TEAM DEFENCE INFORMATION BULLETIN

March 2023

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.

TD-Info website - logging in

If you have not visited our website for a long while, and you have issues logging in, you may need to re-register at this link.

Introduction from our Managing Director, Phil Williams

With the short month of February flashing by, TDI were front and centre at the Operational Energy Conference at Worthy Down in early March. Great presentations, stimulating discussions and a splendid wall chart created by a resident artist – very impressive and now up on the office wall!

March will see the next Town Hall, note the date change to the 29th Mar. An opportunity to catch up with colleagues, "for real", and learn how our 40 odd working groups are aiming towards the head marks set by our 3* Board. It is also a chance to get involved and help shape the MOD's thinking as we look to support the new "Availability Centres".

As ever, the bulletin contains a lot of information, an indication of the very positive support from both the MOD and Industry colleagues: many thanks and I hope to catch up with you at a meeting/conference - and please sign up for Support Net on the 18th/19th May, led by Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw, CDLS, it promises to be an excellent event.

New TD-Info Members

This month we are delighted to welcome Mitie as a new Lead Sponsor and Pennant, Telicent and REDS Group as new members of Team Defence.

A look back at recent activity

Support Chain Seminar 2023

We began the year in style, as we assembled under the looming wings of Concorde at Aerospace Bristol. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to SCS23 - We hope that you left feeling as energised and inspired as we were.

Stephen Wilcock, Director Engineering & Safety at DE&S and truly the Master of Ceremony, provided us with some very cherished words which we'd like to share with you:

"The broad range of speakers, the venue and the engagement from the delegates made for an engaging and highly valuable event which has shaped our thinking and will act as a springboard for future developments in digital engineering. After such a long time without these kind of events, the ability to be able to reconnect and meet new colleagues was invaluable and the mix of speakers, Q&A and networking opportunities came together superbly.

I was particularly impressed by the smooth running of the event, from arrival through to the seamless transition between speakers facilitated by the excellent A/V team, all of which made my role much easier and provided a rich environment to focus on the key topics. This was complemented by the range of sponsors, which I am most grateful for your help with organising. Given the interest in digital engineering and the engagement from our industry colleagues, there are certainly plenty of opportunities which we will now be following up on."

For those who attended:

Recordings are now live on the SCS Event platform:

To look back on the presentations, you can find everything on our events page here.

Defence Operational Energy Conference 2023

Last week, we held the Defence Operational Energy Conference at Worthy Down Camp in Winchester.

The conference painted a stark picture of the energy challenges facing defence and industry as we try and navigate a path towards net zero, while maintaining operational advantage through readiness: availability, capability, and resilience. The challenges are clear, but so are the opportunities.

What is evident is that these challenges will need to be overcome collectively and will require bravery and investment from decision makers.

Thanks to all who joined us for the two days. A special thanks to the speakers as well as Rikki Marr, who brought the conference to life with his live illustration. We will look to share these in due course.

If approved for release, we will also make the presentation packs available.

Many thanks to our sponsors Appian Corporation and KBR, Inc. for making the event possible.

Introducing the new Team Defence Podcast Series!

We are thrilled to raise the curtain for the launch of our new podcast series, opening in conversation with our 3* board, who sponsor the overall TDI Portfolio and 'Areas of Focus'. Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw, MOD CIO Charlie Forte and Deputy CEO of DE&S Adrian Baguley discuss their vision for the year, surrounding influences and where their focus will be.

Find our first podcast, 'The 3* Board,' here or here.

Soon we hope to have the audio only versions available on all the usual podcasting platforms, so please standby for that.

We have plenty more content planned for you throughout the year so subscribe to our new YouTube channel for the easiest way to access all future videos. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Philippa Arter or Jack Thompson.

Conferences of 2023 (Hold the Dates)

SupportNET

18 – 19 May 2023

Join the Conversation online using #SupportNet23

The Defence Support organisation, within the UK Ministry of Defence, are hosting their annual SupportNet conference in May. Please find details on the event, including how to register, below.

Delivering greater resilience

SupportNET23 is an opportunity for Defence leaders, industry, academia, and international partners to discuss and reflect on how we can deliver greater resilience for UK Defence Support. Consecutive global disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ever Given blocking of the Suez Canal, the war in Ukraine and the environmental threats borne from climate change, have highlighted the fragile nature of the Support network in Defence and industry. These disruptions alongside ongoing workforce and financial pressures are combining to create a more challenging environment.

