Institute of Engineering Technology / British Computer Society: ISA Working Group Seminar, 7\textsuperscript{th} December 2006

Independent Safety Assessment – Adding Value
Introduction

- Leigh Walsh ~ Senior Safety Engineer, Atkins Consultants Limited (Defence Systems)
- Lead ISA for the Nimrod MRA4 Training System
- Previous ISA roles include:
  - TERRIER (next generation air-transportable armoured combat engineer vehicle for the Royal Engineers)
  - FEPS (Field Electrical Power Source)
  - Integrated Control Systems (ICS) for Challenger 2
  - Numerous Royal Navy Warships Fire Certification Audits
  - C-17 Short Term Strategic Airlift
  - Tank Systems Support (TSS) IPT
Background

- **April 2005**: MoD Land Systems Safety Office (LSSO) audit of the Nimrod MRA4 Training System IPT
- **One of the key recommendations** – Appointment of an ISA
- **July 2005**: Atkins invited to submit proposal for ISA Lead ISA for the Nimrod MRA4 Training System
- **September 2005**: Atkins formally awarded ISA contract (Key objective “To establish a baseline to move forward”)
- **July 2006**: Atkins formally deliver ISA Report and presentation to key stakeholders
ISA Responsibility

- Defence Standard 00-56 (Safety Management Requirements for Defence Systems) (Interim) Issue 3 ~ December 2004
- Safety and Reliability Society (Western Branch) Defence Standard 00-56 Working Group ~ October 2005
- Atkins encouraged to see that roles and responsibilities of Independent Safety Auditors are increasing
- MoD Acquisition Safety and Environmental Support Group (ASESG) have started to seek formal assurance of auditor competence
- Atkins ISA team included an IRCA (International Register of Certified Auditors) certified Lead Auditor (awarded the Gold Star Award).
Nimrod MRA4 ~ The aircraft

- Key Dates ~
  - December 1996: BAE Systems awarded contract to build Nimrod MRA4 aircraft
  - August 2004: Nimrod MRA4 achieved its inaugural flight from Woodford in August 2004
  - 2010: MRA4 is provisionally due to enter service
- Royal Air Force’s new Maritime, Reconnaissance and Attack aircraft (successor to the current in-service Nimrod MR2)
- Equipped with the latest in sensors and mission systems enhancing the aircraft with additional capability beyond its traditional maritime roles
- Based at RAF Kinloss
Nimrod MRA4 ~ The Training System

A comprehensive package allowing safe training of the aircrew & groundcrew on aircraft systems in as realistic an environment as possible.
Nimrod MRA4 Training System (Contractual Relationship)
Nimrod MRA4 ~ Key ISA Tasks

- Key audit activities included:
  - Audit of IPT Safety Documentation
  - Audit of Contractual Requirements (Safety)
  - Audit of ASTA Building Construction Documentation (Safety)
  - Audit of Thales T&S Safety Documentation
  - Audit of Thales T&S Safety Management System (Feb 2006)
  - Audit of BAE Safety Documentation
  - Audit of BAE Safety Management System (March 2006)
Adding Value (1)

- Based upon previous ISA experience, Atkins were aware of a number of common pitfalls that occur in similar project safety management systems for such complex systems.

- As such, the Atkins ISA team audited the relevant Safety Management Systems in order to provide the Nimrod MRA4 IPT with particular assurance that:
  - The System Hazard Analysis has considered the safety of the ‘complete’ system, and potential hazards have been identified at the integrated ‘system’ level (and interfaces), rather than just the sub-system hazards.
  - Sub-contractors safety requirements have been flowed down from BAE Systems (the Prime Contractor), and that the sub-contractors understand what these requirements are.
Adding Value (2)

- Atkins have supported the RAF in its review of Nimrod aircraft maintenance.
- Understand issues involved regarding ground and aircrew courseware and training courses and the supporting network.
- Ground / aircrew courseware and training courses are being developed jointly by the MoD and BAE Systems, addressing any Training ‘fidelity’ issues.
Adding Value (3)

- Numerous recommendations made to **enhance** current safety status
- Additional resource provided for the safety programme
- Health & Safety experience as well as system safety experience ~ Able to advise on compliance status with mandatory legislative requirements
- Whilst outside the scope of the contract, platform level safety issues were raised for discussion with the IPT
- Although contract ended in July 2006:
  - Revised Part 1 Safety Case Report for the Training System has since been received and reviewed (no contractual obligation)
  - Revised Safety Management Plan for the Training System has since been received and reviewed (no contractual obligation)
- **Selected Client Feedback:**
  - “...Atkins were invaluable”
  - “...Quality of audit process and professionalism throughout has been critical to the project”
  - “...Atkins auditors have impressed both the DPA and BAE Systems Project Teams”
Questions

Contact Details:
Leigh Walsh BSc (Hons) Tech IOSH MSaRS
Senior Safety Consultant ~ Defence Systems

ATKINS
280 Aztec West
Almondsbury
Bristol
BS32 4SY

Tel: 01454 288073 (Direct Line)
Tel: 01454 201999 (Reception)
Fax: 01454 288375
Email: leigh.walsh@atkinsglobal.com