

## The Unmanned Air Systems Capability Development Centre (UAS CDC)

This message is sent on behalf of the UAS Capability Development Centre (UAS CDC) Management Board (MB) to UAS CDC industry contacts.

The third 1\* Steering Group for the UAS CDC was held on 20th September, with representation from the Capability areas, the Front Line Commands, DE&S and Dstl.

**Main Message:** The UAS CDC is now ready to engage more widely with industry to support a number of incoming enquiries and tasks.

The UAS CDC pilot was set up to test the feasibility and benefits of establishing an intelligent customer function in the Test & Evaluation (T&E) and training space that provides access to independent, informed and holistic advice and solutions. It will serve the widest possible audience, from researchers to operators across MOD (all Services, warfare centres, development/evaluation units), Industry and Other Government Departments (OGD). We have produced a set of responses to 'Frequently Asked Questions', a copy of which is attached to this message.

The MB is now working to produce an operating plan which describes how the UAS CDC will work, with the target of getting it approved by the Steering Group at their next meeting on 5th December. Once complete, this document will be available to all industry partners on signing the Non-Disclosure Agreement. There has been a delay to the industrial engagement while we ensure that the UAS CDC is set up in accordance with all applicable procurement and competition law regulations. We now have a way forward while the commercial framework is being developed. In addition, the Steering Group has agreed that we should pursue industry representation in UAS CDC governance through trade body representation on the Steering Group. We are aiming to have this representation in place by the meeting in December.

**Update on Current Activities:** The UAS CDC is assessing in excess of 25 enquiries from the MOD stakeholder community; each of these will receive MB scrutiny to ensure the enquiry is within scope and to consider what resource is required to address it. Amongst the enquiries received there has been a few that fall outside the UAS CDC's remit. These include a task that Dstl will now seek to place with industry, and other project-specific tasks that require expertise available elsewhere in the MOD or industry. In the short term, the MB has prioritised enquiries that are within the UAS CDC scope to progress the more pressing issues, whilst ensuring appropriate attention to the others in terms of estimating effort involved and support requirements. The enquiry subject matter is wide-ranging. By way of example, areas of interest being presented to the UAS CDC include applicability of current [manned aircraft] design standards, the implications of long duration UAS flight operations in the UK, assessment of UK plc's future UAS T&E requirements and the implied capability gaps, various trend analysis, trials support and issues pertaining to UAS operator selection and training. How the UAS CDC addresses and responds to approved enquiries will be influenced by the facility's ability to engage and collaborate with a wide range of industry participants and, of course, industry's ability (and willingness) to engage and support the UAS CDC. It is encouraging that we have seen a good response to the recent requests for support on a research task that the UAS CDC is undertaking to explore future UAS T&E requirements. The UAS CDC is committed to full engagement with industry so as to determine the best solutions for MOD and this is borne out by the current work in train to establish the most cost-effective and efficient contracting vehicle to facilitate the participation envisioned.

The next Steering Group meeting is currently scheduled for 5th December and we will issue a further update after that meeting.

If you have any comments or questions, the UAS CDC can now be contacted at [CapJTES-TEUCDCCoord@mod.uk](mailto:CapJTES-TEUCDCCoord@mod.uk) <<mailto:CapJTES-TEUCDCCoord@mod.uk>>, or by telephoning 01980 66 3311.