

Team Defence-Information

Bulletin August 2020



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 a Sign-In code in a welcome email, along with guidance on using the website. You may have to wait briefly for TD-Info staff to manually verify your application is bona fide. We avoid images in this bulletin as many defence-related organisations apply email filters that reject emails containing them.

COVID-19 Update We are now over 4 months into the COVID-19 pandemic which continues to have a significant impact on our society and how the MOD and industry partners operate.

Virtual 'on-line' meetings are now the norm as we all continue to work remotely at home pending gradual and safe return to work from the office.

The **Support Chain Digital Seminar 2020 (SCDS20)** on 23-24 September will now be run as a 'Virtual' event to ensure the safety of all concerned and replaces the 'face-to-face' event previously planned. Further details on [SCDS20](#) and how to book your place is available later in this newsletter.

New Team Defence Executive At the **Team Defence Strategy Board** in June it was agreed that the previously separate **Joint Information Group (JIG)** and the **Defence Industry Support Chain Optimisation Group (DISCOG)** should be combined into a single reporting stream under the direction of the **Team Defence Executive**.

July saw the inaugural meeting of the **Team Defence Executive** which was co-chaired by **Steve Lammiman**, Head of Support Chain Process at DE&S and **Paul Andrews**, BAE Systems. It was attended by representatives from TD-Info Lead sponsor organisations and other parts of MOD including Defence Digital and Defence Support. The meeting reviewed and agreed its Terms of Reference.

The Chairmen expressed their determination to adopt a strong programmatic approach to ensure real improvements in Defence Support were achieved. The meeting reviewed a number of current and pipeline activities, and actions were agreed for various issues raised suggesting the meeting will successfully establish an effective way of working collaborative across Team Defence.

New TD-Info Members We are pleased to welcome new Members to TD-Info: **BluePrism** is a pioneer in Robotic Process Automation (RPA) providing solutions for clients across the private and public sectors; **Logiq Consulting** has significant experience in designing secure networks specifically to meet the required MOD and Industry accreditation standards.

Support Chain Digital Seminar 2020 (SCDS20) – 23 and 24 September

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to hold the seminar safely 'in-person' given the COVID-19 situation and current Government guidelines. Instead we will now be running **SCDS20** as a completely 'Virtual' on-line event enabling conference participants to engage in the presentations and workshops remotely. There will also be the opportunity for organisations to host and exhibit their own **Virtual Trade Stand**.

This year's theme is '**Digital Support in Defence**' and will be delivered on-line over 2 days:

Day One – 23 Sep: **Delivering Digital Support Enabling Capability**

Day Two – 24 Sep: **Information Led Transformation**

We are privileged to have a diverse range of leaders and subject matter experts presenting at **SCDS20** that will include **Lt Gen Richard Wardlaw**, MOD Chief of Defence Logistics and Support (CDLS), **Major General Simon Hutchings**, Director Joint Support, **Jon Hall**, Managing Director Technology, Babcock International, and a representative for **Charlie Forte**, MOD CIO Defence Digital.

To book your place at **SCDS20** or book a Virtual Trade Stand please register [here](#).

If you require any further information on **SCDS20**, please contact [Graham Smith](#) or [Sue Russell](#).

Forthcoming Key Events A number of key events and activities are scheduled for the forthcoming months:

Briefing by Def Spt CIO/CTO by Richard Puttick – 12 August 2020 We are very fortunate that **Richard Puttick**, Def Spt CIO/CTO, has agreed to provide TD-Info members with a briefing on the new role, describe the organisation, and outline future planned activities. The 2-hour event will be hosted on-line and concluded with a Q&A session. Further details and how to register are available [here](#).

Warehousing Distribution Optimisation (WDO) Briefing – 13 August 2020 The MOD has identified that of the 13,000 buildings identified as either being a warehouse or store, the vast majority are not quantified in terms of their potential space for storage or how that space is currently being utilised. Much of the estate is small but there are, however, almost 730 that are over 1,000 sqm in size, presenting a huge opportunity to take a centralised command and control approach in coordinating the utilisation of such enormous capacity.

The **MOD DE&S**, through the Supply Chain Transformation Expansion (SCTX) programme, have commissioned the **Warehousing Distribution Optimisation (WDO) Project** to survey these 730 buildings across 141 sites to explore what solutions Industry might propose to provide a control tower style capability. LDOC is keen to understand what Industry may be able to offer to meet this challenge and **Brigadier Lee Daley**, D&ES Programme Director UK Supply Chain Modernisation, will be leading a briefing to interested parties on 13 August. Further details and how to register are available [here](#).

Recent Events A number of key Working Groups (WG) and notable team meetings have recently taken place:

The **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** and quarterly **TD-Info Council** was convened in mid-July and included updates from the various Team Defence Working Groups and activities along with updates from ADS, Tech-UK and our Chairman, **Jon Hall**. The Council welcomed new TD-Info Lead Sponsors to the meeting from Allan Webb, Dassault Systemes, L3 Harris, and Microsoft. The agenda and supporting material presented at the meeting is available [here](#). Minutes of the **AGM** will be available shortly.