SupportNet23 aim

SupportNet's aim is to critically evaluate and challenge our understanding of resilience and the Defence Support Network (DSN) to help improve our planning and response. Over the course of the conference a range of Support experts will share their insights around how we can become more resilient, as well as share their insights on the work that is already underway.

Attendance benefits

• Opportunity to conduct business with Defence partners.

• Understand the direction of travel in Defence Support.

• Receive thoughts and observations from International and Partner Nations.

• Understand industrial key performance initiatives and new strategies.

• Opportunity for attendees to interact with speakers.

Dragon's Den

As with last year, the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) is running the Support Innovation Challenge (SIC) – Dragon's Den. Established by the Chief of Defence Logistics and Support (CDLS), Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw, the SIC is an opportunity to make innovative ideas land whilst getting face time with some big names in Defence. This challenge is part of the will be a part of the SupportNet23 conference. For a chance to be involved, please contact vanguard@teamdefence.info

Event details

Team Defence Information are supporting the conference hosts, the Defence Support organisation. It is an in-person event for circa 500 delegates. Details as follows:

• At: Radisson RED hotel London Heathrow

• On: 18 – 19 May 2023 (ending lunch time on the 19 May 2023).

• Cost: Registration and attendance is free. Trade stand and sponsorship opportunities are also available. Lunch and refreshments are included.

See the website for further information and registration: SupportNET 2023

Sponsors and Exhibitors: If you would like to sponsor the event, please contact Julian Dayment.

Speakers: If you are interested in speaking at the event, please contact Steve Green.

Team Defence Information Town Hall

29 March 2023, 10:45 – 15:00

(changed from 27 March)

On 29 March 2023, join us for our third Town Hall at the Thornbury Leisure Centre to learn about:

- the major activities happening around Defence and

- how Team Defence Information and industry can contribute to these activities.

There's also time to network over a delicious buffet lunch!

We're keen to encourage wider diversity in our audience, so please invite early-career colleagues to benefit from this opportunity to develop their careers and network.

We'd like you to attend in person if possible to encourage networking but if you can't come in person, you can attend virtually.

For further information and the agenda, please contact Philippa Arter.

Members - register here!

Defence Additive Manufacture Hackathon – 3-4 April 2023

Defence Additive Manufacture Hackathon 3 & 4 April 23: Dispersed collaborative teams from across sectors, from scanners and software to printers and engineers, will;

- digitally scan an item at Abbey Wood,

- transfer the scan to another member of the team for redesign

- additively produce it and then have it delivered next day back to Abbey Wood for assessment.

Those at Abbey Wood will then work on secondary challenges using a range of additive machines

Outcomes: To combine digital scanning, collaborative design, and additive capabilities to build resilience through multiple points of supply, mobilise the industrial base and create support advantage.

Prizes: The teams that reduce the part count or weight while maintaining the same fit will win. Function will not be assessed

Team Composition: Teams will be made up of design engineers, software, scanning and additive capabilities.

DE&S: those working in DE&S will get the chance to visit the i-bridge at Abbey Wood and see some of the technology first hand.

Strategic Context: This activity is aligned with the Defence Support Operating Concept, Defence Support Strategy, Sustainable Support Strategy and Supply Chain Strategy.

For further information, please contact Steve Green.

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

Delivery of the Defence Digital Strategy

DI23 will be on 5-6 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.

Among those invited to speak:

- Charlie Forte - Defence Digital, Chief Information Officer

- Richard Franklyn – Airbus and DSF Industry Lead

- John Linwood, Defence Digital, Chief Technology Officer– Project Accelerate

- Dina Kakaras, Defence Digital, Commercial Head of Software

- Major General Richard Spencer – Defence Digital, Director

- Christine Maxwell – Defence Digital, Director Cyber Defence and Risk

- Claire Fry – Defence Digital, Functional Integration

- Nigel Shaw, DE&S CIO

- Arif Mustafa, RAF CIO

- David Tagg-Oram, Defence Digital, Head of the Digital Foundry

- Air Commodore David Rowland, Defence Digital, Defence Artificial Intelligence Centre (DAIC)

- Caroline Bellamy – Defence Chief Data Officer

- Christine Maxwell – Director, Cyber Defence and Risk

- Gareth Hetheridge – Leonardo CIO

- David Thompson – Appian

- Dominic Davies - Chief of S&T Knowledge Management Systems, DSTL

Sponsors and Exhibitors: if you would like to support the event, please contact Sue Russell.

Speakers: If you are interested in a speaking role, please register your interest with Steve Shepherd.

