

11th August 2005

SERCO CHOSEN TO PARTNER DSTL INTO THE FUTURE

Serco Group plc has today been selected as the preferred bidder to partner Dstl through its major relocation programme, Project INSPIRE. The contract will also see Serco becoming Dstl's strategic partner for facilities management for the next 15 years.

The announcement follows months of intense competition and signals the start of final negotiations to ensure the smooth transfer of Dstl operations to just three core sites: Porton Down in Wiltshire, Portsdown West in Hampshire, and Fort Halstead in Kent.

The contract, due to be finally signed in April 2006, will provide Dstl with new buildings and facilities on its core sites, support Dstl in moving 1600 staff to their new places of work, and deliver improved facilities management until 2021.

The Project INSPIRE bid was selected from an initial 12 interested groups, whittled down by close co-operation with the competing parties. In the latest stage, three remaining bidders submitted proposals, of which Serco's was judged to be the best.

Dstl Chief Executive, Martin Earwicker, said: "The move is a big step towards Dstl's vision of creating an integrated centre of scientific excellence with world class facilities. It will create the environment, both physical and intellectual, where staff can develop their potential to the full."

Building work is expected to be completed by 2008, providing Dstl with an excellent environment to match the world-class expertise of its staff.

End

For more information, please call:

Colin Leverett Communications Assistant, Dstl	cleverett@dstl.gov.uk	01252 455965 07795 666403
Annabel Mead Public Relations Manager, Dstl	asmead@dstl.gov.uk	01980 613933 07766 134 768
Dominic Cheetham Corporate Communications Director, Serco		01256 745900

Notes to Editors:

- Dstl (the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory) is the centre of scientific excellence for the Ministry of Defence, housing one of the largest groups of scientists and engineers in public service in the country. Its 3,500 strong workforce includes some of the nation's most talented and creative scientists with the brief to ensure that the UK Armed Forces and Government are supported in house by world class scientific advice. Dstl delivers defence research, specialist technical services and the ability to track global technological developments. Its capabilities compare with the best in the world, supporting procurement decisions, defence policy making and operations. For more information visit www.dstl.gov.uk
- Project INSPIRE is Dstl's programme to move from eight sites around the UK to three core locations. The collocation of staff and the new accommodation will create a cohesive centre of scientific excellence with world class facilities.
- Serco is a leading international service company, operating in a diverse range of sectors, including defence and aerospace, IT services, education, local government, transport, science, health, and justice. More information can be found at www.serco.com.