

Super SONIC system introduced

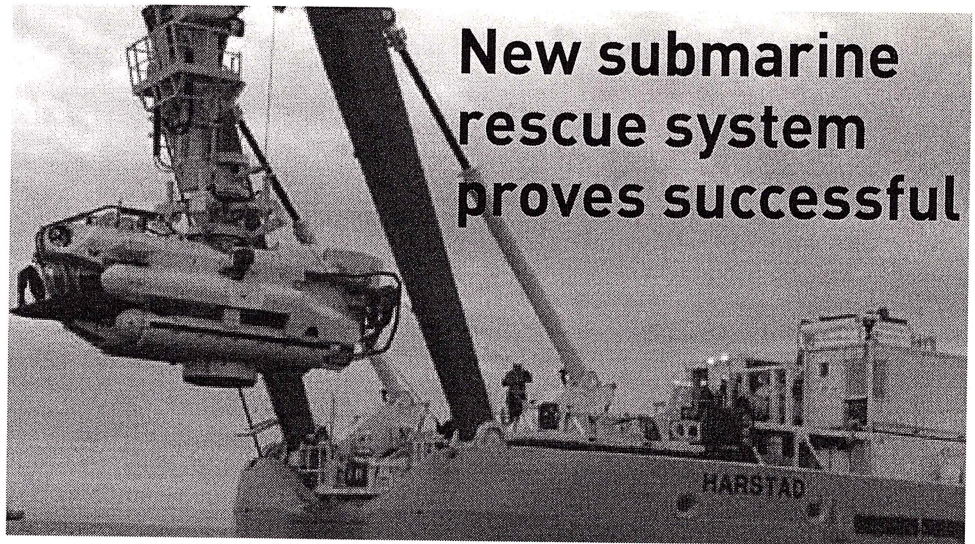
SONIC, a secure communications system that will significantly increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Trident targeting has been introduced. Working across international boundaries, SONIC provides top secret codeword data transfers with voice capability. It also allows storage, viewing and transfer of Microsoft Office files with secure speech while still meeting security needs.

The Strategic Systems IPT has worked closely with industry, in particular MASS, to introduce SONIC. Commodore David Jarvis, Strategic Systems IPT leader, said: 'SONIC is an excellent example of MoD and industry team-working producing a system that meets customer needs, is easy to use and practical. We pride ourselves that we delivered this system without expending additional resources and for working closely with our customers to provide a capability that meets their needs.'

Strategic Systems IPT provides targeting systems to the Director of Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Policy. SONIC is one of many systems and services that support the national deterrent and continuous at-sea deterrence.



Sonic boom: Andy Thomas of MASS and Commodore David Jarvis welcome the introduction of the SONIC secure communications system



New submarine rescue system proves successful

TRIALS of a new submarine rescue system that will offer a complete rescue package for trapped submariners have been taking place off the coast of Norway.

A free-swimming rescue vehicle concluded a successful 'mate' with the Norwegian submarine HNoMS Uredd in Husnes Fjord just south of Bergen, and completed a deep dive to 610 metres. The trials so far have been a success and

further tests including hatch operations at depth, angled 'mating' up to 60 degrees and the ability to recover the vehicle from rough seas will be carried out soon.

The system is a tri-nation project managed by DE&S's NATO Submarine Rescue System project. It is jointly owned by France, Norway and the UK. It consists of the free-swimming rescue vehicle with an A-frame portable

launch and recovery system, a transfer under pressure facility to safely decompress personnel from a pressurised submarine, and an intervention system for survey and rescue preparation. When in service it will be managed by the Submarines IPT. The existing LR5 rescue submersible and Scorpio remotely operated vehicle will go out of service.

Software systems initiative launched

THE SOFTWARE Systems Engineering Initiative (SSEI), which will bring cross-sector coordination and a consistent approach to software system related projects, has been formally launched at an event in London.

The SSEI is a consortium of leading UK industrial and academic institutions that are at the forefront of software systems engineering in a range of defence applications. Lieutenant General Andrew Figgures, Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Equipment Capability), opened the event and highlighted the operational importance of modern military software systems, arguing that 'software is the critical enabling technology for modern platforms and Network Enabled Capability.'

BAE Systems has been chosen by the MoD to lead the SSEI Consortium. Rear Admiral Ian Tibbitt, Director General Safety and Engineering, and Professor Andrew Bradley, BAE Systems Chief Engineer - Hawk, will co-chair the SSEI joint advisory board. In effect, the SSEI will be a multi-

disciplinary body of expertise that will provide a sound foundation for a coherent and centralised approach to the through-life evolution of military high-integrity and safety critical systems. Further information can be found at www.ssei.org.uk.

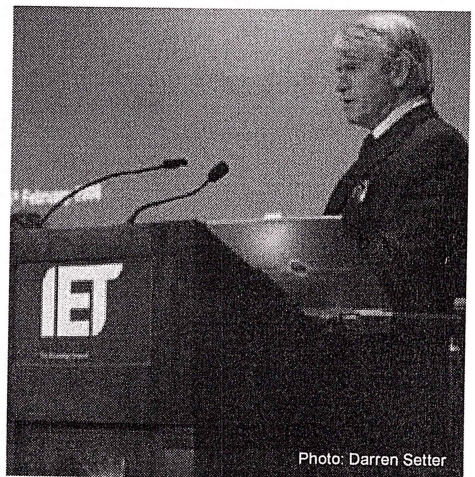


Photo: Darren Setter

Consistent approach: Lieutenant General Andrew Figgures launches SSEI, a consortium to bring coordination to software system related projects