Future Events

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

Multi Domain Integration Town Hall – 8 March, 10:30 – 15:30

The Next MDI Event will be a Town Hall event on the 8th March, with likely topics of Integrated Design Authority, DSEI and Cultural Reform. Marketing to start within the next few days.

For further information, please contact Steve Worsnip. Register here.

Information Security Forum – 9 March, 11:00 – 15:30

The purpose of the Information Security Forum (ISF) is to provide better ways of working securely across Team Defence by identifying key issues and agreeing on common approaches to resolution by sharing good practice, collaborating on accreditation standards, providing a practical (and compliant) interpretation of Government policy, and sharing event and near-miss data.

The ISF collaboratively develops guidance, influences policy and communicates key messages to members and, where appropriate, broader stakeholders on Information Security and Assurance matters.

For further Information, please contact Andy Corbett.

Integrated Product Support (IPS) CoP – 15 March, 10:00- 12:30

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".

For further information, please contact Leyton Lark.

Team Defence Council Meeting – 22 March, 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.

This will be a hybrid meeting taking place at Dassault Systemes. For further information, please contact Philippa Arter.

Fourth AdM As A Service Working Group – 24 March, 9:30 - 16:30

The 4th AdM As a Service Working Group (WG) will be held at the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC), Coventry on the 24 March 2023. The WG will provide attendees with the

ability to engage with AdM colleagues across the UK MoD, Academia, and Industry (OEMs & SMEs), and will consist of industry and MoD briefings on current AdM activities and the AdM as a Service Challenge (Project TAMPA). There will also be the opportunity to engage in the Working Group discussions on the key focus topics of Certification, Inventory Management, and the Digital Thread. This will be an in person meeting only.

To find out more, contact Stu Olden.

Register here.

Software Enabled Defence Workshop – 29/30 March, 8:30 - 16:00

Open to TD-Info Members and Non-Members

This workshop is designed to offer an opportunity to shape defence software acquisition thinking and its future direction. It will explore current Software Acquisition Management Improvement (SAMI) work aimed at providing firming foundations in how Defence software is acquired, managed, and supported, to the more disruptive strategic measures required of Defence and many things in between.

As a live and virtual event, the workshop style event is designed to provide a view of the current software acquisition baseline, and then through several discrete workshop (and lenses) consider how software acquisition might involve.

Please register here.

For further information, please contact Steve Worsnip.

Trading Forum – 30 March, 11:30 -12:30

The first meeting of 2023 for the Trading Forum will be held remotely using Microsoft Teams.

The Trading Forum is your opportunity to hear updates from the MOD regarding their Procurement systems and processes, whilst also providing the opportunity to provide any feedback to the MOD that you may have, as well as capturing ideas and views for future meetings.

Invitations have been sent out. If you wish to know more about this event, please contact Andy Whatman.

Activity Updates

Monthly MDI Blog

The MDI Working Group have committed to an MDI Monthly Communication Blog to keep the MDI Community and wider stakeholders informed of developments in the fast-moving world of integration associated with our operational state of constant competition.

The blog, found here, provides context for MDI and connection to our 2023 programme plan; associated policy documents; and signposts to future events.

Within the launch blog, the MDI Working Group provides clarity on the principles of MDI related cultural reform.

The working group leadership are incredibly grateful for feedback received to date.

ASD-STE100 Simplified Technical English® (STE) Training and other STE activities

Ciaran Dodd, our experienced and ASD-approved STE trainer, delivers our STE training. STE is primarily for technical publications, but all engineers can benefit from the principles of STE to produce effective technical documents.

We have scheduled two open online courses in June and October this year.

12-15 June 2023 09:00-12:30 (every day) live online. (5 places still available)

9-12 October 2023 09:00-12:30 (every day) live online (8 places still available)

For further information and to book onto a course, please contact [Ciaran Dodd](#).

First STE Maintenance Group and national working group forum held online 23 February 2023

On 23 February, the STE Maintenance Group (STEMG), who maintain the STE specification, hosted the first online forum for the STE Maintenance Group and the individual working groups (either national working groups (like the UK STE WG) or language-based working groups (Italian, Spanish, French, German). The STEMG chair, Orlando Chiarello, presented on the history, activities, and organisation of the STEMG and the working groups. This first forum was declared a success and there are plans to repeat the forum.

