



Major MOD human sciences contract won by QinetiQ led Haldane-Spearman Consortium

Armed forces to benefit from human science expertise

The UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) has awarded a contract for human factors research for the UK military to the Haldane-Spearman Consortium led by QinetiQ with Quintec as lead partner. Worth up to £20 million for the 6 years duration, the contract will give the armed forces integrated access to the best human sciences thinking from industry and academia, under the umbrella of a single, enabling contract.

Defence and security experts, QinetiQ joined forces with the Thales-owned Quintec and 25 other associated partners to form the Haldane-Spearman Consortium to offer the UK MOD and other customers in government, academia and industry access to leading human sciences practitioners across Europe.

Andrew Sleigh, QinetiQ MD Defence said: "Optimising human performance and making equipment easy to use is of growing importance to our Forces, especially as systems become more complex and military operations make new demands. Technology edge is important in defence, but so is getting the best out of people. I am very pleased MOD have selected the strong team of partners we have brought together to form the Haldane-Spearman Consortium to provide the underpinning research in this area."



The scope of the work will include research into physical fitness and mental performance, nutrition, sleep, selection and training, and how equipment can be designed and adapted to get the best out of people, especially in the 'network enabled battlespace' where human and equipment assets have to work together in novel ways.

Andrew continued: "The MOD made an important decision to place this work as a long term enabling contract. It has meant we have been able to form a much stronger and more integrated research team from the best practitioners in human science, and this is itself an important development for a subject that tends not to have the focus and profile it deserves."

The name Haldane-Spearman is a tribute to two celebrated human scientists, the Scottish physiologist John Scott Haldane (1860-1936) and the English physiologist Charles Spearman (1863-1945). See below for more details.