

Updates on the UK's RPAS modernisation plan discussed at the UAV Technology 2021 Conference

SMi Group reports: Senior representatives from the British Army, DE&S UK MoD, and the Royal Air Force will be speaking at the UAV Technology conference

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, June 1, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In recent news, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace from the UK MoD set out a Defence Command Paper that described the threats the UK are facing, the operating concept for countering them, and the investments in the forces that are required to deliver the nation's defences.

One of the key investment areas will be to develop combat drone swarm technologies as the importance of Unmanned Aerial Systems becomes more apparent. In addition, the UK's counter-terrorism operations are currently supported by nine Reaper RPAS ('drones') which will be replaced by Protectors by 2024 that is vital for enhanced strategic ISR and strike capabilities. *

SMi Group are delighted to host the 6th annual [UAV Technology](#) conference, taking place in London on 27th-28th September 2021, which will feature key host nation presentations from the British Army, DE&S UK MoD, and the Royal Air Force.

For those interested in attending the conference, there is an early bird discount of £100 when you register by 30th June 2021. Register at www.uav-technology.org/pr2.

The list of presentations delivering updates on the UK's RPAS modernisation plans include:

1. Developing Watchkeeper Policy for Future Military Deployments

- Results from the Integrated Defence Review on the Watchkeeper Program
- An overview of the UK's RPAS Development Policy
- Challenges to future RPAS development

Brigadier John Collyer, Senior Responsible Officer Watchkeeper Program, British Army

2. Eye in the Sky: The Watchkeeper UAV and ISTAR Capabilities

- The Watchkeeper's ISTAR capabilities and further acquisition strategies
- "Human in the loop" autonomy for UAV systems
- Multi-role mission capabilities through a modular design
- Training and Simulating – Creating bespoke training programmes for UAV operators

- Lessons from the problems surrounding testing and steps to achieve full operating capacity
Colonel Gavin Rundle, Commander Watchkeeper Force, British Army

3.The UK Approach to Certifying Military RPAS with a Focus on Protector

- A review of tailoring certification to class of RPAS
- An overview of the UK Military Aircraft Certification Process (MACP)
- An update on the Protector MQ-9B RPAS Certification Programme
- ‘International by Design’ – multi-national certification for other MQ-9B Users
- Robust testing and experimentation – How the DE&S and its military partners enable comprehensive testing and experimentation

Colonel Paul Hughes, RPAS Strategic Chief Engineer and TAA, DE&S, UK MoD

4.The Future of the Royal Air Force’s RPAS Capabilities – The Protector

- An overview of the Protector RPAS capabilities and how these capabilities will strengthen the operational requirements of the RAF
- The next steps of the integration and implementation of the Protector system into the RAF
- Objectives and early results from the 2021 Protector demonstrations
- UK Defence Industry engagement with developing the Protector RPAS

Wing Commander Neil Hallett, PM Remote Piloted Air Systems Protector and Reaper, Royal Air Force

The full brochure, agenda and speaker line-up is available at www.uav-technology.org/pr2

UAV Technology

27th – 28th September 2021

London, UK

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*source: gov.uk

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