

# [News story: DIT DSO assists UK SMEs at Seawork 2017](#)

The annual Seawork exhibition and conference took place at the Mayflower Park, Southampton between Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15 June 2017.

Once again DIT DSO led on UK government help at the exhibition. They were able to offer UK companies a wide range of advice, information and support aimed at increasing overseas defence and security sales.

DIT DSO's principal customers were UK SMEs, who received informal advice or attended pre-booked appointments to meet DIT DSO experts to discuss more specific export opportunities.

## **HM government zone stand**

The stand was manned throughout by the DSO Small Business Unit and the Military Export Support Team. They were joined at the show over the 3 days by a number of DIT DSO colleagues from the regional directorates and high growth team.

The stand also had a senior Royal Naval presence on all 3 days to engage with:

- visiting overseas naval officials
- colleagues from the Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- UK companies

Access to the stand was also extended to Department for International Trade (DIT) colleagues from the regional international trade and MoD business advisory teams.

## **Seawork**

[Seawork International](#) is the largest and fastest growing commercial marine and workboat event to be held in a working port. This annual conference and exhibition is in its 20th year and is an important fixture on the [DIT DSO exhibition programme](#).

The show itself largely focuses upon civil and commercial maritime sales. This provided DIT DSO with an excellent opportunity to engage with new potential customers and to showcase the possibilities and benefits of diversifying into the overseas military market.

Examples of the range of kit that military colleagues have helped to sell in the past provided an attractive draw to the stand. This helped potential exporters understand just how wide and diverse the overseas defence and security markets can be.

DIT DSO hope to have started a good number of UK companies on a new journey into international trade.

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## [News story: CMA recommends release of BAES from long-standing undertakings](#)

The undertakings – put in place in 1999 – require BAES as the prime contractor to, where possible, allow other contractors in the defence industry access to its resources for the purposes of a Ministry of Defence (MoD) programme.

A group of independent panel members at the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has now [advised the Secretary of State](#) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) that changes of circumstances mean they are no longer appropriate. This follows a comprehensive review and consultation on the proposal they be removed.

The review looked at 4 defence sectors (warships, submarines, combat aircraft and munitions) and found that there have been relevant changes of circumstances. For example:

- the MoD has moved away from a competitive procurement process and made better use of long-term exclusive agreements and alliances;
- BAES has sold or closed its businesses in several sectors; and
- the capabilities of other defence contractors have developed such that any potential reliance on BAES has diminished.

This has meant a smaller role for the prime contractor model where competing suppliers might need to use the undertakings to facilitate access to BAES' resources. The group's view is that there is also little prospect of this situation changing in the foreseeable future.

The [CMA began reviewing these undertakings in July 2016](#) after a request by BAES. The undertakings were originally given by British Aerospace plc (now BAES), to the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, following its merger with the Marconi Electronic Systems business of General Electric Company plc, in 1999. Following Office of Fair Trading (OFT) reviews, the Secretary of State released BAES from most of the undertakings by 2007.

The remaining undertakings were designed to allow other actual or potential prime contractors to compete for contracts where they might need to sub-contract BAES' resources. BAES has also been obliged to appoint a compliance officer to ensure this requirement is met. The group has now advised that BAES should be released from these remaining undertakings.

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will now

consider this advice and is expected to make a decision shortly.

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## [News story: Universities rated in Teaching Excellence Framework](#)

UK university teaching quality recognised for the first time.

The [Higher Education Funding Council for England](#) has today (22 June 2017) published the first set of ratings for the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

It has revealed that the majority of UK universities are offering quality teaching to their students – 59 providers were rated ‘gold’, 116 rated ‘silver’ and 56 rated ‘bronze’.

The ratings will help students decide which university or college to apply to and encourage teaching and learning excellence across the UK.

Universities Minister Jo Johnson said:

These results, highlighting the extraordinary strengths of our higher education system, will help students choose which university or college to study at.

The Teaching Excellence Framework is refocusing the sector’s attention on teaching – putting in place incentives that will raise standards across the sector and giving teaching the same status as research.

Students, parents, employers and taxpayers all have a shared interest in ensuring higher education equips the next generation of graduates for success.

Universities taking part have been assessed by an expert panel in 3 areas:

- teaching quality
- the learning environment
- the educational and professional outcomes achieved by students

As set out in its white paper, [Success as a knowledge economy](#) (May 2016), the government will shortly begin a lessons learned exercise into this first trial year of the TEF. The findings of the lessons learned exercise will inform the operation of the TEF in 2018 and the intention to move to subject level assessments.

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## **[News story: Customer research manager vacancy at the IPO](#)**

This post will support the work of customer insight in transforming services. Closing date for applications is 4 July 2017.

### **Purpose**

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO) is transforming its services for our customers using modern technology. Our transformation portfolio includes a number of projects that are being delivered in accordance with the Government Digital Service project approach. The successful candidate will lead the User Research function within the wider IPO Customer Insight team.

### **Role and responsibilities**

- lead and develop the IPO User Research function, investing in the team's capability, with a focus on continuous learning and improvement
- manage and lead customer research exercises, including usability testing to identify customer issues and areas for service improvement
- represent customer requirements in projects to build new online capability
- engage customers in the development of online services, tools and content
- make authoritative recommendations for courses of action within the context of professional practice

### **How to apply**

Full details of this role and how to apply are available on the [Civil Service jobs website](#)

The closing date for applications is 4 July 2017.

For more information please email [adminvacancies@ipo.gov.uk](mailto:adminvacancies@ipo.gov.uk).

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## **[News story: Crime news: outstanding](#)**

# bill submissions for Crown Court work

Reminder letters are going out about the need to bill for Crown Court work for cases that finished more than 3 months ago.

We are sending out reminder letters to providers to send in bills for Crown Court cases that finished more than 3 months ago.

The letters are going to providers:

- about outstanding bills under the Litigators Graduated Fee Scheme (LGFS)
- where the instructed advocate has yet to submit a bill under the Advocates Graduated Fee Scheme (AGFS).

The help of providers is needed to forward letters to advocates about billing under AGFS. This is because we do not have contact details for advocates until they have submitted an AGFS bill.

Advocates are asked to give their support when letters are forwarded to them.

## **Why are you doing this now?**

We've reviewed our services and are concerned that delays in submitting bills under LGFS and AGFS is affecting our service delivery.

## **Further information**

[Nil-Bill-CCMT@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nil-Bill-CCMT@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk) – for any questions about this process