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NDI BULLETIN

November 3rd 2009

Dear subscriber

Welcome to the latest edition of the NDI Bulletin

It has not been a good week for the Government and the perception that it places more importance on short term cost savings than it does on its duty of care for our servicemen.

This emerged in the highly critical report from Mr Haddon-Cave QC into the Nimrod disaster in Afghanistan, which blamed the Ministry of Defence for 'deep organisational trauma'. Fourteen lives were lost and the reportage of the 'avoidable' incident coincided with media coverage of the mid-air collision between two Sea King helicopters in the Gulf earlier in the decade.

While the finger has been pointed in a number of directions, particularly in the former case, a theme emerges which is both common and disturbing. Cost cutting is widely reported as the fundamental cause of these accidents. Such measures, which undermine safety culture and airworthiness regulations, are clearly unacceptable. And it begs the question, where is the next accident waiting to happen?

This situation is an overt manifestation of the ills that run through the defence equipment acquisition process, which Bernard Gray addresses in his hard hitting review published recently. His recommendation for future periodic Strategic Defence Reviews, which encompass a coherent framework for the defence industrial base, is a theme that NDI has long promoted. We in the SME community are well aware that a reduction in defence spending is an inevitable consequence of our national economic plight. We know there are tough decisions to come but take some comfort from the prospect of an acquisition programme, which is fully costed and affordable, and matches our national needs. Done well, it will shape the business of our member companies for years to come.

We must hope that Government is minded to implement the report's eight recommendations, which includes structural changes within the MoD and DE&S, a rolling 10-year defence budget and the need to embed skills such as project management, cost estimating and contracting within the MoD and DE&S. ADS has published a useful summary of the 300-page Gray Report that can be viewed on our website.

Finally, may I remind you of the importance of attending the NDI Annual General Meeting, which we are holding this year at the Crathorne Hall Hotel, near Yarm on 18 November. I look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes

Robin Fox
Managing Director

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LATEST NEWS

Navy's Defender sails for the first time

Thousands turned out on the banks of the Clyde to cheer on the first sailing of the latest ship to make up the Royal Navy's formidable new Type 45 destroyer class.

Please click [here](#) for more information from the Ministry of Defence.

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NDI Business Development Manager made a Younger Brother of Trinity House



NDI is pleased to announce that Business Development Manager (Marine), Andy Collier, has just been made a Younger Brother of Trinity House, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Trinity House was established in 1492 and granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation by King Henry VIII in 1536, under which it has operated ever since.

Although faithful to its original purpose, which is to oversee safe navigation and the welfare of seamen, today Trinity House plays a very active role in the region's maritime sector. It also offers chosen associates the opportunity to use their prestigious 16th Century Newcastle Quayside location for receptions, seminars and business gatherings.

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MEMBER NEWS

Newburgh sets its sights on SC21



Newburgh Engineering has committed to SC21, the programme to significantly improve performance within the entire UK supply chain for the aerospace and defence sectors.

Working with Industry Forum on the SC21 programme, Newburgh Engineering has recently achieved an excellent result for a first time assessment against the Manufacturing Excellence framework, which aims to accelerate the competitiveness of suppliers and deliver long term value to customers.

Read more on this story from Engineering Capacity [here](#)

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NDI members do business



The hydraulic component supplier [Stauff UK](#) has taken delivery of a new all-electric tube bending machine from fellow NDI member Unison.

The machine that Stauff chose is a Breeze 16 tube bender (pictured left) with bidirectional servomotor-driven bending axes, capable of

shaping tubes of up to 16 mm in diameter.

Applications for the new machine range from the fabrication of batches of tubular components for OEMs in sectors such as the railways and oil and gas.

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Express Engineering racing ahead



Express Engineering's drive to expand its aerospace business has been boosted by the award of a recognised industry accreditation. Following a three day British Standards Institute audit of procedures at its Team Valley operation, the company is now AS9100 approved, gaining a phenomenal 875 from a possible 880 points (99.4%).

They have successfully supplied the aerospace industry for more than a decade. Recent multi-million pound contracts with major companies included a \$1 million deal to work on the system development and demonstration phase of the new F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (pictured) programme.

Read more on this story [here](#)

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Member Company Focus - Springwell Precision Engineering



Springwell Precision Engineering Limited offers a professional machining service encompassing conventional machines for one off orders to a range of CNC, milling, lathes and turning equipment for more complex components and large batch production requirements.

