

Challenging the norm: Test & Evaluation Community Day Event Preview

A member of the BRF fires a .50cal Heavy Machine Gun during a night range package from a Jackal vehicle

The second Test & Evaluation Community Day will take place on 27-28 October 2010 at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham, Wiltshire. In this special preview feature, Mark Harbige, Team Leader, Trials, Evaluation Services and Targets (TEST) Team at DE&S, looks ahead to what attendees can expect from this important event.

The Test & Evaluation Community Day (TECD) 2010 will allow the TEST Team to establish a wider and stronger test and evaluation (T&E) community of interest. It is important for representatives from across the community to attend; MOD, industry and academia in all domains from the UK and the world, as you are all T&E users and experts able to offer and receive valuable knowledge from each other. With this said we expect the event to attract some 240 delegates and speakers to a conference and exhibition of T&E users and practitioners.

This event is not an alternative transmission medium for MOD to communicate their single approach; rather it represents the chance to actively engage and learn from each other and have the opportunity for your voice to be heard.

Theme

Our theme 'Challenging the norm' has been inspired by the TEST Team's recent experiences when engaging with the community as a whole. We know that effective test and evaluation is essential to the end user, but we want to openly challenge the processes we all use.

The kinds of questions we should be asking are:

- Is this the right trial for what I want to achieve?
- Am I carrying out this trial for the right reasons, or have I always done it that way?
- Do I need to quote/meet the whole of the defence standard; is the commercial standard good enough?
- Why am I testing in extreme conditions, when this will only be used in the UK?
- Is this really best practice?
- Am I making best use of modern technical improvements in T&E capability, will simulation give me a better answer?

Unfortunately all the above can result in project overrun, delays and over-specification due to the elongated acceptance process. They can also cause over spending, and promote a 'risk averse' benign outcome.

We all need to open our minds, and become more resourceful and efficient. Just because something has been done before does not make it the best or the right way for the future. We will not only challenge over the two days, but lay the foundations for the community to set the vision for the future.

The strategy

The TECD event is being run by the Trials, Evaluation Services and Targets (TEST) Team, who are implementing the Defence T&E Strategy on behalf of their Capability Customer – Joint Training, Evaluation and Simulation (JTES). The Defence T&E Strategy importantly asks defence to look again at the importance of T&E and its ability to do integrated T&E, plan better and optimise delivery to encourage new T&E solutions and capabilities for the changing world.

The Defence T&E Strategy is based around three pillars of implementation:

- Do fully integrated T&E across all Defence Lines of Development (DLoD) and through-life.
- Plan and coordinate T&E in the short, medium and long term.
- Optimise existing T&E assets (both within and external to MOD) and use new methods and technologies as they emerge.

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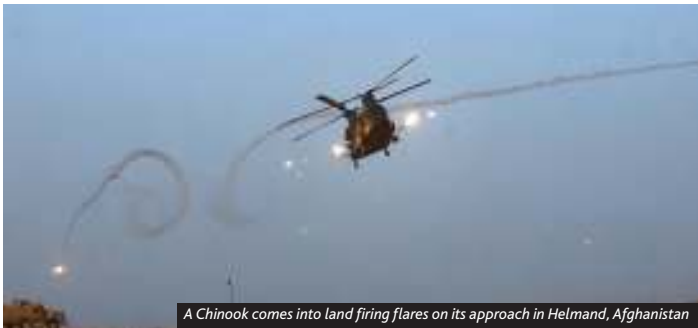
Integrated test and evaluation

Integrated T&E does not just mean carrying out a test/trial to ensure that the installation of new equipment does not hinder or disable the function of an existing piece of equipment. While this is still very important, the T&E now needs to look across the whole military capability through-life and across the defence lines of development (DLODs). DLODs include Training, Equipment, Personnel, Information, Doctrine and Concepts, Organisation, Infrastructure and Logistics (TEPIDOIL).

Examples of integrated T&E could be a common missile architecture and hence common test standards, joint industry and MOD testing, greater use of common evaluation facilities and activities for international projects, use of operational data from UORs, improved agreements with other nations to share evaluation data and greater use of extended long term contracting arrangements with unique industrial capabilities. ▶



The Royal Signals deploys transportable and manpack satellite ground stations



A Chinook comes into land firing flares on its approach in Helmand, Afghanistan



HMS Dauntless

► The benefits of integration

The beneficiaries of Integrated T&E want different things, but in summary, they are:

Sponsor:

- Effective T&E capability available to support user requirements in the short to long term;
- Overall value for money;
- Integrated T&E is being undertaken by the users; and
- Coherence with MOD strategies, government policy etc.

Users:

- Effective evaluation to support their local, current requirements, ie confidence that their Military Capability is fit for purpose in the military context;
- Local value for money;
- Integrated T&E where it benefits them locally (for example, by speeding up the evaluation across all DLoDs);
- T&E which is easy to use; and
- Readily available advice and assistance.

Suppliers:

- Clear picture of short, medium and long term MOD needs; and
- Route to market for their T&E products and services.

Guest speakers over the course of the two days have been carefully selected from MOD and industry in order to give a fully rounded picture of the current environment and where we would like to get to. *These include:*

- Dr Dai Morris, Head of Cap JTES, DE&S
- Mr Neil Taylor, Director of Engineering, General Dynamics UK Ltd
- Mr Steve Hayes, Managing Director EMC & Safety, TRAC Global
- Mr Mark Coverley, former Director, Millbrook Proving Ground
- Pernilla Rempling, Senior Officer Armaments Co-operation, European Defence Agency
- Mr Andy German, Lead Safety Consultant, Atkins Global
- Dr Carole Deighton, Human Factors Group, BAE Ael
- Mr Tom Adler, Test & Evaluation Lead, BAE Systems Global Combat Systems Vehicles
- Dr Keith Taylor, Stress Engineer, Rolls-Royce

With a forward-thinking agenda, the TEST Team believe that the TECD event will allow the entire community to come together in order to achieve the maximum benefits for all. As TEST Team Leader, I look forward to welcoming you there.

AGENDA

Day 1 - Challenging the norm

- 10.00 Registration
- 11.00 Keynote speakers
- 12.30 Lunch, Exhibition, Networking
- 14.30 Workshops
- 15.30 Coffee, Exhibition, Networking
- 16.00 Workshops
- 17.00 Questions, Exhibition, Networking
- 19.30 Evening Meal (subject to confirmation)

Day 2 - Solutions

- 09.00 Guest speakers
- 10.20 Coffee, Exhibition, Networking
- 11.00 Guest speakers
- 13.00 Lunch, Exhibition, Networking
- 14.00 Open forum
- 15.00 Key themes from workshops presented and synopsis of TECD 2010

Exhibitors

A|D|S; AR (UK); AUTEC (Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center); BAE; BMT Defence Services; Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground; Dstl; Electronic Test & Calibration Ltd; ESG; Intertek; iTrinegy; J2 Aircraft Dynamics; JADTEU (Joint Air Delivery Test & Evaluation Unit); Omega; Photo-Sonics; Real Time Data; Rohde & Schwarz; Sula Systems Ltd; Systems Design Evaluation; TRAC Global; TUV Product Services; QinetiQ; and Quintec.

For further information on the event or to book your place, please contact:

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