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NDI BULLETIN

September 23rd 2009

Dear

Welcome to the latest edition of the NDI Bulletin



We've been ringing the changes at NDI, with our new website and the new corporate identity. As you can see, the NDI Bulletin has undergone the same transformation. We hope you like the new format and would welcome any feedback you may have.

As many of you will know, NDI, joined by a number of Member Companies, took a high profile stand at this year's DSEi.

Among the high profile visitors to the NDI stand were Chief of Defence Materiel General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue KCB, CBE and Quentin Davies MP, Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support (pictured).

Reflecting on the event, I think this year's has been as good as any previous event – at least from an NDI perspective.

As ever, we set out to take full advantage of opportunities to influence the political side of the defence sector, particularly the MoD, and continue our dialogue with Government on the on-going issue of support for the supplier network.

We have been working hard with the Government and the Prime contractors to look at some of the major projects – the Warrior improvement programme and FRES(SV) for example. We remain confident that we will see some activity on these and other programmes within this financial year.

Timely comment on the defence procurement challenge we face came from Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, the former Labour Secretary of State for Defence and NATO Secretary General. He expressed the view that the procurement system is in a mess at a time when this and future Governments face tough choices on what is really needed. He rightly called for publication of the Grey Report on defence procurement, which should have been published in July. Grey clearly sees a situation that is flawed and publication and implementation of his recommendations is something I'm sure we all would welcome.

Decisions on many of the current big ticket items precede the current Labour Government and hence it is probably unfair to blame all our current ills on the present incumbents, however tempting that may be (for example, the prototype for the Eurofighter was announced by Sir John Nott as Conservative Defence Secretary in around 1983). Lord Robertson's comments echo what many of us have been saying for a long time, namely that defence procurement is both a national and international issue for the UK. It requires visionary thinking from our politicians on a global scale.

Hence George Osborne's recent comments, casting doubt on the future of a number of the bigger defence projects, did not endear him to either his party or those in the defence industry. Whoever wins the next election, let's wait to see what the promised defence review brings and make decisions based on our national and not party political interests.

With best wishes

Robin Fox
Managing Director

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LATEST NEWS

Canadian High Commissioner visits NDI



NDI member companies from the North East were given the opportunity to hear about Canadian foreign policy and its defence priorities when they attended a lunch given for the Canadian High Commissioner in Newcastle last week.

His Excellency Mr James Wright, Canadian High Commissioner to the UK (pictured, second right), in his speech gave an assessment of the Canadian defence market and the future opportunities it afforded to small and medium sized companies in the defence, security and aerospace industries.

The event was hosted by NDI, NDI's subsidiary company the Marine Design Centre and NOF Energy and held at NDI's offices on September 7th.

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Defence budget 'facing changes'

Bob Ainsworth has hinted at "major shifts" in defence spending, reports the BBC, as the government prioritises resources for the war in Afghanistan.

The defence secretary urged a "wide-ranging" debate about future priorities but did not say what might be squeezed.

On Trident, Mr Ainsworth said the UK would "stick" with its seaborne nuclear deterrent but would look at its costs. Several senior Labour figures, including Charles Clarke, have called for Trident not to be renewed. The Liberal Democrats argue that the UK cannot afford to replace Trident with a like-for-like successor when it expires in 2024.

Ministers say they will begin a strategic defence review early in the next Parliament, the first since 1998, and will launch a green paper on future defence priorities early next year. Opposition parties say the scale of the UK's military commitment in Afghanistan - where 9,000 UK troops are stationed - and the losses there mean this process should be accelerated.

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2009 Annual Defence Lecture

Of great interest to many, General Sir David Richards, Chief of the General Staff, spoke at the 2009 Annual Defence Lecture at Chatham House on Thursday 17 September.

A transcript and recording of his speech is available to download [here](#).

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Historic shipyard sold to council

In other news, we hear that the former Swan Hunter shipyard on Tyneside has been sold in an undisclosed deal.

North Tyneside Council and regional development agency **One North East** have purchased the 60-acre site in Wallsend from owner Jaap Kroese.

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Fierce battle for UK Armour market

Elsewhere, battle lines are also being drawn as General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin are on course to join forces in the UK to take on a BAE Systems drive to secure two major armoured vehicle contracts.

Read more on this story [here](#).

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MEMBER NEWS

Contitech Beattie gives safety the gold medal treatment



ContiTech Beattie Ltd has launched two new products to help with health and safety in the oil and gas industry at the prestigious Offshore Europe exhibition and conference.

The launch was given the “gold medal” treatment with the help of Great Britain Olympic hero Victoria Pendleton. [Read more](#)

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Take off at Robin Hood Airport



Invest in Doncaster are hoping that a new Business Park near Robin Hood Airport will ‘take off’ - by attracting aviation, aerospace and airport related businesses.

[Read more.](#)

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Oxley wins NDI picture competition



Oxley Developments Company Limited, winners of our ‘guess the picture’ competition to launch our new corporate identity, received their prize from NDI managing Director Robin Fox at DSEI.

Pictured left with Robin is Sales and Marketing Director, Andy Bednarek.

We hope you enjoy the champagne!

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New Members



NDI would like to welcome new members SyntheSys Systems Engineers Ltd.

SyntheSys was incorporated in early 1988 by the Managing Director, Dr John Hartas, in his home town of Whitby, North Yorkshire, England. The business soon established its name providing information systems consultancy to the UK government and has been particularly successful in the field of Military Tactical Data Links where

it is now recognised as a world leader. In addition to Military Systems, other business areas include Training, Software Engineering and Technical Management Services.

www.synthesys.co.uk

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EVENTS



SBAC, on behalf of UK Trade and Investment, are organising a mission to South Korea in mid-October to enable UK companies to meet with the key aerospace manufacturing organisations and get a better understanding of the market and opportunities for new business.

This should be of particular interest to our members working in the aerospace sector.

[Click here](#) to view more details of this event including how to register.

Also in October, a Chinese delegation, including representatives of COMAC and AVIC, is in the UK to attend the UK/China Aviation Working Group meeting in Belfast on 20 October and Bristol on 22 October.

For more information, please [click here](#).

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Contract opportunities from CERN

This week, we would like to direct you to look at contract opportunities for UK companies provided by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)

You can find details on current and upcoming opportunities at CERN [here](#).

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SEND US YOUR STORIES!

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 bi-monthly 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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