

Research Technology & innovation (RTI): TD-Info Activities Summary 2019 and Look-ahead for 2020

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This document summarises the Research Technology & innovation (RTI) activities that Team Defence Innovation (TD-Info) was involved in and supported during 2019 – and highlights activities in these areas during the first quarter of 2020. Use the links for follow-up details.

Defence Logistics: During 2019, the [Support Information Innovation Community Of Interest \(SII-COI\)](#) activities gained a more formal governance structure. Chaired by Command, the [LOGNET Technology Sub Working Groups \(SWG\)](#) convene quarterly with supporting activities taking place out of committee. The outputs of this working group shape the future Defence Support Concepts and influence the Science & Technology (S&T) investment to build the evidence base for the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) and Finance and Military Capability (FMC) Balance of Investment. Success in this area will see funding for technology in the Support Network with potential exploitation through the Support Transformation programme and Command Capability Programmes.

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** The AI SWG has already started to create a list of [priority use cases](#) for AI across Defence Support and to create a development roadmap. Development of AI solutions against the priority use cases will generate evidence and support adoption of AI with lessons shared with other wider [Defence AI initiatives](#).
- **Robotic and Autonomous Systems (RAS)** Building upon the investment in Autonomous Last Mile Resupply by the Army, this workshop focuses on ‘other areas’ of the support network that can be automated, including: Warehousing, Engineering Support, Distribution, data capture and cross docking. This SWG is identifying development options, looking to adopt technologies developed for application in other sectors
- **Additive Manufacturing (AdM)** With significant investment in Advanced Manufacturing and establishment of [High Value Manufacturing Catapults](#) in the UK, this group is exploiting this wider government investment that is collaborating to build a UK Additive Manufacturing capability that can support the UK MOD. This group has already demonstrated a number of processes and is actively collaborating on [Cold Spray technology](#). In November 2019 this SWG also organised an event at Frankfurt Messe that brought together some of our NATO Allies who shared their visions, aspirations and lessons.

2020 Sub-Working Group (SWG) programme

The 2020 SWG programme is already taking shape. If your organisation is investing or looking to exploit these areas, why not come along to the Sub-Working Group (SWG) sessions to share your experience and co-innovate. Forthcoming sessions:

- AI SWG – [30 Jan 20](#)
- RAS SWG – [4 Feb 20](#)
- AdM SWG – Feb 20

Future Energy Defence is starting to consider the impacts of [NetZero](#) creating a focus on Sustainable Supply Chains. In December 2019, a workshop was held to consider the Logistic implications of supporting the Future Energy Environment. The initial workshop informed an Information Note and Defence Logistics are drafting an initial Concept Note. Additional Information is likely to be available in Spring 2020.

LOGNET The main Defence Logistics engagement event, LOGNET, will take place in March 2020. As the organisational changes of [UKStratCom](#) and Defence Support Operating Model are implemented LOGNET is seen as the ideal event for the Chief of Defence Logistics and Support (CDLS) to provide industry with an update on his strategy. Day 2 of the event will build upon the Defence Logistic SWG areas of interest. Registration is through Eventbrite there are opportunities for stands and demonstrations.

- LOGNET - [12 & 13 Mar 20](#)

Engineering Support Transformation User Forum (ESTUF) This group provided support to the Engineering Support Transformation (EST) Discovery work identifying [11 development streams](#) to realise the [MOD Engineering Transformation](#) 2025. Since the report was delivered, specialist teams have been conducting tasks to help build the evidence base for the business case. The first phase resulted in a White Paper for [Digital Twins](#) that is gaining momentum. Also, a report into Engineering Support Information Architectures is due for release in January 2020. The plan for the Quarter 1 2020 is to focus on opportunities around Engineering Support and Digitisation of Asset Management.

Supply Chain Transformation (SCTx) Expansion Discussions have been taking place to assist the SCTx lead with Industry engagement. Recent discussions have been very fruitful, and we anticipate a first workshop will take place towards the end of March. This workshop will help inform the MOD Warehouse Distribution Optimisation programme. If you have expertise in supply chains, network design, warehouse operations and the associated information systems, then perhaps you should join this new group.

Contact Details

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