UK STE WG aligns with the STEMG working patterns

Proposed dates (to be confirmed):

18 May 2023 13:30-15:30

21 September 2023 13:30-15:30

The purpose of the UK STE WG is to provide a national forum to discuss the STE specification, in particular, any change requests that are under discussion at the STEMG level. Ideally we need a mix of people who already use STE and those who are interested in STE to generate effective discussion on the specification. To align with the other working groups, I propose to meet twice a year, online, to discuss the open issues on the STE specification. These meetings will happen before the STEMG meetings so that I represent the UK STE WG opinions at the STEMG meeting.

If you would like to join UK STE WG, please contact [Ciaran Dodd](#).

Team Defence 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)**

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 utilisation 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:

High Value Manufacture Centre of Expertise - 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. On the 9th of February the first part of an Additive Manufacturing Hack took place which was a 'Networking and Team Formation' launch event at Babcock in Bristol. The follow-on event when the Teams come together to 'make' some parts will be on the 3rd/4th April at Abbey Wood, Bristol. Diary events to learn more about this topic are:

- [24th March - Additive Manufacturing as a Service Challenge, the MTC, Coventry](#)
- [3rd/4th April – Part two of the Additive Manufacturing Hack, Abbey Wood, Bristol](#)

Operational Energy (OpEnCoE) COI Hydrogen Network Event – On the 16th of November, Team Defence Information facilitated an event for Future Capability Group on Hydrogen within the context of Operational Energy at Rolls-Royce, Filton, Bristol. This event investigated developments in hydrogen as a potential energy vector and bought together different sectorial view presentations from Rolls-Royce, BP, Ryze Hydrogen, European Marine Energy Centre, and UK KTN. Additionally, the MOD – Future Capability Group, Defence Strategic Fuels Authority, Support Transformation and DASA also presented on areas of relevant activity from their perspective. Following the speakers in the morning, the 83 attendees also joined a very useful and productive networking lunch and afternoon workshop on this topic.

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.

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 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 and News

Defence IQ events

IDGA Operational Energy Summit – March 14-15, 2023, Hyatt Regency Reston, VA

Now in its 15th year, the IDGA Operational Energy Summit is the leading conference addressing U.S. DoD energy priorities and ensuring opportunities to enhance military capability, readiness, and resilience for the warfighter, while mitigating and reducing the risk and cost in the supply and use of energy in operations and training are met.

The 2023 Operational Energy Summit will focus on the following themes, to confront the challenge of the increased reliance, demand and consumption of fossil fuels:

- How to reduce soldier burden and increase mission duration

- How to reduce logistics and increase flexibility

- How to integrate technological tools and enhance performance efficiencies

Register by 18 February to save up to $100

IDGA Disruptive Technology for Defence Transformation 2023 – April 18-19, 2023, Airport Hilton Hotel, Austin, TX

DTDT 2023 will be held in Austin on April 18-19, welcoming senior military leaders, government officials, tech and defence industry, and academic specialists within the field; discussing how best to embed next generation technology into military capability.

Register here.

Meet The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) - Free Ticket Availability for TD-Info Members

Team Defence Information are partnering with ADS, techUK, Make UK Defence to welcome the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) team for a day of briefings, networking and confidential 1:1 advice and guidance sessions for members from all sectors of Industry.

DASA finds and funds exploitable innovation from a diverse range of sources for UK defence and security, whilst boosting UK prosperity. The day will have a strong focus on the opportunities and support available for SMEs.

Benefits of Attending:

Understand how to take advantage of opportunities and services provided by DASA, DTEP and DIANA.

Immediate access to DASA advice and guidance.

Hear how DASA specifically supports SMEs.

Understand how your regional DASA Innovation Partner can support you.

Get a deeper insight into the Security and Defence activities of DASA.

With limited tickets available, don't miss the opportunity to attend for free.

For more information, and to book your place, please sign into the ADS site and find the event page [here](#).

AFCEA UK West Chapter – March 2022 – Seán Carnew, Director Government Solutions, Arqit – Hub8 - Brewery Quarter, High St, Cheltenham

Public Key Infrastructure has provided the backbone of security for the Second Information Age. However, as we move further into the Connected Age and consider the threat posed by current capabilities and quantum computers into the future, we should challenge our reliance on PKI and seek to find a security foundation suitable for a fully connected world.

The details are, Thursday 9th March at The Hub8 facility in Cheltenham, starting at 1830 with drinks, followed by the talk and networking until 2100. There will be a fee to cover locations costs, drinks and hot food. If interested, please contact Michael Jensen at michaeljensen1965@outlook.com to confirm a place.

DSF Newsletter - January 2023

The Defence Equipment Plan - 2022 to 2032