TEAM DEFENCE INFORMATION BULLETIN

November 2022

News digest and look ahead to TD-Info Events

Please note all links provided are to our website at www.teamdefence.info and many are accessible to registered members only. To register please go to the top right-hand side of the home page, click on Register, complete the form and you will receive login details in a welcome email, along with guidance on using the website. We avoid images in this bulletin as many defence-related organisations apply email filters that reject emails containing them.

Introduction from our Managing Director, Phil Williams

Dear TD-Info,

I write on my way home from the USA, where my US colleagues tell me everything is bigger and better... While I may not entirely agree with them, this month's bulletin is certainly bigger than usual, and I make no apology for trumpeting all the great work the TDI team are undertaking.

I hope you can all find ways to engage with TDI activity; more than ever the MoD needs support from the Industrial base, many thanks in advance!

International Fund for Ukraine - Urgent Bidding Round

As the Secretary of State announced in Parliament on the 20th October, the International Fund for Ukraine (IFU) Secretariat is pleased to formally launch an Urgent Bidding Round to ensure the continued supply of essential military support to Ukraine. Interested parties are now invited to submit Expressions of Interest for funding against the IFU. Full details provided here. Expression of Interest template found here.

New TD-Info Members

This month we are delighted to welcome Fortinet (Lead Sponsor), Butyl Products Ltd and Severn Trent Services Operations UK Ltd

Next Year's Major Conferences (Hold the Dates)

Support Chain Seminar – Digital Engineering in UK Defence, 18-19 January 2023

A hybrid conference at Aerospace, Bristol

SCS23 provides the opportunity for the 'Team Defence' community to hear, first-hand, how Digital Engineering is transforming Defence. Digital Engineering offers the potential to reduce development times for new equipment, improve availably of in-service equipment for less money and reduced risk. The event will give an opportunity to understand the opportunities that Digital Engineering offers, discuss the key initiatives, exchange information, strengthen relationships, and become engaged in collaborative MOD/Industry Working Groups.

The event will include presentations on:

• The operational and business benefits MOD wishes to achieve through Digital Engineering

• Key lessons from different countries and different sectors on their Digital Engineering journey

• How existing and new suppliers are using Digital Engineering to deliver battle winning solutions, faster and at lower cost

The event also provides an excellent career development opportunity for people to learn about the exciting technological developments and improvement initiatives that are happening across the UK defence community and how we can collectively deliver world-class support solutions and services for our armed forces.

SCS23 is a hybrid event, catering for 'in person' and 'virtual' delegates. Registration will be open shortly. TD-Info Member and non-member tickets available - MOD free of charge.

Calling all Sponsors and Exhibitors - if you would like to support the event, please contact Sue Russell for more information. Prime, standard and exhibition packages available, please book early.

Support Net – 18-19 May 2023

Further information soon to be released

Defence Information 2023 (DI23) – 5-6 July 2023

DI23 will be on 5 and 6 July at The Active Leisure Centre, Thornbury (like DI22 this year). It will again be hybrid for in-person and remote attendees. In the next few months, we'll bring you more information about the theme and content of DI23.

Sponsors and Exhibitors: if you would like to support the event, please contact Sue Russell. Speakers: please register your interest with Steve Shepherd.

Forthcoming Conferences

Multi-domain Integration (MDI) Town Hall – 16 November 2022, 10:30 – 15:30

The next chapter in our MDI evolution is an in-person and virtual event takes place on the 16 November 2022 at Airbus Space & Satellite Rooms 1-4 at Stevenage, where senior MOD and Industry representatives will present through the lens of MDI.

Confirmed are RAdm Andy Kyte who will present on Improving Defence Outputs work plus a senior representative from the recently formed Directorate of Acquisition and Project Delivery.

Please register here - in-person spaces are rapidly filling up.

Defence Supply Chain Strategy Launch Event - 17 November 2022, 10:00 – 12:00

The Defence Supply Chain Strategy is soon to be released on the gov.uk website. There will be an industry launch event taking place on 7th of November 2022, from 10:00-12:00hrs, with presentations from the Director of Joint Support and the Director of Logistics & Support Operating Centre.

Physical VIP attendance at the Defence Fulfilment Centre (DFC) is by invitation only, but the event will also be live cast on MS Teams. To receive the link and join the virtual element of this event, please register and download the calendar invite from our website.

