Greater Lincolnshire LEP Defence & Security Advisory Board

Thursday 10th February 2022 - 2-4pm

Venue: *The Orange Room, Think Tank, Ruston Way, Lincoln, LN6 7FL* and via MS Teams

Minutes

Present: Board Directors:
Julian Free (UoL) – Chair, Alison Ballard (BAE Systems) – Vice Chair, Tony Burnell (Metis Aerospace Ltd), Cllr Richard Davies (LCC), Flash Gordon (Tepidoil), Kelvin Truss (Independent), Harry Leyland (Leonardo) Kevin Longman (Northrop Grumman Corporation) Dominic Smith (Eagle Eye Innovations) Mark Lorriman-Hughes (RAF Waddington) Tom Marsden (Lincoln College) Karen Seal (LCC) Nick Smillie (Clarity)

Apologies: Caroline Illingworth (GLLEP), Chas Dickens (RAF Cranwell)

LEP Officers: Ruth Carver, James Baty (Presenter), Amy O'Sullivan (Note Taker)

Welcome and Introductions

Julian welcomed all attendees, starting by sharing apologies and notifying Board members that Tom Marsden has re-joined the Board. All board members welcome Tom back to the Board. Andrew 'Chas' Dickens (RAF Cranwell) has also been confirmed as a new member of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP's Main Board.

Defence Sector Proposition

Presented by Julian Free, Karen Seal (LCC) and Nick Smillie (Clarity)

ISTAR is GL's core competency / key USP – this should be the focus of the Value Proposition. This capability cuts across defence domains / market segments including 'space' and 'drones'. The specific focus should be ISTAR technologies that follow initial data acquisition/sensor technologies. This can be summarised as 'Analytics'.
RAF Waddington, and the supplier companies clustered around it (including at Teal Park) are central to the GL ISTAR capability and USP.
The 'Greater Lincolnshire Defence & Security Network' (GL DSN) will be the basis for the more developed and integrated Region Defence & Security Cluster we seek to create with DASA approval. Its key purpose will be to identify DASA / UK Defence Sector opportunities for SMEs in GL, raise the profile of those SMEs as potential suppliers, and connect them with opportunities.
Nick S interpretation: the cluster is envisaged as developing across multiple sites in GL, rather than having a single site (e.g. technology park) focus. For example, ISTAR companies linked to RAF Waddington at Teal Park (or in that vicinity); companies engaged in research projects with UoL potentially at LSIP.
Other capabilities (e.g. digitalisation / Industry 4.0 technologies for defence businesses) should be included in the proposition, but as 'additional benefits' to the core/headline ISTAR offer.

Action
  ❖ GL (ISTAR) Defence & Security Proposition must be clarified/refined following the discussion. Nick S will follow this up with Julian Free and Karen Seal.

Defence and Security Network and Regional Defence & Security Cluster update
Led by Julian Free, presenting the below focus regarding the launch and creation of the Lincolnshire Regional Defence & Security Cluster (RDSC) in partnership with DASA.

Lincolnshire (RDSC) Focus – newly updated 22 Feb 22
"The Greater Lincolnshire Regional Defence & Security Cluster's focus will be Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition & Reconnaissance (ISTAR) and the associated technologies which combine to deliver a key national security capability based at RAF Waddington. This includes the sensors, tools and processes required to collect information and data and turn it into intelligence to enable commanders to make better and quicker decisions. This field encompasses all facets of data science (collection, management, storage, fusion, wrangling, analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence and visualisation), secure communications and cyber (including EW, CEW, CEMA). The communications and cyber fields also bring into play Space as security, data and effects are increasingly dependent on it as the domain through which much of this activity does or must take place."

Network to be called Greater Lincolnshire Defence & Security Network (GL DSN)
EWS are holding a networking event on the 7 Apr, do we attend to launch the network? Is there venue capacity at the University of Lincoln to host this on campus?
EWS MD, Richard Edwards, to be invited to join the Board.
Logistics – a schedule of events and letters inviting Primes' and SME's support for a network must be sent out before the launch event (letters to be sent to the ~ 90 companies in James Baty's list).
A Defence & Security Network should be established first to provide evidence to DASA (the approving authority) of sufficient support for the creation of an RDSC, which in turn will hopefully increase the Region's Sector profile, attract increase RD&I investment from DASA, Dstl, etc and further inward investment by Defence & Security Sector primes, SMEs and relevant supply chain organisations.

LEP Board – Priorities – what do we need to fund in order to make a network?
What are the outcomes? Gives the Defence Board and DASA a better understanding of the region, mapping, shaping innovation through SME's and primes.

Phase 1 – Mailing List, Website
What does next year's programme look like and what presenters are on the programme? Highlighting to potential network members the benefits of joining the network and doing business in Lincolnshire.
TM, RD and JB to create communications group to discuss programme of events.
RD happy to support and offer resource with website creation – initial landing pages promoting the intention of the network and contact details.
What other resources are required in order to run the network long term and avoid duplication of body creation?

Promotion and Marketing for the network – need to be careful of using acronyms, which can alienate or exclude some from participating.
Ask Primes to inform those in their supply chains about the creation of the Defence & Security Network and the opportunity to join it.
ISTAR - is there particular terminology used that might spark wider or greater interest?

