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**NDI BULLETIN**

November 17th 2009

Dear subscriber

## Welcome to the latest edition of the NDI Bulletin

**Around the time of our Annual Conference last March, I called for an honest and open debate on the issues of future defence spending and the role of the UK on the international stage, particularly in military interventions.**

Since then defence spending is very much more in the national consciousness, with newspaper articles on defence spending and equipment being an almost daily occurrence. This has been brought about, sadly, by escalating casualties in Afghanistan and questions raised regarding equipment, helicopters and vehicles. As politicians have begun to wind themselves up to the General Elections so too have comments and speculation on cuts to defence budgets – an all too easy target, as I have said many times. To wilfully misquote the US Secretary for Defense, Robert Gates, “the troops are at war but the MOD is not, especially acquisition”.

Ahead of the Strategic Defence Review next year, the RAF is already preparing over the next five years to reduce its staff by 10,000, retire the majority of its Harriers and Tornados and close up to five large air stations. This will seriously reduce the RAF’s capability of fighting another conventional war as it will effectively have halved their levels of personnel from those during the recent Iraq conflict.

While it is understandable that the RAF should want to effect change, rather than have change forced upon them, it again begs questions about the future role expected of our armed forces. It is perhaps ironic that at a time when the RAF is planning these cutbacks, some 50,000 of the MOD’s 85,000 bureaucrats are expecting to receive ‘performance’ related bonuses. It is perhaps time that scrutiny of the front-line to identify areas for cuts should shift elsewhere within the MOD.

On a different note, I would like to give a warm welcome to two companies who have recently joined NDI, Allsops Ltd from Honley, near Huddersfield and Aircraft Consultancy & Equipment Sales Limited (ACES Limited) from Newcastle.

And finally, congratulations to, A&P Tyne on winning the £55 million, five year contract for significant construction work on the Queen Elizabeth class carriers. This is an example of a first class yard with a skilled and highly competent work force positioning itself adroitly to take on large pieces of main block sub assemblies. We are very proud to count A&P Tyne among NDI’s membership.

With best wishes

**Robin Fox**  
Managing Director

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## LATEST NEWS

## MOD may sell aircraft carrier to India to limit cuts

One of Britain's new £2bn aircraft carriers could be sold off under cost-cutting plans being considered by the Ministry of Defence. India has lodged a firm expression of interest, the Observer reports.

[Read more on this here](#)

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## General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin join forces for British FRES vehicle while BAE Systems submits its bid

General Dynamics UK is teaming with Lockheed Martin UK Insys to bid for the Scout variant of the British army's Future Rapid Effects System armoured-vehicle program. Meanwhile, BAE Systems has already submitted its bid for the British Army's most important programme on Thursday 5 November.

The bid is for "Recce Block 1", the £2bn first phase of the FRES SV (Future Rapid Effect System – Specialist Vehicles) programme. The Scout variant will give British troops a much-needed replacement for the ageing CVR(T) Scimitar, with greatly improved protection, firepower and reconnaissance abilities. The UK Ministry of Defence has said it will select a winner in the first quarter of 2010.

[Read more from Defense News here](#) and from [BAE Systems here](#)

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## MEMBER NEWS

### Five-year carrier deal for A&P Tyne

Tyneside shipbuilder and NDI member, A&P Tyne has landed a £55 million deal to build two sections of the country's future flagship vessels, the HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales. The contract, with the Aircraft Carrier Alliance (ACA) consortium, will see many of the firm's 210-strong workforce working on the project over the next five years.

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### Tube bending innovator wins 'Largest-Ever All-Electric Machine' order



Unison has won an order from BAE Systems Surface Ships for a large tube-bending machine to support ongoing projects, including the construction of the Royal Navy's Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers.

[Read more on our website here](#)

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### Gateshead engineering firm grows business fast in Brazil

Fast-growing company, Express Engineering, has strengthened its expansion into Brazil after a new joint venture and is now looking to grow its sales by 50% to over £22m. The Gateshead firm has joined forces with Brazilian firm Brastec Ltd to help it take advantage of new oil and gas extraction markets in the

region and is the latest development in its ambitious £3.2m expansion drive.

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## Innovation & Technology Award for Oxley



The award was presented to Oxley Technical Director Darren Cavan and Business Development Manager Phil Robinson in recognition of the company's success in remaining at the forefront of innovation and technology for over 60 years. The judges on the night praised Oxley as being 'outstanding,' and a clear winner in the category.

The award is given to the company that has 'developed the most innovative new product, system or process over the last year and can demonstrate the positive impact it has had on the business.'

Read more on our website [here](#)

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## Member Company Focus - Fabreeka International Ltd



Fabreeka® International has been a leader in the field of shock and vibration control since 1936. The company provides vibration isolation and shock control solutions for a diverse range of industries worldwide.

Their isolation products are used on a variety of military applications to attenuate shock, vibration and reduce structure-borne noise. Fabreeka's military applications include solutions for ground support equipment vehicles, tanks, personnel carriers, F-16 fighter jet, the new MRAP vehicle and applications for government agencies. Fabreeka resilient laminated fabric pad is a scientifically designed and manufactured material composed of layers of tightly twisted, closely woven lightweight duck, which meets the MIL-C-882 and MIL-E-5272 military specification.

