

News story: Showcasing science, technology and innovation at DPRTE

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and the Defence and Security Accelerator (Accelerator) exhibited at the Defence Procurement, Research, Technology and Exportability (DPRTE) event on 28 March 2017 showcasing science, technology and innovation.

Defence and Security Accelerator: Driving Innovation

Rob Solly, who has been Acting Head of the Accelerator since December, gave a keynote speech at the event, explaining how the Accelerator is driving innovation for UK defence and security. The Accelerator is already engaging and funding innovators to solve defence and security challenges with backing from the £800 million Innovation Fund.

Explaining why Dstl and the Accelerator were at the event, Rob said:

DPRTE is a key event in the defence exhibition calendar and gave us the opportunity to talk to customers, suppliers, academics and government agencies in one place.

We want to hear from innovators about their ideas, from small niche companies to large organisations. We're particularly keen to hear from organisations who haven't been involved in defence or security before. We believe there is a wealth of knowledge and ideas in parallel markets which can be, with some adjustments, used to provide game-changing support to our armed forces.

Some organisations are put off getting involved due to perceived long, complicated Government processes. However, the Accelerator team has developed a simple application process to make it easier for innovators and businesses to work with us and develop their ideas, from initial concepts to mature applications. Our Innovation Partners can also guide suppliers through the process.

At DPRTE we were keen to highlight that unlike other schemes, the Accelerator allows businesses to retain their intellectual property. Our return on investment is providing our Armed Forces and Security teams the best kit and services to do their jobs and keep our country safe.

[View the slides from Rob Solly's keynote speech, Driving Innovation.](#)

Defence in Innovation: Medical Sciences

Neal Smith, Dstl's Capability Adviser for Medical Sciences, presented Innovation in Defence: Medical Sciences, in the Research and Technology Zone. Neal's presentation demonstrated how rapid responses to evolving threats and changing scenarios can be generated to enhance military medical responses.

Reflecting on the event, Neal said:

From my point of view, a very interesting and useful event, certainly great for getting our message across, in terms of investment in innovation and exploitation. I was pleased that Professor Ian Pallister of Trauma Simulation Ltd, could join us and many participants enjoyed hearing about the trauma model and Ian's experiences of working with Dstl and the Accelerator.

[View the slides from Neal Smith's presentation at DPRTE Defence in Innovation: Medical Sciences.](#)

Dstl and the Accelerator had a presence in the Innovation Hub, where they demonstrated the breadth of work within Dstl and how suppliers can get involved.

Dstl and Accelerator representatives were busy all day talking to a wide range of suppliers, from SMEs, academia and primes enquiring about opportunities to get involved. With many positive discussions with suppliers, Dstl and the Accelerator have a number of leads to follow up from the event. The most popular exhibit was the graphic and realistic trauma surgeons model.

Trauma surgeon's model

Recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq exposed troops to traumatic injury, particularly from improvised explosive devices. As part of its multifaceted response, MOD wanted to ensure that medical teams had, and continue to have, the training and resources required to address traumatic injury.

Part of this programme was to support Professor Ian Pallister, a civilian trauma surgeon and his colleagues at Trauma Simulation Ltd, in the creation of extremely realistic life-size training models to assist in the training of combat medics and surgical teams. This was funded by Dstl through the Centre for Defence Enterprise (now Defence and Security Accelerator).

For more information on [how to work with or sell to Dstl](#) visit our website.

Government must bring back sensible rules on term-time holidays

The Supreme Court has found in favour of a local authority that has fined a parent for taking his daughter on holiday during term-time.

A Labour Government would give leaseholders security from rip-off ground rents – Healey

John Healey MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, commenting on new government statistics showing that there are four million leasehold dwellings in England, said:

"These new figures confirm for the first time the scale of leasehold ownership in England.

"Home-owners who own their home as leaseholders are currently unprotected from rip-off rises in 'ground rents' from developers or management companies.

"At its worst this is little better than legalised extortion and too many leaseholders are having to pay hefty bills as a result.

Under a Labour Government this sharp practice would end.

"This is unfinished business for Labour – we gave leaseholders more protection in government, but the continuing problem now means we must do more.

"A Labour Government would give leaseholders security from rip-off ground rents and end the routine use of leasehold ownership in new housing developments."

News story: Modernised insolvency

rules introduced

The [modernised and consolidated rules](#) replace the Insolvency Rules 1986 and their 28 subsequent amendments.

The rules have been recast to reflect modern business practice and to make the insolvency process more efficient. Changes include:

- enabling electronic communications with creditors
- removing the automatic requirement to hold physical creditors meetings, although creditors will be able to request such meetings
- enabling creditors to opt out of further correspondence and for small debts to be paid by the office holder without requiring a formal claim from creditors

The Insolvency (England & Wales) Rules 2016 were developed in cooperation with the insolvency profession as part of the government's Red Tape Challenge. It is expected that they will save businesses an estimated £20 million annually enabling greater returns to the creditors of insolvent businesses.

The rules apply in England and Wales. A parallel project to modernise the Scottish insolvency rules is currently underway in partnership with the Scottish Government.

Insolvency Service form templates: England and Wales

Statutory forms relating to insolvency procedures have now been withdrawn. We have produced a limited number of templates for matters that fall under the responsibility of the Insolvency Service.

Using these templates will ensure full compliance with the new rules when completed properly.

You may use an alternative template/form but you will be responsible for ensuring its content complies with the Rules.

A document that fails to comply may not be accepted by the intended recipient including the office holder (official receiver, liquidator or trustee) or the court, for example.

[Companies House](#) and [Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service](#) have also produced a number of templates for insolvency matters that fall under their responsibility.

Previous templates should no longer be used.

Working people deserve better than Tory failure – Andrew Gwynne

Andrew Gwynne MP, responding to Theresa May's speech at the launch of the Tory local elections campaign, said:

"The Tories cannot give Britain the change we need. Theresa May talks of a country that works for everyone, but for the last seven years the Tories have failed ordinary working people and plunged our public services into crisis.

"When Theresa May says she has a plan for Britain, what she means is a plan to run the NHS into the ground, squeeze people's living standards, reintroduce unfair selection in our schools and drive us towards a risky Brexit which threatens jobs, growth and workers' rights.

"Theresa May's claims on Council Tax are misleading. The truth is that where Labour controls the local council, households will pay on average £336 less next year than those living in Tory areas. People are better off with a Labour council.

"Working people deserve better than Tory failure – only Labour will stand up for them and their families."