The **Artificial Intelligence Sub-Working Group (AI SWG)** concluded the series of 7 webinars that each comprised a 45-minute presentation by various industry representatives, **Defence Science and Technology (Dstl)**, the **RAF** and **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**. The webinars discussed the objectives of the **AI SWG** and covered a range of interesting topics and themes relating to the application of **AI** in the supply chain. Information presented at the webinars is now available on the TD-Info website [here](#).

On 8th July the **Additive Manufacturing Sub-Working Group (AdM SWG)** held its monthly 'lunch and learn' webinar where the Dutch company DiManEx shared its experience and demonstrated how the Dutch Army and Rail industry are using **additive manufacturing** to secure the availability of spare parts and optimise the cost of ownership within their respective supply chains. The DiManEx presentation and supporting Case Studies are available on the TD-Info website [here](#).

The next **AdM SWG** will be held jointly with the Army AdM Community of Interest and will take place after the summer. Please look for details on the TD-Info calendar [here](#) or contact [Steve Green](#).

Strategically Positioning Defence and Test Evaluation was the theme for a series of on-line workshops with over 150 people registered from the MOD and industry. The 2-day workshops were well-received and further events are planned. If you would like to be included in future T&E events please register your interest by completing the questionnaire [here](#) by 10 August 2020. Alternatively, please contact [Steve Green](#) for further information.

At the end of July, the **Engineering Support Transformation Forum (ESTUF)** ran a series of **Digital Twin** Awareness Showcase events which generated a great deal of interest and valuable participation. Presentations from the event are now available to download [here](#). A further series is being planned for later in the Autumn; if you would like to be involved and present then please contact [Steve Green](#) with a **short abstract** for consideration.

The **MODCloud Working Group** has held several meetings with the MOD, Industry and the Service Providers to discuss how to address increasing Industry utilisation of **MODCloud** hosting and applications services. Key actions are to establish the core Working Groups (WGs) to address the challenges associated with Technical issues, Security/Accreditation and Commercial enablement. These WGs are being established, with a meeting arranged for 11 August with the MOD to agree sponsorship, the WG constitution and objectives. The same meeting will also address the sponsorship of the **Proof of Concept (PoC)**.

The **MODCloud WG** has had a number of conversations with Members regarding participation in these WGs and we will send out invitations after the 11th August meeting. The next **MODCloud WG** Programme Governance 'drumbeat' call will be held on Tuesday 15 September; meeting invitations will follow shortly. For further information on any of the above, please contact [Andy Whatman](#).

The **Forecast and Resource Planning Working Group (F&RPWG)** continues to make progress in ensuring effective Industry engagement in the DSTx F&RP programme. The survey to establish the interest from Industry in becoming involved in the activities of the Working Group closed at the end of July. The results will be analyzed and the intention is to open the group to wider membership by mid-August. If you would like more information or wish to be involved in the **F&RPWG** then please contact [Leyton Lark](#).

The **Skype for Business (S4B)** project is being rescoped and aligned to the recently established **Office 365 Working Group (O365WG)** and will now focus more fully on supporting the industry federation of existing Skype for Business and Teams instances whereas the **O365WG** will explore the feasibility of collaborative virtual environments both in the UK and internationally. For further information on the **O365WG** please contact [Luca Leone](#). For further information on the **S4B** project please contact [Will Tuohy](#).

The first meeting of the recently formed **Commodity Usage Principles and Assurance (CUPA) Working Group** occurred this month and was co-chaired by **Ian Bryant**, Assistant Head for Policy at the Directorate for Cyber Defence and Risk, and **Luca Leone** from TD-Info. The proposed **CUPA** process is currently under consultation and identifies methods of assuring that Off The Shelf (OTS) products and services meet the required standards security requirements specified in **JSP440** and **Def Stan 05-135**. For further information on CUPA and the new TD-Info community please contact [Luca Leone](#).

The **Joint Information Group – Vanguard (JIG-V)** has continued to operate remotely during the recent lockdown, running a series of webinars, workshops and project meetings. Most recently they were involved in providing a round-table discussion at the virtual **Farnborough Airshow**. To find out more information about forthcoming **JIG-V** activities please contact [Luca Leone](#).

Industry rollout for **MOD’s Boundary Protection Service (BPS)** now expected 4Q20; this has had a knock-on impact for corporate access to **DEFNET** services and the **Industry Customers Engagement Forum (ICEF)** is exploring individual access to **Defence Digital’s** internet-pattern as a stop gap. In the meanwhile, it has become apparent that MOD’s dual-publishing arrangements are not providing up-to-date information equally across all areas – if you are experiencing delays to, or an absence of, the government furnished information you need to deliver your obligations then please send details to [Tony Butler](#).

