

Defence Logistics Enterprise – LOGNET Technology Concept Sub-Working Groups (SWG)¹- Terms of Reference (TOR)

Reason for Issue

These TORs are a guide to supporting the activities of the DLFDB- governed LOGNET Technology Concept SWGs, covering their standardised aims, objectives and governance. They are purposefully broad in content but provide overarching guidance, with the detail of each of the sub-working groups more clearly defined by the Technology Lead Command in concert with the Concept Advocates and with support from the Lead Industry Representative (as appointed by TD Info) for each technology area.

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Defence Logistics Enterprise LOGNET Technology Concept SWGs are a standing, joint MOD-Industry subordinate forum of the DLFDB. Their purpose is to support the accelerated development and exploitation of promising technology areas with a view to assisting in the delivery of some of the high-level benefits of the DLV as articulated in the Future Support Force 2035 (FSF 35) Concept. All seek to deliver support in a different way, ultimately to reduce the demand for support, reduce the support footprint and reduce the cost relative to output. Each Sub-WG is guided by the high level CFD-generated Technology Concept Notes, aiming to arrive at viable, achievable and affordable propositions that can be operationalised within the next 15-20 years. The collaborative nature of the SWG will allow Defence and Industry to collectively focus its efforts on proving or disproving the hypotheses and assumptions posed within the concept notes to guide associated Research, Analysis and Experimentation activity across the Defence Support Enterprise (DSE) and the related R&D efforts of industry.

Scope

Each SWG will consider all aspects of its Technology Area within the context of Defence Support-related activities as they affect both the MOD and Defence industry. The SWG achieves its ends through: strategy setting in pursuit of the needs of the DSE; sponsorship and oversight of joint work addressing Engineering Support, Equipment Support & Logistic Support objectives; leadership of related joint activity; and facilitation of communication amongst the DSE on matters of common interest. To aid this work, the SWG will capture associated activities and evidence related to the Concept Notes in the Information for the Logistics Innovation Agenda Database (ILIAD) knowledge management system. Intent is for ILIAD to enable a clear understanding of realistic and achievable milestones for each of the technologies, reviewing them at every SWG and reporting to the termly DLFDB.

Structure

The SWG consists of one Board for each technology area supported by specific Task Groups who will collaborate on joint projects and relevant Communications Events.

¹ There are currently 3 + 1 Technology SWGs, linked to the CFD-generated Future Support Force Technology Concept notes and related work. These are: Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning; Robotic & Autonomous Systems; and Additive/Advanced Manufacturing; plus Future Deployed Nutrition. Additionally, there are several other potential technology concept areas to consider including, SMART contracts/ Blockchain, Future Power Distribution, Mobile/Agile Warehousing, etc which are being developed but remain relatively immature at this time.

Goals & Objectives

1. To inform the related vision, concept development and roadmap for the relevant technology that supports stakeholder needs. The roadmap should reflect Joint Logs goals and align with Defence priorities.
2. To document and maintain a WG Strategic Intent for the development, implementation and exploitation of technologies that reflect strategic, operational, policy and business drivers, underpinned by Def Support leadership endorsement.
3. To ensure pan-Defence and international co-ordination and coherence where practicable.
4. To ensure that the support service providers' and MOD requirements are articulated, understood and built into future transformation processes to ensure the successful joint exploitation of technology across the extended DSE.
5. To identify opportunities for improving (time, cost, quality) the delivery of DLV 'ends' through the implementation of technology-driven capability.
6. To drive the development of business cases for new initiatives.
7. To develop and manage the Programme of Work required to help deliver the vision and effect the delivery roadmap.
8. To provide direction to help maximise return on investment (both MOD and Industry) and to set the pace of activity.
9. To provide Programme direction for the set of authorised projects needed to meet the business needs, as defined in the Concept Notes and FSF 35 Concept.
10. To identify and maintain a key issues and risks register, articulating these to the appropriate delivery agencies as necessary
11. To provide Programme Management oversight to drive coherence across projects and current systems/capabilities to help ensure interoperability, reusability and interconnectivity between MOD and Industry solutions.
12. To sentence new requirements from all sources, including through initiation of Task Group investigations to determine which of the new requirements will be included.
13. To propose, develop and manage a communication plan to optimise communications within the MOD and with Industry that recommends and fosters appropriate delivery mechanisms and channels.
14. To direct the content and style of updates to associated Communication Events.

Composition

The SWG and Communications Events are chaired by a Def Lead from the nominated Lead (Technology) Command², supported by the Def Logs Technology Concept Advocate and a TDInfo-nominated Industry representative. The Working Group will be open to all DLFDB members, and Task Groups will be formed as required. Initial membership will be drawn from the Study Day attendees.

Key roles and responsibilities:

Chair. The Chair is also the Lead Command for that Technology area and is responsible for coordinating the meeting as well as ensuring the SWG is working towards delivering or developing the hypotheses contained within the Concept Notes or agreeing to changes as brought about through the generation of evidence through the SWG. The Chair acts as the focal point for that technology area with the DSE and advises the DLFDB membership on the breadth of activity, the programme of work, priorities, dependencies, risk, issues and requirements for that area across all stakeholders.

Technology Concept Advocate (TCA). The TCA is the Def Logs SO1 responsible for maintaining and developing the concept and for ensuring that hypotheses are correct and appropriate. The TCA

² Navy = AdM; Army = RAS; Air = AI&ML

supports the Chair in ensuring that the Programme of Work is focussed on the desired outcomes and that ILIAD content is amended where necessary based on evidence.

Industry Technology Lead Representative (ITLR). The ITLR is appointed by TDInfo and acts completely impartially across all of industry to ensure the right representation across that technology area supports the development of the Concepts and the PoW. The ITLR is responsible for the conduct and involvement of industry representatives and acts as the focal point with industry for the SWG.

Secretariat. Secretariat functions will be provided by the TDInfo Industry Representative from Def Logs primarily and will be supported, for the maintenance of ILIAD, by the C1 Evidence. They are responsible for supporting the Chair and the Advocates in pulling together the SWG events and for maintaining the PoW as well as generating associated Record of Discussions and Decisions and for ensuring coherence between SWGs.

Conduct & Reporting

The SWG will be run in two parts with a MOD only pre-meeting prior to the main SWG involving all stakeholders. The purpose of the pre-meeting is to act as an internal clearing house and to deal with any commercially sensitive details which cannot be exposed to industry or which needs to be agreed beforehand. The SWG reports to and takes direction from the DLFDB. Communication Events will be organised as part of LOGNET.

Standard reporting will include:

- Task outputs published on TDInfo website and entered into ILIAD
- Input to the DLFDB Termly Report
- Standing agenda item at DLFDB termly mtgs
- Material input to the LFWG and QLF forums as required

Frequency

The SWGs will meet every 4 months to align with DLFDB and will have virtual meetings as required in the interim. Task Groups will meet as necessary in accordance with the associated Programme of Work.

Dissemination of Information

All meeting RODs, presentation material and task outputs will be:

- Captured and form part of the ILIAD evidence base;
- Published on Team Defence Information Website;
- Used to inform the DLFDB and its Termly Reports;
- Briefed at LOGNET;
- Shared by Def Logs with the 5 Eyes community where appropriate.

Additional Information

These generic TORs will be supported by more detailed and tailored direction specific to each SWG based on the needs and methods of operating of each of the Technology Lead Commands and Advocates articulated through an associated Annexes to these TORs. They will include details of the stakeholders, standing members and other specific communications methods etc as deemed necessary by the Chair, the TCA & ITLR. These should be produced following the initial SWG mtg.