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News Release
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SEA AND TTP AWARDED CONTRACT TO STREAMLINE BATTLEFIELD SUPPLY TECHNOLOGY

Cohort company SEA, together with TTP plc, has been selected to develop technology designed to improve the efficiency and timely delivery of supplies to frontline battlefield assets.

The technology forms part of the UK MoD's Defence and Security Accelerator Autonomous Last Mile Re-Supply programme and seeks to provide military logistics specialists with a better understanding of future supply and demand at the frontline, identifying which supplies will be required, where and when.

Such information is crucial in helping to deliver vital supplies quickly and efficiently to maintain operational tempo and enable successful mission outcomes.

The solution proposed by SEA and TTP is based on provision of near real-time usage information of Combat Supplies (CSUPS) through exploitation of the opportunities provided by platforms with an integrated, open architecture and use of a neural net based Demand Forecast expert system to provide a forecast of supply and demand based on the received usage information.

Laurence Bedford, SEA Head of Research, explained: "This information enables the supply chain to pre-empt demands, ensuring supplies are readily available when needed and thus improving operational tempo. Additionally, prior knowledge of the expected demand also facilitates optimisation of the supply chain and maximises utilization of the available distribution assets."

Tim Palmer, TTP Group Manager added: "We are delighted to be working with SEA on this project. This draws upon our strengths in machine learning and mathematical modelling, and will enable proactive logistical support for troops in challenging situations."

The technology will be based around the MoD Land Open System Architecture (LOSA) initiative, developing open platform system architectures, namely the Generic Soldier Architecture (GSA) and the Generic Vehicle Architecture (GVA), through the Common Open Interface (Land) (COIL). These enable soldiers at the frontline to be connected to other, wider systems, through an open interface. This in-turn enables supply status information, such as battery power levels in a soldier's radio, to be fed back through the open architecture to feed into a logistic supply prediction capability.

Demand forecasting will be provided by a neural network based mathematical model, that can formulate a future prediction based on 'trained' historical data – it is able to predict what will happen, based on what it has observed happen in the past. This will be tailored to allow specific operational information to be incorporated into supply predictions, such as movement routes, climatic information or likely threats faced. Collectively these will enable the expert system to inform commanders when and where supplies will be required by forward forces to maintain operational tempo.

Peter Stockel, Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) lead for the challenge, said: "The number and quality of the entries for this competition was outstanding and the competition fierce. We chose the best with a view to creating the optimum spread for the system solutions we're aiming at for prototype demonstrations. This was an open competition and many of those down-selected happen to come from the UK, illustrating our strength in the national investment of this important, and rapidly developing, technology sector.

"However, we were also able to pick up on great propositions from around the world. The brief is to rapidly demonstrate system solutions which will reduce the logistic burden on our Armed Forces, provide new operational capability and reduce casualties, so we're pleased with the response and keen to see the potential capability benefits in the hands of our military."

- Ends –

Notes to Editors:

Cohort plc is an independent technology company and the parent company of four innovative, agile and responsive businesses, EID, MASS, MCL and SEA, providing a wide range of services and products for UK, Portugal and international customers in defence, security and related markets.

www.cohortplc.com

SEA was acquired by Cohort plc in 2007 and today is a major supplier of applied research, technology development, systems integration, specialist electronic systems, engineering and software design services to the defence and security markets. Its engineering and project management skills include naval communications systems, maritime combat systems, through-life support, dismounted soldier systems, subsea engineering and traffic enforcement. Complementing its work for the UK Ministry of Defence, SEA is growing its business overseas and extending its expertise into adjacent markets, including offshore, railways and roads.

SEA employs circa 300 high-calibre staff and has offices in Beckington, Bristol, Barnstaple and Aberdeen.

www.sea.co.uk

About TTP
TTP is one of Europe's leading technology and product development companies. It works closely with its clients to create disruptive products based on advances in technology and engineering innovation. TTP's technology lies behind many products and processes in areas as diverse as communications, digital printing, instrumentation, consumer & industrial products, aerospace, defense, biotechnology, medical devices, cleantech and security systems.
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