Incepted in Washington in 1996, they began working out of a 3000 square foot factory and in 2003, an additional 7000 square foot site was utilised in Cramlington, which enabled them to supply machined

parts to specific markets more promptly and efficiently. As they developed and grew, it was apparent that they needed to relocate their Washington business from the smaller site and so in January 2007, they moved into a 20,000 square foot facility.

2009 has seen the amalgamation of the two sites, which has brought the two businesses together into the Washington facility, along with additional employees. This amalgamation has proven a success and enables them to offer very large capacity in milling and horizontal boring of up to 2.7m and turning up to 700mm diameter. With the machines in situ and a multi-skilled workforce, they are able to offer sub-contract precision machining services to a diverse range of industries including aerospace, construction, automotive, oil & gas, defence, repair work and many more.

Currently, all employees are undergoing training in NVQ Level 2 Business Improvement Techniques and Lean Manufacturing and the training is already beginning to pay off as they have recently been awarded the Sunderland Echo Business Portfolio Award 2009 for Manufacturing. This award comes as a welcome surprise after a year which has been especially difficult in their manufacturing sector.

With positive comments and with customers identifying the continuous improvements they have made within the company, and with the recognition from the industry by way of the Manufacturing Award 2009; these acknowledgements have given Springwell Precision the additional motivation to succeed and grow.

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EVENTS

NDI Annual General Meeting



18th November 2009 - 11:00am

NDI will be holding its Annual General Meeting at Crathorne Hall Hotel near Yarm.

All members are welcome and papers for voting members were sent out during the week commencing 19th October. Please let us know if you have not received these.

Please contact [Pamela Baker](#) on 0191 2551720 for more information.

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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.

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

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Professional Ethics Lectures

25 November 2009, Leeds

In an upcoming public lecture on 12th November in London: "[Solving global challenges demands ethical leadership](#)" the chairman of **BAE Systems** will highlight the importance of ethics in engineering. This training offered by the **University of Leeds** will help you to develop your ethical leadership skills.

In conjunction with this, "Professional Ethics for Professional Engineers - Decision-making skills for a complex world" is being held on Wednesday 25 November 2009 in Leeds

This is a one-day training course is being offered at the discounted price of £150.00 (usually £245.00) to representatives of NDI member companies (in connection with the IET lecture by the Chairman of BAE Systems plc.)

By attending this course you will learn how to:

- understand and apply professional codes of practice
- recognise and meet your responsibilities to your company, clients, colleagues, government agencies, the public and the environment
- tackle difficult workplace situations with confidence, in line with the strategy, objectives and ethos of your organisation
- develop transferable reasoning skills, which can be widely applied in today's rapidly changing world to make intelligent, informed decisions

For more information about the course and to book your place, please click [here](#) . Please ensure you write "NDI member" clearly on the top of the form. Alternatively, you can contact Alex Buckley: a.j.buckley@leeds.ac.uk / 0113 343 8230 to discuss your requirements.

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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

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Royal Navy Presentation Team – Member's Event

2 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

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Sonar Systems

Design, engineering and delivery of 4 new Sonar suite systems, including interfaces, integration, training and ILS. The most economically advantageous offer in compliance with program of requirements, Technical quality in specifications and design, integration flexibility, delivery time, price.

Please contact [Dan Tweedy](#) for more information on this opportunity

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Marine Equipment

The Maritime Equipment Support (MES) Team are seeking to secure a single supplier for the full range spares for the waste equipments currently fitted to HM Ships and Submarines. These equipments include Oily water Separators, Sewage Treatment Plants, Incinerators, Garbage and Plastic Processing Machines, Toilets and Glass crushers.

Please contact [Dan Tweedy](#) for more information on this opportunity

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Raise your company profile in the NDI Annual Review

The next edition of the NDI Annual Review will be published to coincide with our Annual General Meeting on 18th November. With sponsorship of £300 your company could benefit from its 6,000 circulation among other NDI member companies, opinion formers and decision makers in the MoD, procurement and supply chain managers in the defence industry and the political community.

The cost includes a 200 word profile with photograph and 'pop up' stand at the AGM in November. However, time is very short before the Annual Review goes to print. To ensure your place in the publication we need to know before 5 p.m. on Wednesday 4 November.

Please contact as soon as possible your NDI Business Sector Manager or [Pamela Baker](#) for more information on 0191 255 1720.

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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!



EMAIL: enquiries@ndi.org.uk
TEL: 0191 255 1720 | **FAX:** 0191 255 1721



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