Digital Models, Shadow & Twins Town Hall – 23 November 2022, 8:00 – 17:00

The Digital Catapult will host a Defence Support Digital Twin community of practice (COP) town hall to share the Defence ambition and plans for digital models, shadows, and twins. The aim of the event is to develop collaboration and exploitation with wider activities and investment across industry sectors.

This will be a hybrid event:

• Physical attendance for 90 people theatre style with networking breaks

• Virtual via Digital catapult zoom conference facilities

For further information, and for registration, please visit our website.

Team Defence Information Town Hall – 14 December 2022, 10:45 – 15:00

On the 28 September 2022, we had our first Team Defence Information Town Hall event since the outbreak of COVID. There were important updates from both MOD and industry, with special thanks to Rear Admiral Andy Kyte for his talk on Improving Defence Outputs. For a comprehensive look at what you missed, please see our Town Hall Executive Summary.

Planning is underway for our next Town Hall on the 14th of December, which will take place at the Thornbury Active Leisure Centre. In exciting news, Air vice-marshal Richard Hill has agreed to provide the keynote address, giving us an overview of Defence Support Transformation. This will be a terrific opportunity to learn about the major activities happening around Defence, and how Team Defence Information and industry can best contribute. Moving forward, we are trying to encourage a wider diversity in our audience, so please bring along your 'early careers' colleagues.

All are welcome – register here.

Future Events

(Check the What's On section of the website for the up-to-date list of events and links to register.)

Digital Inspection Co-Creation – Ends 7 November

Last call to respond to our market analysis identifying and prioritising use cases and technology for digital inspection.

The survey will capture the cross-sector purpose and application of a range of digital inspection technologies - mapping the landscape of technology, portability, and value.

The outputs will be used to help prioritise Engineering Support Transformation pilots and priorities. Faced with similar challenges, this will also be applicable across the Defence support engineering industrial base, with potential for collaboration and co-creation.

In November we will collate responses, with the findings to be documented and shared. In December there will also be a virtual brief sharing the key findings.

Please complete the survey here NLT 7 Nov 22.

JISCOT Meeting – 8 November, 13:45 – 16:00

The Mission of the Joint Information Standards Co-ordination Team (JISCOT) is to co-ordinate, for the UK, the MOD and Industry representation in the identification, development, deployment, and maintenance of a coherent set of standards to meet the needs of UK Defence from this global activity within the scope of Team Defence Information (TD-Info) activity. To find out more, contact Ciaran Dodd ciaran.dodd@teamdefence.info

This meeting will take place virtually using Microsoft Teams, and in-person at the Team Defence Office in Rudgeway. Register here.

CDLS Additive Manufacturing as a Service Challenge – 9 November

The next working group and challenge update will take place on the 9 November at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham. The day will consist of a number of briefings from industry and the MOD on current AdM activities, as well as a brief on the new High Value Manufacturing Centre of Excellence (HVM CoE) initiative set up by the Futures Capability

Group (FCG) within DE&S. To find out more about the agenda and attendance requirements, please contact Stu Olden.

Operational Energy (OpEnCoE) COI Hydrogen Network Event – 16 November, 8:00 – 17:00

In the week that establishment of the Operational Energy Authority was announced we have been busy working with Future Capability Group on the next Operational Energy COI event.

This event will investigate the developments in hydrogen as a potential energy vector and will take place at Rolls Royce, Filton, Bristol on 16 November 2022.

A full list of speakers will be available shortly. In the meantime, spaces are limited, so don't miss out. Register here.

Supportability Modelling and Analysis Community of Practice (CoP) – 23 November, 10:00 – 15:00

The Support Modelling and Analysis Community of Practice, (SM&ACoP), has long been campaigning for MOD to develop a Support Modelling Strategy. Happily, this need has been recognised in the Support Advantage Charter and Darron Jackson in Defence Support has joined the Support Modelling and Analysis Strategy working group. Darron has had early discussions with Frank Murphy and Jon-Craig Stuckey, the co-chairs of the SM&A CoP, and they're planning how to develop the strategy over the coming months. For more information about this important work please contact Frank Murphy, or the TD-Info coordinator Leyton Lark. For more information on the Support Advantage Charter, the TD-Info contact is Julian Dayment.

The next meeting will take place at the Team Defence Information Head Office (in person and on MS Teams). Register here.

