



ADVANTAGE THROUGH INNOVATION

The JFC innovation ecosystem will deliver advantage for the Joint Force, relative to our potential opponents and/or to our current capability, in the form of both effectiveness and efficiency gains. We will achieve this primarily by re-purposing or combining existing technologies available elsewhere in the defence and civil sectors to deliver new functionality.



COMPONENTS OF THE ECOSYSTEM

The ecosystem will comprise several different route to market for new ideas. But Phase 1 entails the creation of a minimum viable innovation system based around a unit, known as The jHub. Subsequent phases in the development of the ecosystem will include some or all of the following: establishing additional accelerators; attacking problems by utilising resources provided by academia; creating a Community of interest and holding conferences to attract new ideas, encourage peer review and to spread knowledge and best practice; forming an Advisory Committee of experts to support our work; and investing with venture capital partners in tech start-ups with potential Defence applications



THE JHUB...

...will provide a marketplace for ideas, connecting challenges faced by users to solutions offered by tech providers (both non-Defence SMEs and existing defence industry suppliers). It will also foster innovation across the Command. It will find and attract world class technology and talent to solve problems, rapidly connecting JFC users to experiment, test and co-develop prototypes. The jHub will place a premium on diversity and difference as a mechanism for generating new thinking.



EXPLOITATION

Innovation proposals will need to demonstrate a rapid exploitation path if they are to enter the innovation pipeline, including a plan that will lead to demonstration or experimentation with prototypes within weeks or months, not years. We will not engage in scientific and technical research through this mechanism. Our innovation pipeline will accelerate better capability into the hands of users. But we will not make it a requirement for a proposal to enter the pipeline that it must have identified a source of funding for eventual delivery into the hands of users.



PARTNERSHIPS

We seek collaboration with partners inside and outside the MOD in all our innovation activity. This collaboration could manifest itself in several ways, such as in the generation of problems or opportunities, the assessment of proposals, programme and project management, demonstration, experimentation, and subsequent delivery. We will also seek to match JFC funding of projects within our innovation pipeline with co-funding and sponsorship from other sources within Defence, such as from the Defence Innovation Fund, business units within JFC, and other Commands.



COMPETITION

We will generate competition by providing a platform for ideas to be assessed and tested, rather than through the traditional route of defining our requirements and then competing for solutions. We will protect the IPR of those who come forward with proposals, and use novel commercial and approval processes.



RISK

We have a low appetite for the risk that the ecosystem produces nothing useful. As a result, we will spread our bets across the portfolio, pursuing more proposals than we are likely to be able to deliver. It follows that we will have a high appetite for the risk that any particular proposal will not succeed, either because we conclude that it is not capable of delivering the benefits we sought of because we conclude that it would offer fewer benefits or more delivery risk than other proposals.



GOVERNANCE

Governance will be provided by members of the JFC senior leadership team, known as The Shepherds, whose primary role will be to remove obstacles. The Head of the jHub will report to Commander JFC through Director Joint Warfare.



SUCCESS CRITERIA

We will measure our performance in the execution of this Charter. But an innovation will not be judged a success unless it delivers capability or functionality into the hands of users.



Chris Dervock
Comd JFC