

## FEATURE

# DTR: transforming training across defence

*The Defence Training Review Package 1 Project will greatly enhance the way training is delivered to the MOD while offering an inspirational training environment. Here, MOD DCB looks at the latest contract that will transform training across the tri-Services.*



Artist impression of the entrance to the proposed Defence Technical College

**A**rising out of the UK Government's Defence Training Review (DTR) in 2000-01, which recommended a new approach to MOD training, the DTR Package 1 Project, when completed, will create a College which will be the largest vocational training operation in the country, providing an opportunity to make important changes in training delivery across all three Armed Services over the course of the next 30 years.

The Metrix Consortium was chosen as Preferred Bidder for Package 1. Metrix shareholders (each with 50 per cent equity stake) are QinetiQ and Sodexo – who replaced Land Securities Trillium (LST). Key service providers to the consortium are Raytheon, EDS, Nord Anglia, The Open University and Laing O'Rourke.

Most recently, an Early Works (EW) contract worth £29 million was awarded to Metrix by the MOD, making possible a series of design, construction and clearance activities at MOD St Athan, the home of the future Defence Technical College (DTC).

The first stage of the EW programme of activities will focus on the relocation of the RAF 4School of Technical Training (4SoTT) to a new, temporary location. Later stages of the work will include the demolition of existing 4SoTT buildings and site improvements, as well as ecologically important activities in respect of protected species, such as newts and bats, which populate the site. These preparatory works over the next year will allow the construction of the DTC to begin immediately after Financial Close has been achieved for the DTR Package 1 Project, scheduled for the end of 2010.

Tom Anderson, Commercial Director of the Metrix team which leads on construction, property development and site services for the future DTC, said: *"The EW contract provides Metrix with a year's head start on an important body of site preparation activities, meaning that when the overall DTR Package 1 Project contract is signed, work can begin immediately on the full-scale construction of the DTC."*

In 2009 a contract worth £31 million, known as Early Training Transformation (ETT), was awarded to Metrix by the MOD. ETT facilitates the transformation of specialist training offered by the UK Armed Forces. Between them, the ETT and the EW contracts will help to move the DTR Package 1 Project significantly further forward such that when Financial Close is achieved at the end of 2010 both the construction of the DTC and improvements to specialist training can be delivered on time and to budget.

Referring to the EW contract and the overall progress that has been made over the past year on the DTR project, Bill Rammell, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, commented: *"The DTR programme will transform the future of*

*Armed Forces training, while delivering real cost savings. Previously, the Navy, Army and RAF would provide separate training courses. This will now be rationalised and all technical training will be delivered from the new DTC – a move that will make the most effective use of our training staff."*

*"The EW contract provides Metrix with a year's head start on an important body of site preparation activities"*

4SoTT is the unit that provides training to all RAF recruits in Engineering, Mechanical Workshop, Electrical and other technical services. The school has been located at St Athan since the base was first established in 1938. It currently occupies most of the buildings on the east section of the site. As this will be the location for the new DTC, 4SoTT will be relocated to a temporary enclave, still on the St Athan site, but outside the footprint of the DTC buildings. This relocation will involve the refurbishment of 16 existing buildings and the provision of seven new modular buildings, creating living accommodation for 467 trainees, with training delivered in two large refurbished hangars.

The DTR Package 1 Project aims to 'transform specialist technical training of the three Services, delivering it from first-class facilities, to meet operational needs over the next 30 years.'

The anticipated benefits are significant as the project will help to improve recruitment, morale and retention within the Armed Forces; deliver improved operational effectiveness and efficiencies; and save money by building protection against inflation into the PFI contract, delivering savings over the 30-year contract life against existing budgets.

## Further information

For further information, please visit:

Website: [www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/TrainingandExercises/DTR](http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/WhatWeDo/TrainingandExercises/DTR) or [www.metrixuk.info](http://www.metrixuk.info)