ASD-STE100 Simplified Technical English® (STE) Training Courses – 28 November - 1 December, 9:00 – 12:30

This course is a practical introduction for those who will use STE like technical authors or engineers in any sector including aerospace and defence. The course:

• Explains what STE is and the benefits of using STE

• Shows the delegates how to use the STE specification

• Gives delegates opportunities to use STE in practical exercises.

We can adapt the course to suit your organisation so contact us to discuss this.

The rate for each delegate on the course is: £690.00 + VAT (tax) at 20%

Classroom delivery: 2 days (maximum 12 people) either at the Team Defence offices or onsite.

Online delivery: 4 half-day sessions on consecutive days. (Maximum 8 people.)

To find out more about our programme of STE training for 2023, please email Ciaran Dodd.

Industry Customer Engagement Forum (ICEF) – 28 November, 13:00 – 15:00

The Industry Customer Engagement Forum is a regular industry engagement meeting, hosted by MOD, to address issues affecting industry-based consumers of MOD-provided services. For further information, please contact Tony Butler.

Team Defence Executive Team Meeting – 30 November, 10:45 – 13:00

The Team Defence Executive Team operate monthly sessions to support and mature opportunities and guide the broad portfolio of Team Defence Activities, so they align with the strategic direction and focus set by the Team Defence Strategy Group.

This is a virtual meeting to be held on Microsoft Teams for our executive team. A supporting slide pack and document suite will be made available prior to the session. For further information, please contact Philippa Arter.

Integrated Product Support (IPS) CoP (Formerly SCSEWG) – 1 December, 10:00 – 12:00

To support the UK MOD and UK industry in improving Supportability Engineering (ILS) standards, processes (technical and management) and training to improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of Supportability Engineering (ILS) programmes and hence ultimately to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Total System (comprising the System of Interest, the Support System, and the Concept of Employment). That is, we strive to improve the Whole Life Cost Effectiveness of the "System of Interest". Register here.

UK Simplified Technical English Working Group – 1 December, 13:30 – 15:00

The UK Simplified Technical English Working Group (UKSTEWG) is a group of representatives from leading UK organisations and companies that use Simplified Technical English (STE). The main purpose of the UKSTEWG is to understand the UK's requirement for STE, promote STE in the UK, be a source of information and guidance on STE, and represent UK changes and recommendations to the Simplified Technical English Maintenance Group (STEMG).

If you are interested in joining the UKSTEWG, or have questions about STE, please contact Ciaran Dodd.

Defence Asset Management Community of Practice (AMCoP) – 1 December, 9:00 – 11:00

As part of TD-Info, the Defence AMCoP is a standing joint MOD, industry, and the Institute of Asset Management (IAM) community of practice. The IAM is the Asset Management professional body and will be represented by the IAM SW Branch.

The AMCoP will offer outputs and information that can be exploited by Asset Management professionals across the whole of MOD and industry. These outputs will improve day-to-day practices in Asset Management across Defence as well as informing strategic decisions about professionalization.

The agenda will be released to attendees once the presenters and content have been confirmed. Register here.

Defence Support – Future Supply Chain Workshop – 6 December, 9:30 – 16:00

The Support Operating Concept creates a vision of the future supply chain. At this event, hosted at the Wincanton Innovation Centre, we will consider the role of technologies such as

AMR, warehouse digital twins, advanced manufacturing, internet of things, end-to-end visibility, and data science in transforming the future defence supply chain. The output will inform the future force design, capability requirements and areas for experimentation. For further Information, please contact Steve Green. Register here.

Team Defence Strategy Group – 7 December, 9:45 – 12:30

The Strategy Group has been established to interpret the 3* Advisory Board's bi-annual areas of strategic focus along with outputs from the Team Defence Information Council to sponsor and approve Team Defence Information activities which align to these top-level objectives.

For further information, please contact Philippa Arter.

Team Defence Council Meeting – 13 December, 13:00 – 15:00

The Council reviews TD-Info's performance against agreed strategic goals and helps define its future agenda. Council members are senior figures invited to join from TD-Info's membership. The Council reviews TD-Info's performance against agreed strategic goals and helps define its future agenda. This meeting is by invitation only. Hybrid Meeting – Teams details to be sent out prior to the event.

For further information, please contact Philippa Arter.