Actions
   ❖ AB to speak to other clusters regarding governance structures, numbers, resources & KPIs.
   ❖ Communications working group to be created – RD, TM, JB – AO to coordinate
   ❖ EWS networking event – The Board's intent to launch the LDN (GL DSN) and bid for a GL RDSC will be announced at this event on the 7 Apr. Julian to look at meeting spaces at the University to potentially host the event. [Post meeting note: Board suggested the Drill Hall, but due to time constraints Leonardo offered to host the event again.]
   ❖ Gather list of companies that we can approach directly for network launch.
   ❖ Draft letter to send to companies to request their support for the network – Julian to draft, Kevin Longman to distribute to Primes, Dominic to SMEs.

Greater Lincolnshire Defence & Security Network Inaugural Dinner

Date confirmed – Wednesday 30 Mar 22.
Venue confirmed – Belton Woods, Gonerby Grange Lane, Belton, Grantham NG32 2LN.
AM A Turner has been confirmed as key speaker at the event.
40 guest capacity – contact suggestions were shared in the teams meeting chat function and Board members offered to share additional contacts to Julian and AO offline should these be required, including Lincolnshire MP's and satellites through RAF Waddington.
Intention for the event has to be clear and promoted to guests in order to increase engagement.

Action
❖ Julian and RC to send additional Dinner guest contacts to AO.
❖ Julian - Dinner invitation / statement of intent to be created.
❖ All – Board members to send any other suggests of guests to Julian & RC – Chamber of Commerce contact?

Employment & Skills

➢ *Task & Finish Working Group*
Julian and Simon Telfer (Chair of the Employment and Skills Advisory Panel) have had discussion prior to the Board meeting to scope intentions for the group. Considering several potential solutions to the current recruitment challenge in the county and the possibility of a joint working group with the Defence Board was suggested, engaging with local veterans and those leaving the Armed Forces. Hub of veterans – linked to British Legion officers – Sleaford, Ruskington, and Woodhall Spa. Veterans' data – current sources do not provide veterans' ages or qualifications, which makes it difficult to identify those of working age with the right skills sets for employment in the commercial side of the Sector.

Volunteers from the Employment and Skills Advisory Panel have been gathered and TM and LMH have offered to join this group.

Action
❖ AO to coordinate first meeting with volunteers from Defence & Security Advisory Board and Employment and Skills Advisory Panel.
❖ Julian to share Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme contacts and resources with Simon Telfer as a follow up.

Proposals for Board Membership
- Simon Bird (ABP)
- Chris Jones (Meta Mission Data)
- Richard Edwards (EWS)

Above proposals have shown active interest in joining the Board and have approached LEP officers and Chair of the Board to highlight interest. Number of proposals for Board Membership were discussed to ensure any skills gaps were covered, with the Board agreeing to increasing the membership by two rather than three. Interviews/discussions with the potential new board members to take place.

Action
❖ Julian and AB to undertake interviews/discussions with above colleagues and to be appointed upon Julian's discretion.

Defence Sector Overview

Presentation update by James Baty (Policy & Research Executive Manager – Greater Lincolnshire LEP)

James thanked members of the Board for their contribution of additional contacts and companies since the last meeting. He has been able to create and capture a broader picture of the Defence Sector in the county, which will assist with the building of the Lincolnshire Defence Network, however, there have still been some challenges surrounding the availability and variations of data, defence activities and industry codes. How can we utilise the knowledge across the Board to highlight the known companies in the area? Where do we know there is a physical presence and does this correlate to the map infographic created? Could this data be used at the launch event as mapping promotion tool?

Comments
Board members suggested infographic map to highlight density and relative size as well as differentiations between SME's and primes.

Action
❖ James and AO to coordinate gathering of additional contacts and LinkedIn connections from Board members over email.
❖ TM to share IOD contacts with James.

Review of Actions and Minutes
No specific comments were made regarding the review of the actions, all actions are completed or in

progress

<u>Any Other Business</u>

DS suggested altering the timing of future Board meetings to consider potentially over running or holding the meeting later in the day to cater for members diaries should the meeting over run, and colleagues wish to network afterwards

DSEI event - floor space has sold out, does the Board want a presence to be at the event?

Julian thanked all attendees for their contributions to the meeting.

Next meetings date: 10 May 22 (Lancaster Room, Offrs' Mess, RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire, LN5 9NB 3-5pm)

Consolidated Action List:

- Defence Sector Proposition needs to be refined. Nick S will follow this up with Julian Free and Karen Seal.
- EWS networking event – to be used to announce the launch of the GL DSN on the 7 Apr 22. Julian to look at meeting spaces at the University to potentially host.
- Gather list of companies we can approach directly for network launch.
- Draft letter out to companies to engage interest in the network – Julian to draft, Kevin Longman to distribute.
- All – to reach out to contacts via LinkedIn and send specific company contacts directly to James Baty to build on Defence Sector overview – information gathering tool to be shared with Board members – Amy.
- Working group to be coordinated to discuss Greater Lincolnshire Defence & Security Network (GL DSN) programme of events – TM, RD, JB.
- Allison - to speak to other clusters in order to develop Network/Cluster's governance, membership, performance & funding model.
- Gather volunteers from both ESAP and Defence & Security Board for first collaboration meeting – Amy to coordinate (Tom Marsden & Mark Lorriman-Hughes have volunteered for this group).
- Julian and Ruth to send additional Dinner guest contacts to Amy.
- Julian - Dinner invitation / statement of intent to be created.
- All – Board members to send any other suggestions of guests to Julian & Ruth – Chamber of Commerce contact?
- Allison and Julian to undertake interviews with the 3 suggested members to the Board – Simon Bird (ABP) Chris Jones (Meta Mission Data) Richard Edwards (EWS) with aim to increase membership by 2.
- All – Board to consider if we are missing any skill sets within the membership?
- Considerations: Extend the meeting or move meeting towards the end of the day?