



Date of release: August 17, 2009

Metrix awarded £31m training contract

-Delivering innovations and improvements to UK Armed Forces' specialist training

A £31m contract, part of the DTR Package 1 PFI Project, has been signed between Metrix and MOD. The contract will see the consortium, the Preferred Bidder for the MOD's £12bn DTR Package1 Project, take the first important steps toward providing key improvements to the UK Armed Forces' technical trade training.

The Early Training Transformation (ETT) contract is a package of work designed to introduce improvements to key elements of the Armed Forces' specialist training programmes.

Metrix will use Raytheon, a principal member of the Metrix consortium and a leading US technology company specialising in defence, homeland security and global training services, as the main sub-contractor to undertake the work in this vital area of the Project.

The DTR Package1 Project aims to transform the way the MOD delivers specialist engineering, communications and information systems training on a Defence-wide basis.

Metrix is the consortium, led by QinetiQ, a leading international provider of technology-based services and Sodexo, an international facilities management group, chosen by the UK MOD to provide training design and development services. It will build and run the UK MOD's Defence Technical College (DTC) in St Athan, South Wales.

Training Transformation is a vital part of delivering the DTR Package 1 Project. It involves rigorous analysis of current training against what is known as MOD's 'Operational Performance Statement', or the standard a service person must be capable of achieving in their operational role. It also involves harmonising training across all three Services, as well as promoting the application of the latest training methods and media, such as interactive computer-based courseware, while preserving essential traditional training elements.

One important benefit will be to deliver as much training as possible locally to the trainee's permanent base, thereby reducing the cost and disruption of residential courses.

A wide reaching and complex training transformation programme has always been an essential element of the DTR Package1 Project.

Commenting on the contract Dr David Anderson, the managing director of Metrix Training, the training delivery arm of the Metrix consortium, said: "Metrix is delighted to be awarded the ETT contract.



An artist's impression of a classroom at the future Defence Technical College (DTC) in St Athan. For a high-res. image please contact Christopher Moseley, Metrix UK, on +44-7941126064, or email: christopher.moseley@metrixuk



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"It is a significant vote of confidence from the MOD in the consortium's ability to begin to introduce improvements to training delivery.

"The colleges which today deliver vitally important specialist training for the UK Armed Forces offer more than a thousand different courses each year. One thing they all have in common is that they turn out some of the world's best trained military personnel. This one fact must be at the forefront of the minds of the Metrix training design teams as they work on enhancing the courses."

Brigadier Tony Harking, the leader of the Integrated Project Team (IPT), the team which manages the DTR Package1 Project, said: "In order to be ready for the move to St Athan in 2014 it is necessary to undertake a degree of Training Transformation early, hence ETT. ETT will provide both parties with greater confidence that the process is successful when applied to British Forces technical training."

David Appel, the director in charge of the Raytheon team working on the ETT project said that transformation of defence training will bring benefits to the trainees, the instructors, the colleges, and the Front Line Commands. "ETT begins the process of improvement to training delivery which has long been promised since the publication of the 'Modernising Defence Training' report back in 2001."

Commenting on the ETT contract Metrix CEO Jim Morrison, said: "The ETT contract is tremendous news for the Project. It demonstrates the Government's commitment to the St. Athan project. DTR Package1 is making good progress and this latest news follows the announcement in March that the planning submission for the DTC at St Athan had been made to the Local Planning Authority".

[Ends]

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) 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.

For further information on this release please contact Christopher Moseley, Metrix UK, on +44 7941 126064, or email christopher.moseley@metrixuk.com.