

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE DEFENCE AND SECURITY NETWORK

CHARTER 2022

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Lincolnshire is home to one of the UK's most significant networks of ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance) businesses, with a defence and security supply chain forged over decades at the heart of RAF operations. The Greater Lincolnshire Defence and Security Network (GLDSN) brings together national and international users, manufacturers, and research, development and innovation expertise to overcome sector challenges and identify business opportunities - as well as forging links with hotbeds of advanced engineering and data science in other sectors locally and connecting into the heart of the UK's low carbon energy production along the Humber.
- 1.2. The Greater Lincolnshire Defence and Security Network (GLDSN) is an unincorporated association that brings together a collection of organisations, bound together by the aims of the GLDSN, and in agreement to the Charter as outlined below.

2. PURPOSE AND AIMS

- 2.1. The GLDSN seeks to aggregate and raise the profile of regional defence and security capability to stimulate greater sector knowledge, business, economic growth and productivity across the Greater Lincolnshire region.
- 2.2. Our aim is to bring more defence and security investment into the Greater Lincolnshire region. There are benefits of this aggregation to all. For SMEs, looking for a route to market, they have local access to prime defence contractors. They in turn get visibility of new and emerging technology they may wish to acquire. UKG and its executive agencies can set challenges or funding rounds targeted at this part of the sector.
- 2.3. The GLDSN will:
 - 2.3.1. Guide local businesses towards funding opportunities, research programmes and procurement initiatives;
 - 2.3.2. Alert national organisations and prime contractors to the capabilities and achievements of Lincolnshire's defence and security businesses;
 - 2.3.3. Create and support events and activities to encourage learning and collaboration throughout the supply chain.

3. STEERING GROUP

- 3.1. The [Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership \(GLLEP\) Defence and Security Advisory Board](#) shall act as the Steering Group for the GLDSN, until such time that the Network becomes a fully recognised and self-sustaining Regional Defence and Security Cluster, with the Chair of the GLLEP Defence and Security Advisory Board also acting as Chair of the GLDSN Steering Group.
- 3.2. The role of the Steering Group is to:
- 3.2.1. Represent the GLDSN membership and act as Ambassadors to promote its activity and value proposition;
 - 3.2.2. Provide leadership and strategic guidance to its development, programmes, activity and standing;
 - 3.2.3. Agree spend of membership fees and other funding on activities to promote and enhance the GLDSN;
 - 3.2.4. Agree the governance structure and procedures of the GLDSN.
- 3.3. Appointments to and Terms of Service of the Steering Group are described in the [GLLEP Defence and Security Advisory Board Terms of Reference](#).

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. Eligible members of the GLDSN will be any Industry organisation or Academic body active within the GLDSN's geography offering products, services, R&D and technology solutions that can be applied in a defence and security domain.
- 4.2. The annual fee for membership of the GLDSN will be £200 + VAT.
- 4.3. Membership payments will be invoiced annually by Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of the GLLEP.

5. FUNDING

- 5.1. Membership fees will provide the main funding for the GLDSN.
- 5.2. The GLDSN will seek additional funding through sponsor partners where reasonable and required.
- 5.3. The GLDSN Steering Group and wider members will actively engage in network activity through the provision of pro-bono support and/or other resourcing to enable network objectives.

- 5.4. Funds will be held by Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of the GLLEP, as Accountable Body for the GLLEP.
- 5.5. Spend of funds will be agreed by the GLLEP Defence and Security Advisory Board acting as the Steering Group for the GLDSN.

6. PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

- 6.1. The GLDSN Steering Group will be responsible for establishing annual objectives and KPIs for the GLDSN as appropriate.
- 6.2. The GLDSN Steering Group will agree the GLDSN Charter and any additional Terms of Reference as appropriate. These will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 6.3. The GLDSN secretariat function will be provided by the GLLEP supported by the University of Lincoln and Lincolnshire County Council.

7. POLICIES

- 7.1. The GLDSN will operate under the policy structure of the GLLEP. Relevant policies can be found on the [GLLEP website](#).

8. COMPETITION

- 8.1. Meetings of competitors under the guidance of the GLDSN are not prevented by competition law.
- 8.2. GLDSN members must not use the forum provided by the GLDSN in order to coordinate their commercial activities or to influence the conduct of a competitor. Each GLDSN member must exercise its independent business judgment in pricing its products and services, dealing with its customers and suppliers, and choosing the markets in which it will compete.
- 8.3. Our inclusiveness of non-private sector organisations such as Local Enterprise Partnerships, Universities and government organisations helps to ensure commercial agendas are not discussed at GLDSN meetings. Any activity that could create even the appearance of a restriction or distortion of competition must be strictly avoided.
- 8.4. Whilst GLDSN expects all its members to comply with this Charter in the course of its dealings with GLDSN, members must take individual responsibility for complying with competition law and are advised to seek legal advice if they are unsure about the application of these rules.