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DSTL AT FORT HALSTEAD

Following an extensive study to review the capabilities that the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) provides to the Ministry of Defence and wider government from its Fort Halstead site, it is now considering a strategy of relocating all of its activities in the medium to long term.

Brian Court, Dstl director infrastructure, says: "Before any relocation decision is made, a detailed investment appraisal will investigate the affordability of any such relocation. It is important to stress that at this stage, no decision has been made to relocate Dstl staff from the Fort Halstead site."

If the investment appraisal, due mid 2010, concludes that relocation is financially viable, it is planned to move the operations from Fort Halstead to Dstl's sites at Porton Down, Salisbury and Portsdown West, Portsmouth.

Dstl has more than 80 years to run on its lease at Fort Halstead. Around 800 people work at Dstl's Fort Halstead site and they were fully informed that the study was taking place and of its potential outcome.

Dstl's current activities at Fort Halstead include supporting operations in Afghanistan and counter-terrorism activity in the UK; providing research and advice on the detection and decontamination of chemical and biological agents as well as providing forensic explosive evidence for court cases such as terrorist trials.

ENDS

For more information contact the Dstl press office on 01980 658088, 07766 134768, press@dstl.gov.uk.

Notes to editors:

Dstl

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is a centre of scientific excellence for the Ministry of Defence (MOD). 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 the very best impartial scientific and technological advice. Dstl's position at the heart of the MOD means that its advice is trusted by

governments, academia, industry and international partners. It offers timely and accurate advice at all levels of military planning and operations, both overseas and on the home front. For more information please visit www.dstl.gov.uk