

## TD-Info Support Townhall – Recap

The recent Support Townhall, led by Chief of Defence Logistics & Support (CDLS) Vice Admiral Andy Kyte, provided a platform for reflecting on 2024's achievements, discussing challenges, and outlining strategic priorities for the future. CDLS began by acknowledging the importance of collaboration with industry partners and the challenges faced over the past year, including financial constraints and workforce pressures. A significant decision was the closure of the Engineering Support Transformation (EST) Programme - a difficult yet necessary move.

Looking forward, CDLS highlighted the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) commitment to digital transformation and continuous improvement. Key initiatives included the Business Modernisation for Support programme (BMfS) and the appointment of a Digital Non-Executive Director.

Efforts are also underway to modernise legacy systems and implement incremental upgrades, aiming to enhance frontline operations through faster, more focused improvements. Innovation remains a core theme, with projects like the Adarga Vantage AI tool improving situational awareness and supply chain management. Additionally, the MoD is advancing sustainability through research initiatives, such as hydrogen energy trials and Additive Manufacturing under Project Tampa, both of which the Team Defence community is supporting.



| Picture: CDLS Vice Admiral Andy Kyte outlining the challenges & strategic priorities of UK Defence

Air Commodore Eddie Cole discussed ongoing defence reforms, particularly the “One Defence” mindset and initiatives like the establishment of a Military Strategic Headquarters. These reforms aim to streamline planning, enhance capability delivery, and improve budget management.

Defence Equipment & Support’s Pamela Hunt and Col Neil Joynes introduced the new DE&S operating model, focusing on early market engagement and the creation of a DE&S Support Authority.

David Thompson from Appian then discussed Global Force Information Management, stressing the importance of digital connectivity for asset availability and encouraging continued industry collaboration.

After a morning break, Adam Meadus reflected on the past year, praising the Defence Support sector for overcoming financial and workforce challenges. He emphasised the shift from strategy to delivery, focusing on digital governance, modernisation, and incremental system improvements. Adam also outlined efforts to develop resilient supply chains and improve demand signal management. Looking ahead, he highlighted the importance of collaboration and preparedness for operational demands related to NATO, the Middle East, and Ukraine.



| Picture: Adam Meadus on the Defence Supply Chain Capability Programme

Nick Tudor, CEO of D-RisQ, shared an SME perspective on operating in the defence sector, discussing the challenges of navigating complex procurement processes and the need for more industry integration. Nick emphasised the importance of advanced software engineering techniques and early verification processes to improve productivity and safety in defence projects.

After lunch, Defence Support's John Motley discussed the evolution of the Defence Support Solutions Envelope (SSE), a framework designed to ensure sustainable support for equipment throughout its lifecycle. Originally based on ILS principles, it now offers flexibility to accommodate different procurement methods. Focusing on low-risk, cost-effective solutions, the SSE aims to improve collaboration, behaviours, and outcomes. John also introduced a new data management tool to support ongoing improvements in Defence procurement and decision-making.

Shaun Goodman, head of the Defence Availability Centre (DAC), shared the Centre's mission to solve persistent Defence issues through collaborative, data-driven problem-solving. The DAC aims to enhance equipment availability and operational efficiency, with a focus on long-term improvements and better data visualisation. Shaun highlighted the importance of industry collaboration, including SMEs and tech companies, in driving these solutions.

Adam Creaser from Thales discussed the evolving nature of service contracts and the role of data management in improving maritime services. He highlighted the challenges of managing data across complex systems and the need for better integration to streamline operations and enhance decision-making.

Andy Orrell of Rolls-Royce presented examples of resilience in service delivery, especially during disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic. He discussed how data management and asset intelligence systems helped the company optimise operations without drastic supply chain ramp-ups, emphasising the need for better data pipelines to support long-term business resilience and effective asset management.

The Support Townhall provided a vital opportunity to reflect on key achievements, challenges, and strategic priorities within the Ministry of Defence. By highlighting digital transformation, sustainability, and collaboration with industry partners, the event underscored the importance of innovation and adaptability in driving Defence capabilities forward. These discussions play a crucial role in shaping the future of Defence logistics and support.

Members of TD-Info can view the supporting slide pack [at this link](#).