



Defence Project Management Conference 2006

Project Leadership in a Complex World

10 - 11 October 2006

RUSI, Whitehall, London, UK



If the implementation of the 2005 Defence Industrial Strategy is to be successful, the UK Government and Ministry of Defence will require efficient Project organisations that demonstrate effective leadership and team working to deliver projects on time, to budget and to specified requirements.

Last year's conference and the National Audit Office's (NAO) report 'Driving the Successful Delivery of Major Defence Projects' both concluded that developing and sustaining the right cultural environment was the key to the successful delivery of complex defence projects.

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A Challenging Environment for Defence Acquisition

It is widely recognised that there is the need for new approaches to defence acquisition in an environment which is subject to considerable political, social and economic pressures and involves a number of management processes. Delivering projects on time, to budget and to specified requirements is challenging in itself. In addition the 2005 Defence Industrial Strategy emphasises retention of a 'a sustainable industrial base'. The UK must therefore implement effective procurement, project management, logistics and supply chain management processes to gain international competitive advantage.

The UK Government and Ministry of Defence have identified several key target areas within which to create an effective and competitive acquisition base: developing through-life relationships with industry; delivering integrated capability solutions; streamlining acquisition processes to maximise innovation, agility and flexibility; ensuring consistency of approach; and identifying, enhancing, recognising and managing professional delivery skills.

To be successful this strategy requires Project organisations that deliver effective leadership through: sustainable partnerships; empowering and equipping its resources to make effective decisions; encouraging positive accountability; operating robust systems & processes focused on measuring progress and predicting the likely out-turn.

Conference Objectives

This conference will follow on from the 2005 Defence Management Conference Achieving Project Foresight where Rear Admiral Neil Latham, Commandant of the UK's Defence College of Management and Technology, challenged delegates to come back in 2006 and debate what project leadership really means in the defence acquisition context.

This conference will provide an opportunity for industry, government officials, other policy formers and analysts to develop an understanding not only of the role of the 'leader' in project delivery, but also of the importance of performance management and stakeholder relations in today's complex defence contracting environment. It will study the role of project leadership, programme management and contracting frameworks, and their increasing relevance in defence acquisition. Particular regard will be given to the 2005 Defence Industrial Strategy and the work of the NAO in developing the 'Gold Standard' for successful project delivery published in 2005.

Conference Structure

This conference over two days will review insights from the Defence Project Management Conference 2005 Achieving Project Foresight and the conclusions of the recent studies of the NAO into the contracting environment and effective project delivery.

This event will include a series of related plenary sessions in which senior figures from the defence industry, UK Ministry of Defence and analysts and advisers to the industry will speak.

The plenary sessions will be supported by three tracks focusing on:

- Leadership – looking at political, industrial, commercial and acquisition leadership models, the attributes and behaviours of leaders, developing team work and project management individuals of the right calibre;
- Contracting – specifically looking at partnering and project collaboration frameworks that incorporate risk assessments and earned value management for the benefit of all stakeholders;
- Programme Management – balancing investment decisions, killing projects and prioritisation, resource management, and achieving consistent performance.

In all of the sessions consideration will be given to the need for managing change, delivering supportive project control systems and encouraging greater value for money in the UK Ministry of Defence's acquisition structure and practice.



DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

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