

Project Team Benefits

As Logistic Information Planning matures during the CADMID cycle, the Log NEC Programme is collating and analysing the direct benefits gained from project teams in developing and using the Logistic Information Plan. The following 7 areas have been targeted in seeking the benefits of using Logistic Information Planning:

Business Understanding – Has Logistic Information Planning helped to improve communication and understanding of a project's logistic business by clarifying the logistic information roles and responsibilities and the logistic information needs of MOD and industry?

Optimising Availability - Has Logistic Information Planning helped to identify the critical logistic information needed to support optimisation of equipment availability for projects?

Through-Life Costs - Has the identification of logistic information contributed to optimising the through-life costs for projects?

Performance Measurement – Has Logistic Information Planning contributed to projects identifying the logistic information needed to support effective Key Performance Indicator (KPI) measurement for Contracting for Availability (CfA) contracts?

Support Processes – Has the Logistic Information Planning engagement process improved the logistic support processes that will be employed in projects' CfA contracts?

Cost and Risks of Information – Has the Logistic Information Plan helped to identify and optimise the cost and risks associated with the Information Defence Line of Development (DLod) by identifying critical logistic information requirements to support CfA contracts?

Coherence – Has Logistic Information Planning and the Log NEC Enterprise Architecture (LNECA) enabled project teams to converge towards a coherent and resource-efficient approach to using and sharing logistic information between MOD and industry for CfA projects?

What are the Costs?

MOD Logistic Information Planning is currently undertaken by a small specialist team of engagement and technical officers who are highly experienced in information planning. The team is currently tasked through the Log NEC 'Front Door' by the Joint Support Chain Support Solution Officers. Although currently funded through the Log NEC Programme, it is likely that future Logistic Information Planning may be funded directly by the project team and outsourced. Several of the Defence Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) also have in-house specialists who understand the LCIA and Logistic Information Planning and work closely with the MOD Team in developing industry Logistic Information Plans.

A Logistic Information Plan develops over a period of time, depending on the size and maturity of the project. Generally it involves short interactive workshops to help develop understanding of the logistic processes, stakeholders and key logistic decisions for the project. These are then translated into a Logistic Information Plan which is maintained to give through-life benefits. Considerable time and resource is saved by re-using logistic templates and a Logistic Information Planning Tool.

Logistic Information Planning is now a reality across MOD, and the question is whether or not your project is going to be part of it. The benefits are self-evident and the key now is not what to do, but how fast you are going to do it so that you can bring the benefits to your projects.

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The Real Benefits Of Logistic Information Planning



Why Do Logistic Information Planning?

Few would argue against the proposition that there is much more we can do to improve the effectiveness of logistics and supportability across Defence. Here is one technique that is achieving this and is costing very little: Logistic Information Planning.

There has been growing recognition that there are too many logistic support contracts each being run under bespoke arrangements, using different contractual approaches and different support processes. Furthermore these sometimes introduce different information systems and applications for what are essentially common logistic functions. However, the shift towards Contractor Logistic Support (CLS) for delivering operational capability now necessitates a closer information-sharing relationship between MOD and industry than was ever required before. Both sides now require mutual sharing of day-to-day performance and operating information in order to execute their part of the CLS contract.

It is also widely recognised that there is a lack of consistency in how MOD and industry share information to enable the execution of CLS. Moreover, the current variety of ad hoc contract approaches makes it unduly expensive and inefficient for MOD and industry to operate. A number of key strategic initiatives have therefore expressed the need to simplify logistic processes and to achieve greater value from the plethora of logistic information available in order to improve the effectiveness of logistic supportability.

How It Works

Logistics Information Planning identifies the key data that MOD and industry want to exchange when running a CLS contract, so that they can each have the information they really need to help improve reliability and maintainability (R&M), fleet & asset management, and supply chain effectiveness. The simplification comes from the Logistic Coherence Information Architecture (LCIA) which is the joint MoD-industry tool for describing logistics functions and activities and the information needed to support them. The LCIA underpins the information layer of the Log NEC Enterprise Architecture and is used as the reference model to develop the Logistic Information Plan (Log IP).

