



Greater Lincolnshire LEP Defence & Security Advisory Board

23rd September 2021

Via MS Teams

Draft 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), Tom Marsden (Lincoln College), Steve Kilvington (RAF Waddington)

Apologies: Suraya Marshall (RAF Cranwell), Dominic Smith (Eagle Eye Innovations), Kevin Longman (Northrop Grumman Corporation), Kelvin Truss (Independent), Harry Leyland (Leonardo)

LEP Officers: Ruth Carver, Sue Groves (Note Taker), Amy O'Sullivan (Observer)

Welcome and Apologies

Ruth introduced Amy O'Sullivan who is new to the LEP team and her role will be to support all Boards, particularly with actions in between meetings and follow up with board members to get a schedule of actions and a work plan. Amy will also be to enable have some cross connectivity between all the Boards so all Board understand each other's challenges.

Aerospace UP Project

Paperwork previously circulated.

Key points:

- Opportunity for people to draw down European funding for research and product development; it has a life of expectancy to end 2023. It is run through the Midlands Aerospace Alliance who are managing the funding side of it and the University of Nottingham.
- There are variable grant rates that will be applied, ranging from approximately 40% up to a maximum of 59%.
- As they haven't worked in the East Midlands much and want to push the scheme to companies operating here. To encourage engagement in E Mids could potentially provide enhanced funding. Aimed at companies with a turnover of less than €50m and less than 150 employees.
- It does enable access to the precision manufacturing centre in Nottingham, which may helpful for specific projects.
- Have been invited to host a workshop/networking event in Greater Lincolnshire.
- It will also fund student placements of up to about 40% of cost. Can engage with any University for assistance with a project or programme.

Action

- ❖ Gather Aerospace contact from Growth Hub - Angela Driver.
- ❖ Gather information on Aerospace Hup and ensure this is shared with the Growth Hub
- ❖ Organise a session with Aerospace Up - info on website, and to brief the growth hub advisers, etc.
- ❖ Gather information from Angela Driver regarding what support DIT have for SME's in defence for export.

DSEI Feedback

- Number of Board members and Karen Seal from Team Lincolnshire attended.
- Wales had a stand, with a number of SMEs, this could be a way for Greater Lincolnshire, to present as a region, including Defence representation and highlighting the retired military skills base in the Region. Believes Team Lincolnshire as a brand would work well as Lincolnshire is well known for being a military area.
- Not as well attended as in the past, but positive activity taking place.
- Next DSEI will take place in 2 years' time.
- Suggested attending a range of shows/events, which are now starting to take place.

Action

- ❖ Set up a working group to discuss with Karen the way forward.

DASA Feedback/Discussion held on 22nd September

- Good attendance, with a combination of board members and university staff.
- Jaz Shanker, who is the East Midlands representative for DASA, attended to explain what DASA is

about.

- Jim Pennycook from DASA gave a presentation to describe the purpose and process behind achieving a regional defence and security cluster, which is something Greater Lincolnshire is trying to achieve as it will attract SMEs and major companies to the region. DASA is able to provide access to funding on open and challenge based calls.
- Invitation to South West RDSC workshop. They were the first RDSC to be established and will present lessons learned. Ruth Carver and JF to attend. Other Board members free to attend too. JF will report back to the Board. Workshop will provide some of the information needed to begin the process of creating a GL RDSC. A key part of the approach will be to establish a security network of major companies and SMEs across the region.

Comments:

- TM- From an East Midlands perspective, would we need to include SEMLEP and D2N2 LEPs, is there room for an East Midlands and also include Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. JF responded that the West Midlands are trying to go through this process, so will wait for this to conclude. It is hoped that once clusters are set up, they will work together where they can on various themes.
- AB - Clusters will be owned and governed by the regions and not the MoD.
- AB - Is there any commitment from the MoD of involvement later on in terms of route to market, because that's obviously something that SMEs find quite difficult.
- TB - Company already part of an Aerospace Cluster, which is successful at talking to the MoD about various projects. Greater Lincolnshire Cluster will need to be proactive to have the same effect.

