

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory



DASA delivers innovation in training and simulation

Innovation Summary

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) rapidly turned around the delivery of four commercial contracts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of training and education across defence.

Background

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) had identified two major training challenges to maximise the effectiveness of UK forces in future operating environments. Firstly, Dstl finds that current training and education is resource intensive and limited by location, capacity and time constraints. And secondly, the proliferation of military interconnected technology and the expected escalation in the sophistication of this technology requires deep human understanding of those interactions in order to exploit the advantages.

Dstl engaged the assistance of DASA and within 48 hours of the initial meeting, DASA opened two new focus areas in their open call competition to engage the private sector in providing potential solutions. These innovative ideas were assessed and funding was awarded within ten weeks of initial contact.

Anita Hay, Project Manager, Delivery and Innovation, Dstl said “DASA is a mechanism to private sector engagement and we appreciate their rapid engagement in this project. Simulation training needs to be as realistic as possible as UK Forces are deployed in difficult operational environments. Giving them the best training possible with minimal inconvenience is something Dstl strives to provide.”

Case Study

Four contracts have been placed to the value of £342,000 and each project is now working closely with Dstl to test, trial and investigate the practicalities and potential benefits of their innovative idea. In order to deliver the contracts quickly, DASA has accelerated processes outside normal practices.

Funding was awarded to XPI Simulations, SimCentric Limited, Vedette Consulting Limited and Transmedia Storyteller Limited, which are all Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) or Micro SMEs. For small businesses such as these, DASA funding can make a real difference to their future growth and success.

Innovation Focus Areas

We are continuously open for proposals under the Innovation Focus Areas. Check the DASA web pages for the next cycle closing date on www.gov.uk.

Jyoti Hirani, Operations Lead, DASA said, "Innovation is not just about providing shiny new technologies to our front line, but can also be in the efficiencies of how we do things day-to-day within government. If one of our customers identifies a specific area as a capability gap, we can help them to hone the requirement and develop a potential solution. DASA can deliver transformative solutions quickly that can enhance and improve the operation of our government customers."



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