Once a defence project is established and has identified CLS as a likely element of its support strategy, then the project is engaged by the Log NEC Programme using the Business and Information Architecture (BIA) Team to define the logistic information exchange requirements. This process generates a Log IP that MOD and industry can both agree on and include in the CLS contract. In short, the plan sets out the critical information sharing requirements, as well as why and when the information is needed and how it will be exchanged.

These requirements are then also used to develop MOD-industry Information system exchanges and business intelligence (BI) solutions. Until recently, most projects have failed to understand and plan for their logistic information needs and this has led to undue risk and cost growth, as well as inhibiting effective through life logistic support.

High Level Benefits

Benefit 1. Improved Supportability and Through Life Cost Optimisation

Both MOD and industry can only reduce through-life support costs and improve supportability if they have the right performance information to help them make decisions in these areas. However, most CLS contracts do not seriously consider their logistic information needs before the contract and processes are set up. Logistic Information Planning mandates this to happen and ensures both sides are set up to feed the right operating and performance information to each other. This typically includes data on equipment operation, configuration, faults, and spares consumption to allow better fleet and asset utilisation, reliability & maintainability (R&M) and supply chain performance. This gets away from the old manual sequential processes for handing-off information that were time-consuming, inefficient, and prone to errors. Instead, these are replaced by automatic and trusted information sharing between MOD and industry systems that enable faster and informed logistic decisions to mutual benefit. The end game is enabling through life support cost optimisation and enhanced operational supportability through better utilisation of information.

Benefit 2. Greater Understanding of your Logistic & Supportability Business

It is not possible to develop a Logistic Information Plan until you understand the detail of how your CLS contract will operate. Because LCIA is a benchmark description of all the conceivable logistic activities to be performed under CLS it helps to identify the logistic support functions that are important but which projects sometimes inadvertently omit. Consequently MOD and industry develop much greater understanding of the logistic roles and responsibilities of each side in the CLS contract. Projects using LCIA report that it is a major time and resource saving tool because it contains joint MOD-industry agreed descriptions of what logistic functions are performed and the associated information that is needed to execute a CLS contract. This brings clarity to stakeholders and produces development rigour for the processes, systems and structures to support them. These are major benefits and our experience is that all projects benefit from this approach and it also mitigates the inevitable time and resource pressures to reach contract.

Benefit 3. Through Life Logistic Process Improvement

Defence logistics has been plagued with inefficient and ad hoc logistic support processes for what are essentially similar functions. Logistic Information Planning prevents this because it converges CLS contracts towards similar solutions, using common logistic functions, language and information. Using LCIA to identify logistic functions and information flows helps MOD and industry to introduce aligned processes for CLS contracts. Common logistic templates are being developed for certain domains such as aircraft Integrated Operational Support (IOS) contracts, vehicle support contracts, maritime fleet support contracts, and weapons CLS contracts. This enables Defence contractors to start operating converged systems across their different product lines thereby reducing the need for costly ad hoc or random processes. Moreover, it enables MOD and industry to converge towards integrated processes that enable simultaneous visibility of logistic information across the Defence enterprise.

Benefit 4. Real Value from Logistic and Supportability Information

There is generally no shortage of logistic information in Defence. The problem is that the logistic information that we want is often inaccessible, unreliable, or undiscovered. Logistic Information Planning solves this problem by identifying what information is needed before MOD and industry agree a CLS contract. This gives both sides a clearer understanding of the costs and value of logistic information and helps to de-risk projects by identifying information costs up front so that provision can be made. Logistic Information Planning also provides the key information exchange requirements for information solutions to be developed to allow sharing between MOD and industry. There are several examples of where Logistic Information Planning was omitted before contract let and CLS effectiveness has been inhibited due to the lack of logistics information sharing and the unforeseen costs incurred to remedy the situation. Logistic Information Planning precludes this possibility and, because it is based on agreed information standards, it reduces the need for bespoke interfaces for sharing information. It also minimises the cost of introducing process change because information exchanges are standardised and are not locked into proprietary solutions.