COVID-19 has highlighted the need to conduct virtual meetings between Industry and Government in a safe and secure manner. Recent MOD guidance confirms Microsoft Teams as the preferred application for teleconferencing with Industry, when initiated by an MOD employee, caveated that it may only be used for conversations and screen sharing up to OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE. Industry can initiate meetings with MOD using Microsoft Teams for conversations and screen sharing up to OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE providing the MOD participants have confidence in the security of the host organisation and meeting attendees. Skype for Business remains the preferred internal MOD teleconferencing solution. For further details please contact [Tony Butler](#).

The **JIG Trading Forum** continues to support the MOD with its **Contracting, Purchasing and Financing (CP&F)** activities. The MOD **CP&F** Programme recently announced that it is working with **Jaggaer** to provide an e-Sourcing solution that will provide Advertising, Tendering, Evaluation and e-Auctioning of MOD’s tendering opportunities. The plan is to deliver the e-Sourcing capability in early 2021; a detailed Delivery and Implementation Plan with key milestone dates will be produced and communicated by the CP&F Programme in due course. The contract has been placed using a CCS Framework for e-Sourcing and will continue until December 2024.

Publications and White Papers

The **Joint Information Group -Vanguard (JIG-V)** comprises early career professionals who are committed to creating a more inclusive environment within Defence. The **JIG-V** team identified lack of diversity as an area that requires great focus and elected to create a "living white paper" that will be constantly updated and refreshed, incorporating feedback, information and suggestions for stakeholders across the Defence space. The group of 15 representatives from across defence worked collaboratively for a month over a series of sprints to create the first **White Paper**, now available [here](#):

The paper identifies the problem facing Defence and looks at the opportunity that could be exploited by creating a more inclusive working environment, not only for the individual but also for the broader enterprise. It then goes on to make a series of recommendations on the key first steps to show progress. The **JIG-V** is now engaging with a broad set of stakeholders to investigate where these proposals can be implemented and welcome your comments/suggestions via the **Kahootz** public portal [here](#).

The **Sustainable Defence Support Sub-Working Group (SDSp SWG)** has produced a draft **White Paper** which is currently under review before final publication. Please contact [Steve Green](#) for further information.

The **Defence Digital Commercial Marketplace Digest** is now produced weekly by the MOD's Defence Digital Commercial Continuous Improvement Team and is made available to MOD 'customers' and industry Members on the TD-Info website. All future (and previous) issues can be accessed via the **JIG Trading Forum** [here](#) or searching under the keyword [Defence Digital Commercial Marketplace Digest](#).

Contacting TD-Info Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, TD-Info now has a small administrative staff working remotely. Consequently, our main office remains closed and 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.

Key Dates for August and September 2020 Please check the TD-Info website Calendar [here](#) to confirm details and how to join as these are subject to change:

- 3 Aug - DEFStan 00-600 Working Group
 - 12 Aug – Defence Support CTO/CIO Briefing
 - 13 Aug – Warehouse Distribution Optimisation Industry Engagement
 - 7 Sep – Industry Customers Engagement Forum (ICEF)
 - 10 Sep - Trading Forum Quarterly Meeting
 - 10 Sep - Supply Chain and Support Engineering Working Group (SCSEWG)
 - 15 Sep – Supportability Modelling and Analysis Working Group
 - 15 Sep - MODCloud Programme workshop
 - 16 Sep – Team Defence Strategy Group Meeting
 - 22 Sep – TD-Info Council Meeting
 - 23-24 Sep – Support Chain Digital Seminar (SCDS) 2020
 - 29 Sep - Packaging for Equipment Acquisition and Support (PEAS) Forum
 - 30 Sep - Team Defence Executive Team Meeting
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Forthcoming Events - Non Team Defence-Info TD-Info often provides information on external events that may be of interest to MOD and Industry members.

Technical Documentation World (TDW) will be hosting a Conference from 17 to 19 Nov 2020 entitled 'Making the Case for Product Support'. Further details and registration is now available on the TDW website [here](#).

TD-Info members can obtain 15% discount for events that are organised by **Defence iQ** and TD-Info is a media partner:

- [Disruptive Technology for Defence Transformation](#) (16 – 18 September)
 - [Defence Vehicle Dynamics](#) (16 – 17 September)
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Documents recently published or updated on our website include:

- MOD Defence Digital Commercial Marketplace Digests issued during July 2020
 - JIG-V Diversity White Paper available [here](#)
 - Various presentations on Digital Twin available [here](#)
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Accessing documents and publications To find these documents use the Search function (located at the top right of the TD-Info website Home screen) which will appear after you have [signed-in](#) to the TD-Info website.

To find all the documents published on our website from, say, March 1st, 2020 to now, edit the search parameters to your needs. In this case, edit the date Added On/After to 1 March 2020 and the Added On/Before to today's date.

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