Activity Updates

Business Function Model and Information Exchange Working Group

On 18th October a launch meeting was held for the Business Function Model and Information Exchange Working Group, (BFM&IE WG). For some time, the Defence Support CIO, Richard Puttick has had a team of architects led by Andy Burden developing a business function model for Defence Support. This has now reached such a level of maturity that it is time to engage industry in validating the model and for a joint MOD and industry team to develop it further

Further meetings are being planned to begin the detailed work on the model. The TDI lead for this work is the Delivery Continuity Executive, Paul Hudson.

Multi Domain Integration (MDI)

October has the seen the positive progression of the MDI working group under the new leadership of Graham Ball, UK StratCom's Head of MDI Change Programme, and Chris Parker, Industry Lead (Day job Director Government Strategy - Fortinet UK). Under Graham and Chris's leadership, TDI's MDI activity moves to a 'low cadence / high calorific value' of greater strategic value to the UK and MDI.

On the 4th of October, the working group explored UKStratCom Multi-Domain Integration (MDI) Change Programme status, the maturity of DE&S's contribution to integration, plus introduced the new leadership team. The session outputs can be found here.

However, in summary the event offered the following takeaways:

Acquisition: Significant challenge from both industry and MOD that to enable and support MDI, the current acquisition processes are not fit-for -(including lacking agility) to meet both the operational demand signal and emerging innovation needs.

Leadership: Concern that MOD processes will prevent MDI capability being optimised. The nervousness from the attendees was that MDI will be process (bureaucracy) led, rather than leadership-led and process-enabled.

Operations: Challenge was placed by the audience on the need for operational vignettes and pilot activities, to challenge through experimentation the ability to deliver integrated capability. Industry is keen to understand and support, and the long-held ambition to look afresh at shared problem sets needs to be revisited

Structure: There was unease within the attendees that historical paradigms and organisational structures will be the blocker to MDI excellence and optimum benefit.

Funding: It was felt that visibility and focus of integration funding would demonstrate the seriousness of the MDICP and the opportunity for industry to contribute. It was also felt that the perception remained that if integration was in the pennies and exquisite capabilities were in the billions then MOD isn't really committed.

Purpose: Whilst the "Why" and "What" of MDI have been demonstrated, further clarity on the architecture is required. This would allow the passionate designers and builders to translate and build the concept into an operational and beneficial solution.

The 4 October event was followed by our working group supporting a RUSI MDI event, with the MDI Working Group providing 5 attendees including 3 panellists within the exploratory session of the conference.

If you want to influence the future and shape of the working group, Chris, Graham and Steve Worsnip want to receive your inputs, because the working group leadership are keen to facilitate the delivery of this essential capability, particularly in our world of constant competition.

If you want to explore further, or input, please contact [Steve Worsnip](#).

Defence AI Centre (DAIC) - Production Model and Assurance (ProMA) Project – Call for Volunteers

TD-Info will be coordinating a collaborative initiative with MOD to co-create reference AI production and assurance models for the DAIC through a series of workshops and other activities with industry partners. This work will influence the development of the DAIC by contributing industry expertise to the frameworks underpinning MOD's ambitious, safe and responsible approach to AI. Taking a through-life perspective across the wider defence enterprise, the models will support freedom-of-manoeuvre for the user community whilst promoting heterogeneity with respect to AI deployment, reuse, scaling, business engagement, tooling selection and platform employment. If you are interested in supporting this important project, or you would like to share your experiences of establishing AI capabilities in practice, please contact [Tony Butler](#).

Team Defence Information developing support for MOD DE&S Future Capability Group (FCG)

TD-Info continues to actively support and assist the FCG in kick-starting key initiatives identified jointly by DE&S and MOD Front Line Commands (FLCs), this is called the **Open Innovation Laboratory (OIL)**. OIL in summary - **Joint Strategy**: Coherent, thought collaboration focal point for Industry engagement, consistent messaging, and communication across industry sectors **About**: Command focused and sponsored problems/opportunities that are outcome based to enable exploitation and acquisition of products, upgrades, and

services. **How?** By the exploitation and utilization of the most appropriate existing Working Group or community **Collaborating with:** MOD problem owners and funders, Defence Primes and OEMs, Established tier suppliers, Solution architects and systems integrators, other sector supply chain, SMEs. Current activities and those at the early planning stage include:

• **Futures Lab** - Team Defence Information is pleased to be working alongside Futures Lab, a Future Capability Group service that draws together bespoke, pan-industry and academic collaborative teams to deliver decision support to defence. Keep your eye out for events and opportunities we'll be sharing across our networks. Follow Futures Lab on LinkedIn to find out more.

