

MOD INNOVATION PROCUREMENT PLAN



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Innovation in Defence is central to providing improved equipment, processes and services to our Armed Forces. The MOD drives innovation by generating and exploiting new or novel applications of technology, processes and services. We are innovating in our acquisition cycle, to reduce procurement times and improve the cost-effectiveness and reliability of equipment.

The Government's "Innovation Nation" White Paper, published in March 2008, committed all Departments to produce an innovation procurement plan. The MOD's response was published in Feb 2009 and is set out in a suite of published documents.

Each can be accessed through the following links:

Defence Industrial Strategy

The UK Defence Industrial Strategy, published as a white paper in December 2005, aims to ensure our Armed Forces are provided with the equipment they require, on time, and at best value for money. The DIS promotes a sustainable defence industrial base that maintains in the UK those industrial capabilities (including infrastructure, skills, intellectual property and capacity) needed to ensure national security. The DIS ensures that the capability requirements of the Armed Forces can be met now and in the future by giving industry a clearer idea of MOD priorities; allowing them to make informed decisions on investment and restructuring.

The DIS drives innovation by:

- encouraging an open market and diversity of suppliers which encourages new entrants and inward investment
- promoting greater interaction and collaboration between MOD, prime contractors, SMEs and universities to access specialist intellectual property and innovation that can lie in lower tiers of the supply base
- encouraging work with industry and universities to identify national sources of innovation and understand where the important technologies we need are in the defence supply chain
- encouraging the adoption of open systems architectures in defence systems, that maximise the opportunities for technology insertion, as well as promoting innovation and competition within the supply chain

[Click here for the Defence Industrial Strategy](#)

Defence Technology Strategy

The Defence Technology Strategy (DTS), launched in October 2006, for the first time openly publishes MOD's priorities for R&D, funding, skills, improved processes, opportunities, and areas for international research collaboration. The Strategy stimulates and nurtures an environment of innovation to create new and effective science and technology solutions, identify the approaches that look most promising, and drive early exploitation onto the front line. This document sets out the following key information:

- the priority science and technology areas for R&D investment
- the critical areas where we are dependent upon the viability of UK science and technology for operational sovereignty and security
- clear opportunities for collaboration with industry, university sectors and international allies
- where we must adapt and integrate within the UK those military sub-systems and components bought elsewhere
- where we must maintain intelligent customer expertise in order to operate a viable strategy of purchasing COTS products
- new initiatives to stimulate innovation in defence research

[Click here for the Defence Technology Strategy](#)

MOD Innovation Strategy

The MOD Innovation Strategy, launched in December 2007, builds on the Defence Industrial Strategy to identify the main challenges to innovation in delivery of Defence capability. There are five distinct pillars:

- Sharing the Vision for Defence Capability. Articulating our challenges and visions in a way that generates fresh approaches to achieve future military capability
- Capability & Technology Road Mapping. Better sharing of our capability and technology plans so suppliers can identify where effort should be focused and innovation best applied.
- Smarter Systems Engineering. Encouraging systems to be designed with upgrade and flexibility in mind, to allow insertion of rapidly evolving and innovative technology.
- Improved Business Models. New business models that provide incentives for both customers and suppliers to achieve greater innovation.
- Need for Speed. More agility and responsiveness in MOD's acquisition processes to attract innovators who have novel, cost effective and high impact technologies.

[Click here for the MOD Innovation Strategy](#)

Defence Technology Plan

The Defence Technology Plan (DTP) is an online resource presenting a cost-balanced list of current Research and Development (R&D) priorities. It takes the Defence Technology Strategy forward, provides clear direction to the R&D community on investment in defence technology and seeks fresh, innovative thinking.

The DTP is set out as high level R&D Objectives that are associated to Systems – for example, ships and weapons. We plan to achieve these R&D Objectives through a number of Research Activities, which are grouped into Themes. The relationship of Themes and Activities within an Objective is also presented as a Roadmap.

Capability Visions address long-term defence challenges by stimulating new work and new applications for existing technologies.

Emerging Technologies are early stage ideas and novel applications with the potential for high impact on future military capability. The DTP identifies areas of interest and a framework for industry and academia to engage with MOD.

[Click here for the Defence Technology Plan](#)

Centre for Defence Enterprise

The Centre for Defence Enterprise is the first point of contact for anyone with a disruptive technology, new process or innovation that has a potential defence application. The Centre acts as a gateway between the outside world and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), bringing together innovation and investment for the defence market, ensuring that our front-line forces have the best battle-winning technologies.

[Click here for more information on the Centre for Defence Enterprise](#)

The Grand Challenge

The Grand Challenge was a major science and technology competition to find new ideas and innovation directly relevant to the military challenges faced daily by UK Armed Forces. The finale in August 2008 saw best teams battle in tough conditions Army's Urban Warfare Training Facility at Porton Down.

[Click here for more information about the Grand Challenge](#)

Defence Technology Centres

Defence Technology Centres (DTC) are world-class centres of excellence providing research and exploitation of knowledge aimed at benefiting the MOD's defence equipment programme. Each DTC undertakes a diverse range of research in a specialist area of technology, concentrating on innovation that will contribute to future UK defence capability. The two-way partnership allows the MOD to access research from industry, and industry to exploit knowledge from defence research.

[Click here for more information about the DTCs](#)

MOD Supply Network Policy

The MOD looks to its supply networks to deliver value for money, agility, and innovation. Companies of all sizes can contribute: prime contractors, mid-tier companies and small and medium-sized enterprises. The MOD supply network policy encourages innovation by promoting a network that is:

- Fair – so that processes and regulations do not disadvantage any companies and there is openness of information with clear and transparent business processes.
- Healthy – membership of the network should reflect merit and there should be maximum scope for new ideas and innovations which increase technological benefit and value for money; there should be no unnecessary barriers to entry, and the business climate should encourage investment and the longer-term view.

Defence Acquisition High Level Blueprint

The Defence Acquisition High Level Blueprint sets out the high level design of the MOD acquisition system. It provides direction for those involved in acquisition, describes how the system will work better in future, and helps us adopt a coherent and consistent approach to our change activities. The Blueprint describes how the acquisition system places a premium on innovation, both in the technologies we harness and in the way we do our business.

The next version Defence Acquisition High Level Blueprint is scheduled for release in Spring 2009.

NDIC Research and Development Group

The MOD and industry work closely together, under the auspices on the National Defence Industries Council (NDIC) RDG to achieve more effective planning of defence research and development (R&D) expenditure in the UK:

- Strategic Engagement - End to End Planning
- New Business Models - Supporting the front line through an effective link with Technology
- Systems Engineering and Open Systems Architecture

Technology Partnership in Defence

The Technology Partnership in Defence report, published in Sept 08, makes clear recommendations for more effective planning of UK Defence R&D and focuses on the Defence Technology Plan as the primary vehicle for joint R&D planning.

[Click here for the Technology Partnership Report](#)