



## In Brief

- 50+ enquiries; 21 matured to detailed tasks, 13 ongoing.
- 9 contracts let with Industry
- Open Supplier Register contains 30+ organisations; additional 50 applicants under assessment.
- Planning underway for hosted 'Industry Days'.
- UAS CDC concept presented at Clarion Events' UAS Conference, September 2013
- DSEI 2013 attended through stand presence ('The Wonderwall'), presentations and panel sessions.



- Next Steering Group Meeting February 2014

## UAS CDC

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## Background

Now halfway into the final year of the pilot programme, the UAS CDC Steering Group has been focussing on the added value from the capability in-period, the enduring benefits to MOD and the continuance (or otherwise) beyond April 2014.

To date, the capability has received over 50 enquiries from the MOD community, 21 of those maturing into formal tasks i.e. agreed, meaningful work packages.

Industry engagement has increased, not least as a direct result of DSEI13 and the associated UAS Conference, both of which saw significant involvement of the UAS CDC. As described in issue 5 of this Outbrief, the Open Supplier Register has seen steady development, now hosting over 30 organisations

with a range of quoted capabilities in the UAS domain. Work continues to assess the DSEI engagement, with circa 50 companies approaching the UAS CDC for registration.

Several contracts have been placed with Industry (see below) in-period and work is in train to let more. The capability is now also supporting selected central government initiatives, as well as undertaking initial engagements with the European Defence Agency.

Consolidation of the pilot as an MOD capability will be reviewed in the coming months, likewise scope and breadth of considerations therein.

## Current Activities

Support remains ongoing on various tasks including those previously reported such as the provision of small UAS via civil operators to a trial programme (trial concluded in October); the development of [UAS-related] knowledge/information management options for Defence and applicability of current [manned aircraft] design standards to UAS.

The UAS CDC's development of a roadmap for future UAS T&E requirements has been matured (including contribution received at DSEI) and is scheduled to report in January 2014. The deliverable is being regarded as very much an 'organic' piece of work that should, in time, underpin Defence considerations around the Evaluation of UAS (notwithstanding the current review of UAS CDC continuance beyond April 2014). Going forward, this road-map would be revisited with Industry support to both ma-

ture, refine and update, as required.

The UAS CDC's participation in DSEI 2013 resulted in encouraging (and plentiful!) interactions with both Industry and academia; assessments of submissions for inclusion within the Open Supplier Register (OSR) remain ongoing, such was the volume of interest. Feedback received from organisations already en-



(Extract from UAS CDC Wonderwall DSEI2013)

gaged in the UAS CDC's work and those we hope to engage with, has been both constructive and productive; all feedback is being fed into the longer term planning discussions regard-

ing continuation of the capability.

Lessons Identified (LI) and application thereof, remains an ongoing theme for the UAS CDC. The UAS CDC is actively supporting DE&S with LI intervention and capture, and similarly with Dstl.

Moving into 2014, planning is underway for themed 'Industry Days' to be hosted by the UAS CDC. The detail remains to be finalised, but new opportunities for OSR-registered organisations to meet stakeholders/users are envisioned presenting, for example, opportunities for showcasing emergent technology or development, and/or receiving briefings on current or emergent issues. This approach is consistent with the UAS CDC's remit of enabling more timely and meaningful Industry engagement with the MOD UAS community.