**14 Jun 24 - v03**

**Royal Navy Industry Engagement: Maritime Autonomous Systems and the Mine Hunting Capability Programme - Update – 16 July 24.**

Following the MHC Webinar-update in February last year and subsequent presentation at DSEi, the Royal Navy, in collaboration with the Mine Hunting Capability (MHC) team within the Defence Equipment and Support (DE&S) will host another webinar-update event on 16 July 2024 between 11:00am and 1:00pm.

The aim of this event is to engage with Industry and provide an update on the Royal Navy’s requirements for mine countermeasures and their strategic context. This will be followed by an update on MHC’s plans for the next phase of the Royal Navy’s successful Mine Hunting Capability programme (Block 2) and will include the proposed timetable and opportunity-landscape for potential suppliers.

Attendees will also be given an update on the wider response to the Royal Navy’s growing demand for Maritime Autonomous Systems (MAS) and an update on the work of the MOD Maritime Autonomous Systems Centre of Expertise (MASCoE) and its role in enabling programmes such as MHC. This will include a specific focus on the work to develop a MAS Category Management strategy, aligning with the wider Defence Uncrewed Systems strategy, and plans to establish a Category Management Framework to cover MOD-wide acquisition and support of MAS – including Block 2. There will be plenty of time for questions and the intent is to follow the event with a written summary and a request for feedback.

As before, Industry feedback from this event will be used to shape and refine MHC’s programme plans and procurement strategy. As also previously advised, this event will build on and be followed by other similar engagements, including presentations at conferences, the aim of which is to facilitate an on-going engagement and discussion with Industry as the Royal Navy, and MHC in particular, seek to exploit the opportunities afforded by autonomous technology.

There will be no charge for attendance at the webinar and capacity is unlimited and we are keen to see representation from across Defence and from those in adjacent sectors operating in the underwater environment, including those entirely new to Defence. All discussion and information sharing will not exceed OFFICAL level of classification.

**Registration to attend the event will close at midday 8 July 2024.**

Registration can be completed via [this form](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7WB3vlNZS0iuldChbfoJ5cd4Z2LRWgVFjsqqghWL0ZVUNDBQTVFXUlVETUlOTUZWNENXOVJaRkJORi4u). If you have any questions about the event or if there are specific areas or questions you would like to see covered, please email the team at DESShipsAcq-IFC-MHC-Comrcl@mod.gov.uk. Please do not contact individual RN or DE&S personnel directly about the event.

*For the avoidance of doubt, this is event is provided as an “information only” event and neither the presentations, discussions nor any opinions, answers or views expressed shall be construed as any form of commitment or intent by the MoD (the Authority). Any procurement activity which is pursued shall be conducted in strict accordance with MoD commercial policy and procedures and all relevant Procurement Regulations and legislation. Nothing said, done or presented in this or any subsequent event or engagement shall be construed as representing any form of commitment or intent of the Authority’s future actions, decisions or activities.*