



UK MoD Grand Challenge: The Stellar Team with the SATURN system.

SATURN (Sensing and Autonomous Tactical Urban Reconnaissance Network) employs unmanned aerial and ground vehicles each fitted with sensors to report findings back to a remote processing station using novel algorithms to process data and direct the vehicles' behaviour. SELEX Galileo was responsible for the unique self forming communications network and single user interface allowing an operator to monitor the multiple vehicle system. The CISP communications technology, incorporating Plextek's EPAC platform, was used to seamlessly network all the system elements together.

[www.plextek.com](http://www.plextek.com)

## Celebrating 80 years in the business



**Portsmouth Aviation 1929 - 2009**  
80 years of Engineering Excellence

The Directors of **Portsmouth Aviation Limited** (PA) are pleased to be celebrating the company's 80th Anniversary with a new logo. Engineering excellence has been the cornerstone of PA's business since the Company was founded in 1929, and is proud to have many world class customers and takes pride in offering them 80 years manufacturing and design experience. The Directors would also like to take this opportunity to thank all their suppliers for the continuing support over the years.

[www.portav.co.uk](http://www.portav.co.uk)

## EASA Part 147 training certification

**Rockwell Collins UK** has been certified by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) as a Part 147 maintenance training organisation. Courses are available at the company's Reading location.

The approval covers avionics maintenance classes also known as B2 type training courses for select Rockwell Collins Pro Line avionics equipped aircraft. The first course, available now, is a Hawker Beechcraft King Air 300 series Pro Line 21 class.

[www.rockwellcollins.com](http://www.rockwellcollins.com)

## News from SEA (Group) Ltd

**SEA (Group) Ltd** has been awarded a key warship radar detection technology demonstrator contract from the UK MoD. The £1.75m DART WP2 technology demonstrator contract is a 29-month programme, aimed at furthering development of operational equipment to enhance the UK's maritime electronic warfare capability. In addition to pulling through research from Dstl (MoD's research agency), SEA will develop and implement further novel signal processing to deliver improved at-sea capability. **Teledyne Defence UK, RF Engines, Relay** and another Cohort Group company **Mass Consultants Ltd** will support SEA.



The Flight Deck Trainer.

The Royal Navy (RN) Flight Deck Operations Trainer at RNAS Culdrose has successfully completed the first course for the Type 45 Flight Deck Operations and is now undergoing final acceptance by the RN. SEA's state-of-the-art system provides a high fidelity immersive simulation environment to train students in marshalling aircraft ashore and on board ship using realistic models of all RN ship types with a wide variety of helicopters, imitating night, day and all weather environments, whilst providing a large cost saving to training.



The Expeditionary Logistics and Support (ELS) Research Programme in its first year of operation has instigated tasks across the Air, Sea and Land domains. The ELS Consortium conducting the research consists of 26 companies with SEA as prime. The number, size and diversity of tasks, conducted by the ELS Research Programme, have resulted in a stimulating yet challenging programme of work that will extend many years into the future.

[www.sea.co.uk](http://www.sea.co.uk)

## Thermal sniper sight provides enhanced capability to UK

The Qioptiq Group's subsidiary, the leading UK defence equipment developer **Qioptiq Ltd**, Wales, has supplied variants of its VIPIR-2 Thermal Weapon Sight Family to the UK MoD in support of the recent Sniper Thermal Imaging Capability (STIC) Urgent Operational Requirement programme.



Sniper Thermal Imaging Capability shown on a L115A3 Sniper Rifle.

Qioptiq's SVPIR2+ Thermal Sniper Sight is adapted from the VIPIR2+ long-range thermal weapon sight already in service with UK MoD on a number of platforms. Modified specifically to integrate with existing In-service sniper rifle systems, the SVPIR2+ provides enhanced range performance under demanding conditions, allowing weapon systems to be utilised to their maximum effective ranges 24 hours a day during all weathers. The STIC system will provide thermal capability to the Sniper Team, in the form of the Thermal Sniper Sight, Thermal Spotters Sight, and Weapon Integration Kit.

[www.qioptiq.co.uk](http://www.qioptiq.co.uk)

## Sponsoring two MSc awards at York University

**RF Engines Limited**, who specialise in high performance signal processing design work, is sponsoring the 2009 MSc in Digital Signal Processing (DSP) programme at the University of York. The company is providing two special awards of £1,500 each that will be presented to graduates of the course – for 'excellence in theoretical signal processing' and 'excellence in signal processing design'.

The one-year full-time taught MSc programme in DSP starts in October and will teach the theoretical foundations of DSP methods and develop skills in practical implementation techniques such as Field Programme Gate Arrays design. The MSc in DSP is designed for graduates in mathematics, engineering, physics or computer science.



