army Serpens Requirements Manager, said, "By validating modelled radar performance against live data, we gain confidence in system responsiveness and accuracy. This approach supports the acquisition of capabilities that shorten our sensor-to-effector timeline, enabling us to out-react adversaries in the counter-battery duel. This methodology ensures we invest in systems that contribute directly to operational tempo and decision advantage, key factors in defeating peer threats."

As the British Army evolves how it fights, a new capability that can provide the necessary intelligence to prosecute the counter-battery battle is ever more pressing. Close Find Radar will provide this.



DESIDER

AN UNCREWED AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS DEFENCE EQUIPMENT & SUPPORT

Desider is the monthly corporate magazine for DE&S. It is aimed at readers across the wider MOD, armed forces and defence industry. It covers the work of people at DE&S and its partners, and other corporate news and information.

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NEWS

DE&S highlights

A digest of DE&S news from the past month.

Defence finalists make history at 2025 CILT Awards

The MOD has made history at the prestigious 2025 Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) Awards for Excellence, with two MOD finalists recognised for the first time in the event's 32-year history.

Fabiola Garay Balmori and Flying Officer Chris Mark Featherstone were finalists in the Unsung Hero and Rising Star categories respectively. Fabiola remarked, "These achievements demonstrate our commitment to the NAD Group and the importance of working closely with industry to deliver the best outcomes for our armed forces."

The MOD's participation in the awards reflects its adoption of industry best practices and a dedication to enhancing operational capabilities through partnerships.

Interoperability with industry has become a cornerstone of the UK Defence logistics strategy. By collaborating with industry partners, Defence will be able to leverage cutting-edge technologies, share expertise and adopt innovative practices that enhance efficiency and resilience.

Looking ahead, UK Defence aims to strengthen these partnerships, with plans to establish a dedicated defence award at the 2026 CILT Awards. Nominations for all 12 categories will open in January.

Defence deals with India deepens partnership and boosts UK business

A £350 million deal with India will deliver UK-manufactured Lightweight Multirole Missiles (LMM), built by Thales in Belfast, to the Indian Army in another significant boost for the UK defence industry.

The contract secures over 700 jobs in Northern Ireland as the air defence missiles and launchers due to be manufactured are the same as those currently being produced for Ukraine.

The deal paves the way for a broader complex weapons partnership between the UK and key strategic partner India, currently under negotiation between the two governments. A new milestone has also been reached in the UK and India's cooperation on electric-powered engines for naval ships as both countries signed the Implementing Arrangement to advance collaboration to the next stage, worth an initial £250 million.

Defence Secretary John Healey said, "The defence deals announced today show how our growing strategic partnership with



India will boost UK business and jobs. I am hopeful that this will pave the way for a deeper relationship between our two defence industries, particularly in the development of electric engines for naval ships and in air defence.

"As we deepen our defence relationship with India, we will harness the UK defence industry as an engine for growth, securing vital jobs in Northern Ireland and throughout the UK."

DE&S supports Exercise Bersama Lima 2025

RAF aircraft played a number of pivotal roles during Exercise Bersama Lima 2025, where troops from the UK, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore came together in the Indo-Pacific to enhance interoperability, strengthen professional relationships and demonstrate unity.

The Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) nations' exercise in Malaysia was held to demonstrate a shared commitment to regional stability.

The multi-role Voyager conducted air-to-air refuelling with UK F-35B jets, while Atlas A400M carried out joint training sorties with Royal Australian Air Force F-35As from Kuantan Airbase in Malaysia. DE&S provides round-the-clock maintenance and repair support to Voyager, A400M and F-35B wherever they are in the world, ensuring they are at constant readiness to protect the UK and its allies.

A highlight of the exercise was the integration of the Carrier Strike Group, another deployment supported by DE&S, which operated alongside the Malaysian and Singaporean coastlines.

Royal Navy completes first firing of new ship-busting missiles

Together with Norway and Poland, the UK has successfully validated the Naval Strike Missile (NSM) during Arctic exercises off the coast of Norway.

The live-fire trials demonstrated the missile's precision and reliability in sub-zero temperatures, high winds, and challenging electronic warfare environments. This confirms the missile's readiness for operations in Arctic and high-latitude environments, where extreme weather and electronic disruption often degrade conventional systems.

The 400kg NSM can be used against warships or land targets and has greater range than the Harpoon system on Type 23 frigates and Type 45 destroyers, which it replaces.

Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry Luke Pollard said: "The NSM is one of the most advanced missiles in our naval arsenal. It will give the Royal Navy and our allies an edge against our enemies. This milestone, achieved through our exemplary international partnership with Norway, significantly enhances our maritime deterrent and underscores the Government's dedication to investing in the technologies that will maintain Britain's secure."

DE&S awards Serco contract to support Typhoon aircraft engines

RAF Typhoon aircraft will continue to receive mission-essential EJ200 engine support following a new five-year maintenance contract awarded to Serco.

