

News story: Accelerator innovation network event: autonomous last mile resupply

The Defence and Security Accelerator is holding an event in London on 23 May 2017 to provide information on the autonomous last mile resupply themed competition.

Suppliers attending the event will be able to hear presentations about the autonomous last mile resupply themed competition which seeks to develop and demonstrate the use of autonomous systems to deliver mission-critical supplies, focusing on the challenging 'last mile' resupply in the land environment.

If you cannot attend the event, sign up for our [webinar](#) which will take place on 30 May 2017.

The [competition](#) is seeking new technologies, processes and ways of working to improve the way we deliver mission-critical supplies, focusing on the challenging 'last mile' resupply in the land environment.

It involves delivering combat supplies from the forward-most location to personnel engaged in combat operations. Although relatively small in distance, these resupply activities are challenging as they are in an environment that is typically hostile, complex and contested. These activities need to quickly and efficiently deliver vital supplies in order to enable successful mission outcomes.

The challenges of this Accelerator competition are to develop and demonstrate:

- Challenge 1: unmanned air and ground load carrying platforms
- Challenge 2: technologies and systems to allow load carrying platforms to operate autonomously
- Challenge 3: technologies to autonomously predict, plan, track and optimise resupply demands from military users

Up to £3 million is available in total across phase 1 and 2 of this themed competition.

Press release: Drivers advised to plan journeys ahead of Bike4Life charity bike event

Drivers are advised to plan their journeys and allow extra time as around 5,000 motorcyclists take part in the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's seventh annual Bike4Life event between Shrewsbury and RAF Cosford this Sunday (30 April).

Motorcyclists participating in the event will leave Meole Brace in Shrewsbury at 11.30am on Sunday and will ride to RAF Cosford via the A5, M54 and A41.

The 23-mile journey only takes around half an hour but, depending on the number of people participating, there could be delays and some congestion along this route.

The following closures will be in place during the event (approximately 11am to 1:30pm):

- A5 eastbound between Dobbies roundabout and the M54, including the three roundabout entrances (Dobbies, Preston and Emstrey)
- M54 eastbound entry slip roads at junctions 7, 6, 5, 4 and 3
- M54 westbound exit slip road at junction 3

Diversion routes will be clearly signposted.

Road users may experience some delays along these routes on Sunday morning, but these should ease fairly quickly.

Drivers are advised to plan their journeys ahead of time or to use alternative routes if possible around the middle of the day.

The event is organised by and raises funds for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, which attends nearly 100 motorcycle-related incidents every year.

Highways England provides live traffic information via its website, local and national radio travel bulletins, electronic road signs and mobile platforms, such as Android and iPhone apps.

For more information about the event go to the [bike4lifefest website](#).

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448

and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

Press release: PM meeting with European Commission President: 27 April 2017

The PM had a constructive meeting this evening with President Juncker of the European Commission.

Following the UK's letter of notification under Article 50, she reiterated the UK's commitment to achieving a deep and special partnership with the European Union.

The PM and President Juncker also discussed a range of other international issues in a useful working dinner.

Speech: "The people of South Sudan are fed up of pledges and fed up of promises. They need action."

Thank you Madam President. And thank you David, and Gorgui, for your briefings.

And I want to start by complementing David and the whole UNMISS team for the steps that you have taken to enhance the Mission's ability to fulfil its mandate despite the hostile circumstances in which it operates.

The situation in South Sudan is dire, but I want to recall what we, the members of this Security Council, agreed to on the 23rd of March in our Presidential Statement. We called for an immediate ceasefire by all parties; we called for steps to be taken to allow life saving assistance to get to those in need. We called for the immediate removal of obstacles to UNMISS and the deployment of the Regional Protection Force. We also gave our support to joint UN, African Union and IGAD efforts to bring the parties back to the Peace Agreement. And we said we would return to these benchmarks and reassess. So let's do that.

The lack of progress since that Presidential Statement a month ago is

deafening. Fighting and violence in South Sudan has never been so widespread. Events that unfolded in Wau earlier this month are a distressing indication of the apathy that parties to the conflict have towards achieving peace by political means. UN reports detail clashes between the SPLA and the opposition which resulted in the SPLA seeking violent retribution against civilians in a community they believed to be in support of the opposition.

It's always difficult, Madam President, to deliver aid in a highly insecure environment like South Sudan. But let's be clear, it's not only the presence of conflict that impedes the ability of humanitarian workers to address the ever worsening food situation. It's the way in which the conflict is conducted; namely, the fact that it contravenes International Humanitarian Law.

International Humanitarian Law was breached with the murder of three World Food Programme employees in Wau. And this is by no means an isolated incident. As Gorgui noted in his briefing, the murder of these WFP employees adds to the toll of eighty humanitarians who have been killed in South Sudan since December 2013. This must stop.

Also unacceptable is the news that the Government of South Sudan has detained without charge, a WFP employee. We call on the Government of South Sudan for his immediate and unconditional release and urge other member states to join that call.

The violence in Wau is also an example of the unacceptable and chronic obstructions placed upon UNMISS by the Government of South Sudan. Despite repeated attempts UNMISS was prevented from patrolling in Wau and thus unable to protect civilians. A continued lack of Government cooperation has also prevented meaningful progress on the deployment of the Regional Protection Force.

Madam President, this Council has heard time and time again of the shocking impact that this conflict is having on the world's youngest nation. One example, is the fact that at least one in every four South Sudanese has now been forced from their homes since the outbreak of conflict in December 2013. What a damning statistic.

And despite multiple statements made in this Council and efforts by the UN, African Union and IGAD to bring the parties together, we have collectively failed to bring about an end to this conflict. We are further from the IGAD Peace Agreement than ever. Yes, we have all pledged to do more. Yes, the Government of South Sudan has time and again promised peace. But the people of South Sudan are fed up of pledges and fed up of promises. They need action. So we strongly encourage the AU, IGAD, and the UN to build on their commitment to work together by developing a clear, joint, plan of action to solve the ongoing crisis in South Sudan without delay.

And in conclusion, Madam President, the question we each need to ask ourselves as we walk out of this room is how much further are we prepared to let the situation deteriorate on our watch? My answer is no further at all. And with this in mind I call on regional countries to avert the suffering in

their backyards. I remind fellow Council colleagues that it's incumbent on us to use every available tool to pull South Sudan back from the abyss. Dialogue is needed. But so is pressure. An Arms Embargo would prevent further devastation and rearming when the rainy season inevitably slows the fighting. Targeted sanctions would remind those in power that a return to peace is the right alternative to rape and killing of civilians.

We hear month after month the same lack of commitment to peace from all parties. We owe it to the people of South Sudan to end this horror and to secure a lasting peace.

Thank you Madam President.

News story: Tracking the status and events of a trade mark

As part of our ongoing work to improve our digital services, we are making changes to the current trade mark eAlerts service.

The service is renamed as 'Track a trade mark' and will replace the current trade mark eAlerts service. This is a free tracking service which notifies you via email of specific events occurring to a trade mark (for both United Kingdom (UK) and International Registration (IR) trade marks).

Track a trade mark will function the same but with improvements to the look and style of the service.

The change will take effect on 27 April 2017 and the first screen will look like:

Improved look and style of service.

We would welcome further feedback to continue to improve this service going forward. Please email any comments to feedback@ipo.gov.uk.