Members of the Communications Research Group at the University of York involved in Field Programme Gate Arrays design of signal processing algorithms (from left): Sasmita Deo, MPhil student; Zhi Quan, PhD student; Tim Tozer, Head of the Communications Research Group; Jie Liu, PhD student; and Dr Yuriy Zakharov, Reader in Signal Processing for Communications

[www.rfel.com](http://www.rfel.com)

## News from Selex Systems Integration Ltd and Vega Consulting Services Ltd

**Finmeccanica** companies, Selex Sistemi Integrati Ltd and Vega Group Plc, came together on 2 January 2009, to form a dedicated Prime Contracting and Systems Integration business, called **SELEX Systems Integration Ltd**. The company is part of SELEX Sistemi Integrati SpA.

In addition, the new organisation's consulting activities have been consolidated under subsidiary company, **Vega Consulting Services Ltd**, which provides independent, expert advice and pragmatic solutions to clients across industry, government, and defence.



Selex Systems Integration has won a contract to upgrade its classroom-based training for the UK's Chinook Mk3 helicopters. The contract from CAE will help deliver pilot conversion training at the UK's Medium Support Helicopter Aircrew Training Facility at RAF Benson. The upgrade reflects the UK's operational requirement to supplement its frontline support helicopter capability by increasing its Chinook fleet by 20 per cent, and is due to be fully integrated to support pilot training by September 2009.



VEGA Consulting Services has successfully re-qualified for the IS Security Support and the IS Communication Support and Services framework agreements of the UK MoD Information Communications Services (ICS) Catalogue. VEGA's re-qualification complements the capability already delivered under the company's ongoing qualification to provide IS Total Solutions Consultancy and Support Services. Accreditation enables VEGA to continue supporting the UK MOD and OGDs with a wide range of independent and high quality information and communications services.



The Disposal Service Authority (DSA) e-commerce website, [www.edisposals.com](http://www.edisposals.com), which Vega has provided expert security support to for seven years, has won the 'Shared Services' category at the 2008 e-Government National Awards. Vega Consulting Services has provided the DSA with a Security Assurance Coordinator under the CESG Listed Advisor Scheme (CLAS) scheme, and managed and supplied Check-approved staff to perform two rounds of formal penetration and application testing of different versions of the website, before going live in 2004 and 2005.

[www.selex-si-uk.com](http://www.selex-si-uk.com)

## Reduce costs through outsourcing in India

**Strongfield Technologies Ltd** is pleased to announce the new division focused on managing quality outsourced production for UK Defence companies.

Strongfield, a specialist manufacturer and supplier of High-tech components and equipment for Defence and Space applications, has established the new outsourcing division based at the Wembley head office.

This unit has been structured to manage the entire production lifecycle for UK Defence companies based on cost effective, quality proven suppliers in India's Defence manufacturing sector. In conjunction with its Indian office in Bangalore, Strongfield is ideally placed to accommodate the new offset policies and trend of increased indigenous manufacturing which is becoming a standard condition for many projects.

[www.strongfieldtech.com](http://www.strongfieldtech.com)

## Involved in Digital Advanced 'Radar Electronic Support Measure (RESM) Technology (DART)



Type 23 Frigate – HMS Grafton.

**Teledyne Defence Limited (TDL)** has been contracted to participate in the recently awarded UK MoD DART programme. TDL will supply the receiver subsystem based on its ground-breaking Front End Receiver architecture which is already being supplied to a number of international customers, including the UK MoD. TDL is also providing a sub-system integration role by supplying the complete antenna to Intermediate Frequency solution. DART is a very significant programme for TDL, showing our commitment to provide high technology solutions to the Electronic Warfare Industry.

[www.teledyne.com](http://www.teledyne.com)

## News from Thales UK

**Thales UK** signed a £25m sub-contract in March to deliver a high-tech communication system for the Royal Navy's two new Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers. This contract win secures up to 50 local jobs at Thales's Crawley site. The contract covers onboard and fleetwide communications, and is an important milestone in the development programme for these ships, which will be named HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales.

The onboard (internal to the ship) system – known as the Tactical Command and Control



An artist's impression of the two new aircraft carriers.

Voice System – is critical to the everyday operation of a vessel this size. It ensures that the crew has access to onboard information and are in communication with their colleagues across the ship at all times.



The company's naval business has signed a submarine Performance Partnering Arrangement (PPA) with BAE Systems. This arrangement provides a commitment between the companies to cooperate on future submarine programmes. The aim of both parties is that the PPA will significantly contribute to providing an affordable and sustainable common combat system across the UK's submarine flotilla.

Under the PPA, Thales will be the preferred contractor for submarine sonar work in support of BAE Systems' submarine build and combat system design work including providing sonar functional integration services for BAE Systems. Thales will continue to be a key contributor to the combat system Design Evolution Team managed by BAE Systems on behalf of the UK MoD.



HMS Triumph.



Thales UK's naval business has announced the signature of an important sub-contract with Swedish company Polyamp AB for the supply of mine warfare degaussing systems for its new Lithuanian warship reactivation programme.

Following an agreement between the UK MoD and the Lithuanian Government in November 2008, Thales was named as the prime contractor to reactivate two former Royal Navy Hunt-class mine countermeasures vessels.

Thales has since been engaged in the sub-contracts selection procedure, including propulsion, command and control, and mine disposal systems. The first sub-contract, to supply propulsion for the two ships, was signed with Finning UK on 29 January.