

## **Metrix awarded £29m 'Early Works' contract**

*- Contract readies future Defence Technical College site for full-scale construction in 2010.*

A £29m contract, known as 'Early Works' (EW), has been awarded to Metrix by the Ministry of Defence (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 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 be begin immediately after Financial Close has been achieved for the Defence Training Review (DTR) Package 1 Project, scheduled for the end of 2010.

"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," said Tom Anderson, commercial director of the Metrix team which leads on construction, property development and site services for the future defence college.

Earlier last year a £31m contract, known as Early Training Transformation (ETT), was let by the MOD. ETT facilitates the transformation of specialist training offered by the UK Armed Forces. Between them, the ETT and EW contracts 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 on budget.

Metrix CEO Jim Morrison said: "This is a major milestone for the DTR project. Agreement of the EW funding is a significant step forward in the delivery of DTR Package 1".

Referring to the Early Works contract and the overall progress that has been made over the past year on the DTR Project Bill Rammell MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said: "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 our new Defence Technical College – a move that will make the most effective use of our training staff."

Wayne David, Under-Secretary of State for Wales welcomed the news: "This Government has always shown 100 per cent support for the St Athan project, which will be the single biggest UK Government investment Wales has ever received and will bring thousands of jobs to the Vale of Glamorgan. I look forward to work commencing on site at St Athan following Contract Award."

4SoTT is the RAF unit that provides training to all of its recruits in Engineering, Mechanical Workshop, Electrical and other technical services. The school has been based at St Athan since the base was first established in 1938. It

currently occupies most of the buildings on the east section of the MOD St Athan site. This will be the location for the new DTC and so to enable the construction of the DTC, 4SoTT will be relocated to a temporary enclave, still on the St Athan site but outside the footprint of the DTC buildings.



A perspective of the future Defence Technical College (DTC) in St Athan. Call +44 79112606 for a high-res image.

The relocation to the enclave of 4SoTT will involve the refurbishment of 16 existing buildings and the provision of seven new modular buildings. This will create living accommodation for 467 trainees, with training delivered in two large refurbished hangers.

The 4SoTT HQ will eventually move into a new modular building and a similarly modular mess building will cater for up to 300 people at one sitting. An existing hanger at MOD St Athan will be converted to a sports centre providing basketball, volleyball and badminton courts and a fully equipped gym. Once the main DTC is constructed at the end of 2014, 4SoTT will relocate to its new facility.

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### **About Metrix**

Metrix is the consortium which has been appointed Preferred Bidder to transform three types of specialist training that are 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 more than 14,000 employees, QinetiQ operates principally in the UK and North America and already has a significant presence in Wales through its 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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