• **High Value Manufacture CoE** - The launch event of the HVM CoE was hosted at AMRC Sheffield. With a broad range of attendees from across MOD, industry, and academia the discussions have helped shape the COE direction and areas for investigation. Future engagement will be facilitated through the creation of a community of interest that will be facilitated by TD Info OIL. Immediate main effort will be delivering AdM as a service (Project TAMPA), supporting the Challenge Workstream and co-chairing the digital thread. Future topics will include Advanced Materials, Composites & Light Weighting; Advanced Manufacture; In-Service Support; and Digital Thread. The next HVM COI will convene shortly.

• **Agile Commercial Practices** - Accessing talent and contracting for outcomes to deliver sprints and enable iterative development calls for new approaches to contracting. Earlier in August, 22 small focus group workshops took place imparting knowledge of different commercial framework approaches. The best practice and pitfalls of each were captured and will be used to inform FCG route to market options.

• **Application Programme Interfaces for Robotic & Autonomous Systems (API4RAS) Task** – Team Defence Information is producing a paper to generate collaboration and a call to action around Application Programme Interfaces for Robotic & Autonomous Systems (API4RAS). Through collaboration, diversity of thought and learning from across sectors we will generate valuable insight to inform FCG's direction around Modular Open Systems Approaches to robotics and automation in the battlefield. We will deliver our findings before the end of the year so please get involved, simply track our progress, or just read and exploit the outputs.

These activities build upon the new engagement approach outlined in the FCG Industry Engagement Strategy released in July 2021, If you would like more information on OIL please contact either Steve Green or Darin Tudor.

External Events

Membership request for DSF Security Culture Working Group – Responses are requested by COP Wednesday 2nd November

The Defence Suppliers Forum (DSF) has begun the process of establishing a new Security Culture Working Group, to support the deliverables of the DSF Security Steering Group.

The initial focus of this group will be to identify areas of collaboration, and to share best practice in relation to issues such as:

• The Insider Risk

• Cyber Awareness

• Vetting aftercare

• Portable Electronic Devices

- Overseas Travel

- Foreign Ownership, Control or Influence

- Incident Management

- Family and Friends

The working group has vacancies for Industry representatives, for which nominations are now invited. The nominations period will last until **Wednesday 2nd November**.

We recognise that this is a short turnaround. This is necessary, as the inaugural Working Group meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday 7th November.

Following the deadline of the 2nd November, the co-chairs of the working group will review nominations and select representatives for the group.

Decisions will be communicated to all nominees by Friday 4th November.

A short biography and expression of interest is requested to be sent to DefComrclSSM-DSF-Team@mod.gov.uk.

If you have any questions please do contact DefComrclSSM-DSF-Team@mod.gov.uk

BE PART OF CHANGING 15,000 FUTURES

Social impact firm WithYouWithMe have a vision for all 15,000 Armed Forces personnel who leave the military every year to find meaningful employment in civilian life. The '15,000 Futures' initiative is calling upon all UK employers to help service men and women and their families find high value, digital industry roles whilst also addressing the chronic technical skills shortage that many UK companies face today.

Find out more by visiting www.15000futures.co.uk

Navy commercial - Capability Enhancements for Sonar 2087 (RFI and Industry Day)

An opportunity to integrate product offerings with Thales Sonar technology and demonstrate to MOD (including DE&S, Dstl and NCHQ). Funding available to support submissions selected for demonstration to cover costs.

5 December 2022- industry day in Gosport Hampshire – for further information, please contact Navy Commercial.

6 January 2023 - request for information submission deadline – RFI form found here.

NATO Industry Symposium on Launch and Recovery of Craft from Ships (Germany)

5-9 December, Wilhelmshaven, Germany

A multiday industry event being hosted by Germany/NATO, full information in the attached. This event comes with no funding for participation.

Please use the POCs in the attachment below for any questions, the information Navy Commercial hold on the event is limited – we are promoting the event to encourage UK industry attendance.

More information here.

COVID-19 – TD-Info Remote Working

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the TD-Info administrative staff continue to work remotely; postal mail is only collected periodically. With this in mind, please use email as primary form of correspondence should you need to contact our admin or finance department.

- Our Podcast page: available as Apple Podcast; Browser version; Spotify
- Follow us on Twitter and Linked-In
- TD-Info PRESS/ App – a mobile 'news aggregator' for Apple & Android here