The £7.8 million deal will ensure Serco delivers maintenance and logistics services for EJ200 engines, which power the RAF's Typhoon aircraft.

Previously subcontracted through Rolls-Royce, Serco will now deliver services directly to the RAF, reinforcing its position as a trusted partner in military aviation.

The contract sustains employment across two RAF bases, with maintenance teams operating from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire and RAF Lossiemouth in Moray. Twenty highly skilled technician

posts and six logistics roles continue supporting the Typhoon fleet's operational requirements.

The contract highlights Serco's commitment to delivering high-quality support to the UK's defence infrastructure and reflects the company's broader ambition to expand its footprint in aviation engineering.

Sid Hallam, DE&S EJ200 Operations Manager, said, "This contract will support operational readiness of our Typhoon fleet, ensuring our Royal Air Force continues to have the reliable, mission-essential engine support needed to defend UK airspace and fulfil our NATO commitments."

Submarine hull casing steel successfully recycled and repurposed

An initiative known as Project Torbay – led by DE&S, in collaboration with the Submarine Delivery Agency, Babcock and Sheffield Forgemasters – has showcased the feasibility of recycling old submarines into new defence components.

The project saw the extraction and recycling of 10.6 tonnes of high-yield, naval strength submarine hull casing steel from a decommissioned submarine, formerly known as HMS Torbay, undertaken at HM Naval Base Devonport Royal Dockyard. The steel was then sold to Sheffield Forgemasters, who successfully recycled and repurposed it into new components.

Repurposing the steel through an electric arc furnace meant the project not only achieved its recycling objectives but also contributed to reducing CO2 emissions, as well as generating a positive net revenue return across the Defence Nuclear Enterprise.

Project Torbay highlights the MOD's efforts to enhance its supply chain resilience, reduce storage burden and promote the reuse of strategic resources within the UK. It demonstrates the way MOD teams collaborate, utilising their unique skillsets to deliver overall success, whilst maximising taxpayer value for money.



PEOPLE

Tally Horley

Job title: Stakeholder and Communication Lead – Naval Support Integrated Global Network (NSIGN) Ships Project

What does your role involve?

Understanding the stakeholder landscape within the NSIGN Ships Project. This includes researching and identifying needs, then developing and delivering the best solution with the team to communicate what we can, when we can, through filmed content, briefings, Q&As and industry engagement. I'm currently transitioning to a new role in DE&S within the Land Environment, focusing on event management- an exciting opportunity to harness my experience.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

The people. I'm a natural gatherer and encourager, bringing people together to find solutions. The NSIGN Ships Project is vast, with numerous stakeholders and significant communication needs. I've been able to bring a fresh approach to communications and I'm grateful to my first team leader for saying yes to many of my ideas. It's exciting to see the positive impact of collaboration on such a complex project.

What is your greatest accomplishment to date?

Producing a first-of-its-kind event on the London Eye for a client's Fairtrade campaign. We worked with top UK artists and global talent to deliver 100 live shows, performed simultaneously in every capsule over one evening. Coordinating such a complex event was a true labour of love and a highlight of my career.

What keeps you energised about working at DE&S?

Something clicked for me while listening to an update from Andy Start. There has been much talk about being ready for war – bear in mind, I come from an advertising background, so it's a new conversation for me. Andy said something like, 'We need to prepare well for war so we don't go to war (by being the best we can be)'. In that moment my 'why' made sense. Knowing your 'why' is key to being motivated.

Who or what has shaped who you are?

At 14, I was given an amazing opportunity by a film director who allowed me to assist on a shoot. The moment I stepped on set, I knew film-making was my path. That spark grew into a 30-year career in production, filled with creativity, collaboration and problem-solving. After three decades in the industry, I was ready for a change and realised that what I loved most was bringing people together to deliver something complex, creative and high stakes.

I came across DE&S and it really piqued my interest. I was drawn to the deeper purpose, allowing me to apply what I'd learned about communication and deliver on a larger scale. My current role isn't all that different from orchestrating a large film production. It requires clarity of vision, precision and the ability to translate ideas between creative, technical and strategic teams – just in a new way.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Outside of precious family time and walking our springer spaniel, I have a passion for pottery and throwing on the wheel. I have a lot of bowls now! Having a creative outlet is important to me.

What might surprise people about you?

I'm a big boxing fan; in my younger days I was coached by world heavyweight champion David Haye's trainer.

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

It's tough to name just one thing, can I have three? 'Trust your intuition', 'communication is a two-way process' and 'choose not to get offended by people'. You don't always know what is going on in someone else's life; showing grace is key.





Royal Marine Commandos stack up against the facade of a building and throw smoke grenades before neutralising the enemy position as part of Joint Expeditionary Force Exercise Tarasiss.

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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An RAF Typhoon is refuelled by a Voyager aircraft as part of NATO Operation Eastern Sentry on 2 October 2025.

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