The energy storage capacity of Fabreeka Pad protects structures and equipment from damage caused by shock and vibration. DIMFAB 280 isolation material was introduced to meet the specifications for Distributed Isolation Material (DIM) specified for use in the US Navy submarines and surface ships. It typically isolates equipment on vessels including propulsion systems, electronic, electrical and hydraulic equipment and reciprocating machinery.

Fabreeka provides engineering services including vibration measurement and analysis, structural design, dynamic (modal) analysis and finite element analysis for custom applications, offering bespoke solutions for vibration and shock problems.

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## New Members

**Aircraft Consultancy & Equipment Sales Limited** (ACES Limited) from Newcastle is an aviation consultant which acts as a representative in Europe for Willis Lease, an aircraft engine leasing company. It also acts as a financial adviser for various aircraft manufacturers on an ad-hoc basis.

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**Allsops Ltd** from Honley, near Huddersfield, offers one point of contact for all sheet metal working requirements, from a full design service through to punching/laser cutting, folding, welding/fabrication, powder coating and assembly.

Awarded ISO 9001:2000 in January 2004, Allsops put great emphasis on providing a quality service & product, on time every time.

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## EVENTS

### NDI Annual General Meeting



**18th November 2009 - 11:00am**

Final warning that NDI will be holding its Annual General Meeting tomorrow at the Crathorne Hall Hotel near Yarm. The keynote speaker will be Sarah Macken, Campaign Director for the Defence Matters campaign and Director of Government Relations and Strategy for A|D|S.

Please contact Pamela Baker on 0191 2551720 for more information

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### Spanish Aerospace and Airports Sector Briefing



**24th November 2009, A|D|S London**

This briefing will include background on key industry players, the main aeronautical hubs, aeronautics programmes being developed in Spain, labour costs, Spanish participation in space programmes, as well as opportunities throughout the sector:

You can find more details of this free event on our website [here](#)

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### Business Continuity Management Event

**26 November 2009**

Business Continuity Management - what does it mean and how do organisations use BCM to identify and respond to a growing range of threats facing their businesses today?

NDI is pleased to announce that industry expert James Royds will be delivering an event focused on BCM on Thursday 26 November 2009 at its office on Orchard Street, Newcastle upon Tyne. This event is free to NDI Members. Click [here](#) for more information.

The event will start at 11:00 and conclude at 13:00 with a light buffet and opportunity to network.

Numbers for this event are limited and those wishing to attend are requested to confirm their attendance by calling Liz Ferguson on 0191 255 1720 or at [liz.ferguson@ndi.org.uk](mailto:liz.ferguson@ndi.org.uk)

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### NDI Annual Conference 2010

**25th - 26th March 2010**

**Saviles Hall, Royal Armouries, Leeds.**

'The Defence Supply Network - A Vital Part Of The Nation's Recovery'.

A conference designed for customers and suppliers to examine the current and future requirements for defence programmes, and to improve business contacts. There will be a strong emphasis on exhibitions of company products and services.

More details and a booking form can be found on our website [here](#)

Please contact [Liz Ferguson](#) on 0191 2551720 for more information

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## Royal Navy Presentation Team – Member's Event

**2nd December 2009**

NDI will be holding a special Member's Briefing on the Royal Navy in HMS CALLIOPE, Gateshead, on Wednesday 2 December 2009 at 7pm.

The RN Presentation Team tours the length and breadth of the country, promoting the relevance and vision of the modern Royal Navy to a wide cross-section of the UK population. They aim to raise the profile, understanding and awareness of the RN, especially with those from commerce, industry, academia, and other key decision-makers.

Their fast moving multi-media presentation lasts about 30 minutes. It will outline UK Defence policy and the considerable contribution being made to tri-service and multi-national operations by today's Royal Navy. Following the presentation there will be a question and answer period during which discussion on issues concerning the UK marine defence sector will be welcomed.

As well as being informative, the occasion is designed to be entertaining and thought provoking. The evening will start with a small reception and conclude with a light supper and opportunity for networking.

Members interested in attending should contact Pamela Baker at NDI on 0191 255 1720 or at [pamela.baker@ndi.org.uk](mailto:pamela.baker@ndi.org.uk)

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## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

### CDE Excellence Competitions

The MOD's Centre for Defence Enterprise is pleased to announce two new competitions; **Innovative Armour Solutions for the Battlefield** and **Less than Lethal Weapons**.

The Centre for Defence Enterprise, in conjunction with the MOD Armour and Protection Science and Technology Centre, is seeking applications that deliver innovative armour solutions for the battlefield.

Please click on the links above for more details.

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### CERN Opportunities

**Please find details below of two tender opportunities from CERN.**

CERN IT-3630/GS: "Flammable and inflammable gases"

Deadline: 02 December 2009

For more information please click [here](#)

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 MS-3674/EN: "Industrial Support for Mechanical Workshop Activities at CERN"

Deadline: 30th November 2009

For more information please click [here](#)

To apply to either of these CERN tenders, please contact Julie Bellingham at: [tenderopportunities@stfc.ac.uk](mailto:tenderopportunities@stfc.ac.uk) but as always, we would be grateful if you could let us know if you choose to pursue these.

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SEND US YOUR STORIES!

## Have you got a story or a news item to tell?

Have you got a story or a news item to tell? Anything from a recent success story to a new product or service, we want to hear about it.

Why? So we can tell all our Member Companies about it! Oh, and the many other people with an interest in the defence, security and aerospace sector who receive the NDI Bulletin.

If you want to see your news or story in the next edition of the NDI Bulletin, please send it to [Dan Tweedy](#) today!



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