



23rd June 2008

Ministry of Defence's research agencies win further funding from the DIUS's Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund - Fourth Round.

Defence Science & Technology Establishment (Dstl) in partnership with the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) have successfully secured substantial funding from the Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills' (DIUS) Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund - Fourth Round. Dstl's contribution will be delivered through Ploughshare Innovations Ltd, a company wholly owned by the Secretary of State for Defence to commercialise the outputs of Dstl research in non MoD markets.

Both Dstl & AWE are Public Sector Research Establishments (PSRE) whose intellectual property (IP) assets are owned by the MoD. Dstl has achieved success in commercialising its MoD-owned IP assets, in recent years through Ploughshare. In contrast, AWE to date has had little experience in commercialising IP.

The DIUS funding of circa £0.78m will allow Ploughshare and AWE to maximise the exploitation of the MoD-owned IP assets developed by AWE, using the proven track record, skills, systems and experience developed by Ploughshare. The programme will specifically allow AWE to raise IP awareness within their organisation using internal marketing and themed workshops highlighting actual successes; better identify and secure IP assets and build the pipeline through "drop-in" IP clinics; de-risk and enhance the commercial value of IP via a Proof-of-Concept fund, and market and exploit IP leading to commercialisation via licensing and/or formation of spin-outs.

Separately, Ploughshare & Dstl were also involved in supporting three further successful bids into the Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund - Fourth Round securing a total of £4.5m. Namely, The Science & Technology Facilities Council's £1.5m bid for the Rainbow Seed Fund, the InterAct Partnership's £1.46m bid for Proof of Concept Funding (InterAct POC2) and a further £1.54m to continue and expand the scheme (InterAct^{plus}). These two InterAct bids were led by Central Science Laboratory, a Defra agency.



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Commenting on the successes of these applications Andy Tulloch, CEO of Ploughshare Innovations said “Ploughshare is looking forward to working closely with AWE and support their activities to make best use of tax payer funded research. We also appreciate DIUS recognising the benefits of the InterAct Partnership and, with the help of the Rainbow Seed Fund, commercialise innovative technologies in partnership with other PSREs for the benefit of all.”

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For further information, please contact:

Taj S. Mattu

Marketing Manager, Ploughshare

tajmattu@ploughshareinnovations.com

01980 590062

Notes to editors

Dstl

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is a centre of scientific excellence for the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Its 3,500 strong workforce includes some of the nation’s most talented and creative scientists with the brief to ensure that the UK Armed Forces and Government are supported in-house by the very best impartial scientific and technological advice. Dstl’s position at the heart of the MOD means that its advice is trusted by governments, academia, industry and international partners. It offers timely and accurate advice at all levels of military planning and operations, both overseas and on the home front. For more information please visit www.dstl.gov.uk

Ploughshare Innovations Ltd

Ploughshare Innovations Ltd (Ploughshare) is wholly owned by the United Kingdom’s Secretary of State for Defence. Ploughshare was formed to commercialise Dstl defence technologies in non-defence markets and there-by deliver value to Dstl, the MoD and the UK tax payer. Ploughshare has expanded its portfolio to include wider Dstl IP and is undertaking similar commercialisation activities for other parts of the MoD. For more information please visit www.ploughshareinnovations.com

The Atomic Weapons Establishment

AWE plc at Aldermaston and Burghfield, manage and operate the Atomic Weapons Establishment on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, manufacturing and maintaining the warheads for the UK’s nuclear deterrent. Employing around 4,500 staff and over 2,000 contractors, AWE’s work covers a vast range of disciplines and their resultant research outputs have wide ranging applications. For more information please visit www.awe.co.uk.