



‘Nationally important’ Defence Technical College given green light for development by Vale of Glamorgan Council

- Future Defence Technical College promises to be a showcase for specialist training, as well as a multi-million pound boost to South Wales

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has resolved to approve the planning application for the Defence Technical College (DTC) at MOD St. Athan and over the coming weeks both WAG and MoD will complete the statutory processes required to formalise this consent.

The DTC is a nationally important project involving the redevelopment of a large part of the 1000 acre MOD St Athan site, which is home to the RAF 4 School of Technical Training.

The DTC will bring together in one location the technical training for all three Services creating the largest vocational training operation in the country. With up to 3000 students present at any one time, the DTC will create a development similar in size to a small town. As a result, it will have all the facilities that would be expected of a small town, including excellent recreational and sporting amenities which will be a particular feature of the development.

The DTC’s sports and leisure complex will be available for public use at set times when not required for military use ensuring that these significant benefits of the development are shared by the local community.

Metrix chairman, Charles Barrington, said: “This is exciting news for the MOD, for Metrix and for the people of South Wales. It is truly a win-win situation for all the stakeholders involved in this nationally important project. This decision is a huge step forward in our plans to reach contract agreement with the MOD in 2010”

The managing director of Metrix Property, Duncan MacRae, commented: “The DTC is a high quality living and learning environment which will see the delivery of vital technical skills training across all three Services. The DTC will reinforce links and opportunities with the wider community of St Athan and beyond.”

Vale of Glamorgan MP John Smith said that the decision by the Vale of Glamorgan Council is a “big milestone”. “This record investment is going ahead here in the Vale and I want people here to get ready for it. Get ready to make the most of the tens of millions of pounds that will be injected into the local economy each year; get ready to compete for the thousands of local jobs that this project will create, and get ready to supply goods and services to the thousands of people who will work, live and study at the St Athan site. Like the heydays of Barry Docks, this project will transform the economic fortunes of the Vale.”

At the same time the Vale of Glamorgan Council approved a proposal for a new Aerospace Business Park (ABP). The ABP is to be developed by the Welsh Assembly Government, and will take advantage of the existing operational runway.



An artist's impression of the training facilities at the future Defence Technical College in St Athan. For a high-res. image please contact Christopher Moseley, at Metrix UK, on 07941 126064.

South Wales already has established expertise in the aerospace industry through current businesses such as British Airways Maintenance Cardiff (BAMC), and General Electric Aircraft Engines (GEAE) Wales. Accordingly, the APB will build on this skills base, and together with the DTC will create a jobs and skills hotspot. The Welsh Assembly Government's plan for the APB is to offer the facilities and infrastructure needed by manufacturers, suppliers, service providers and trainers to the aviation sector with a particular focus on maintenance, repair and overhaul.

Metrix estimates that the combined economic impact of the DTC and APB will be of the order of £500m per annum.

About Metrix

Metrix is the consortium which has been appointed Preferred Bidder to transform three types of specialist training that is critical to the UK Armed Forces, and to manage, build and run what will become the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) Defence Technical College (DTC) which will be based in St Athan, South Wales. Arising out of the Government's Defence Training Review (DTR) in 2000/2001, which recommended a new approach to training, the DTR Package 1 Project will, when completed, have created a College which will be the largest vocational training operation in the country, and will provide the chance to deliver important changes in training delivery across all three armed services over the course of the next 30 years.

Metrix is led by technology services company QinetiQ, and facilities management specialists, Sodexo. QinetiQ is a leading international provider of technology-based services and solutions to the defence, security and related markets. With over 14,000 employees, QinetiQ operates principally in the UK and North America and already has a significant presence in Wales through the test and evaluation facilities at Pendine and Aberporth, managed on behalf of the MOD, and the West Wales UAV Centre, operated in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government. In the UK and Ireland, Sodexo employs 43,000 people and provides food and facilities management services to clients at over 2,300 locations in the corporate, education, healthcare, leisure and defence sectors.

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