Action

- ❖ To be included in Any Other Business at LEP Board on 28th September for discussion.
- ❖ DASA open funding call to be taken to Board - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-and-security-accelerator>
- ❖ Ask Prof Chakravarthini Mini Saa for National Space Centre contact

Scampton Update - Tony Burnell

- TB has been in touch with Scampton Holdings. Horizon Park are interested in having a discussion, but have not yet been in connected. In terms of Scampton Holdings gave them a 3 hour presentation and discussion session, which was well received. It does fill a big hole in their plan, so they're really keen to take things forward.
- TB has spoken with Julian about the next steps and how that might go. They have asked for a lot of support and I think they may ask how the Defence Board can support them to win.
- In terms of other stakeholders many are government agencies who need such a facility. Interest has increased and some conversations were held last week.
- KT had a conversation with Chas Bishop, CEO of the National Space Centre in Leicester who is interested in a proposition of a "Space Valley" and could link up with the University of Lincoln and Scampton. Will be discussed with LLEP and asked if they would be interested in discussing with GLLEP also, with a positive response. May be useful for the two LEPs to discuss with GL LEP Board.
- TM also has also had conversations with National Space Centre and believes discussions with LLEP would be useful regardless of what happens with Scampton.

Future Projects

- Progress on proposition with a list of defence and security related companies, SMEs and major companies - RC said that the working draft is in progress. RC reminded the Board that they do have a budget that could be used for a resource.
- AB - the LEP Board had asked for the top 100 businesses in Greater Lincolnshire and RC said that the top 150 businesses had been produced, therefore asked if this could be used to start the Defence and Security businesses list. RC said the challenge is that if a company's headquarters is not in Greater Lincolnshire, it is not on the list of Top 150.
- GLLEP has had an offer from DIT on the inward investment side, they have a national team that looks after defence and RC managed to convince them that they could come and present their offer and what the national picture looks like - RC to send contact details to JF and once we have started to show our commitment, that might be an appropriate time to ask them to come and talk to us.

Actions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Putting together a Lincolnshire stand at a defence type of conference/exhibition, set up working group to work with Karen Seal. ❖ Creation of a regional defence cluster, with DASA - JF supported by RC. ❖ Baselining military skills in the region- JF, SK and TM completed a survey on behalf of the Board, but haven't received any further information. ❖ All to submit companies that they know to the LEP team and JF to make enquiries of the research enterprise team at the University for a list as well. ❖ JF to write a blog to advertise what the Defence and Security Advisory Board is currently planning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Membership
<p><u>Review of Actions and Minutes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Last meeting talked of holding a breakfast meeting - this is on hold until there is a list of companies. ➤ Members to consider if there are any sub-sectors that can be grown and which are the strongest that can be taken forward for further development - Believe a sub-sector could be Space, but this may be more than a sub-sector as it is a large area and may need to find something more unique. ➤ Board members engaging with Karen Seal and Nick Smillie - ongoing. ➤ Gather a baseline of military services and companies - all members to submit a list of contacts to start to build database ➤ Gather a list of Defence and Security SME's ➤ Export Position - working group - Karen Seal - ask all members for volunteers to sit on working group ➤ Julian Free to create a blog post regarding Board updates ➤ Julian Free to discuss DASA successful bidding with University of Lincoln ➤
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Andy "Chas" Dickens to be introduced to Julian Free by Gp Capt Stephen Kilvington following Suraya Marshall moving from RAF Cranwell.
<p>Next meetings: 2nd December 2021 and 10th February 2022.</p>

Consolidated Action List:

1. Gather Aerospace contact from Growth Hub - Angela Driver
2. Gather information on Aerospace up and ensure this is shared with the Growth Hub
3. Organise a session with Aero Space up - info on website, and to brief the growth hub advisers etc
4. Gather information from Angela Driver regarding what support DIT have for SME's in defence for export
5. DASA open funding call to be taken to Board - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-and-security-accelerator>
6. Ask Prof Chakravarthini Mini Saaj for National Space Centre contact
7. AOB for LEP Board - canvas of where Leicester stands with National Space Centre engagement
8. Gather a baseline of military services and companies - all members to submit a list of contacts to start to build database
9. Gather a list of Defence and Security SME's
10. Export Position - working group - Karen Seal - ask all members for volunteers to sit on working group
11. Julian Free to create a blog post regarding Board updates
12. Julian Free to discuss DASA successful bidding with University of Lincoln
13. Andy "Chas" Dickens to be introduced to Julian Free by Stephen Gp Capt Kilvington