# MOD unveils £900m framework to fast-track AI decision tools for Army



The Ministry of Defence has launched a £900 million procurement framework to accelerate the development of advanced digital decision-making tools for the British Army. The Digital Decision Accelerators for Defence (DDAD) Open Framework is designed to foster innovation across the supply chain, inviting contributions from Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as well as established defence contractors.

DDAD underpins ASGARD, the Army’s flagship Transformative Capability Initiative aligned with the Chief of the General Staff’s *Growth Through Transformation* strategy. ASGARD has already shown results in NATO operational trials, enabling AI-enhanced targeting and decision-support that sharpen the precision and speed of engagement on the battlefield. The Army aims to deliver a tenfold increase in lethality over the next decade by combining digital decision-making with enhanced firepower, autonomy, surveillance and data integration.

The new framework focuses on the *Decide* phase of the military’s “Sense-Decide-Effect” cycle, highlighting the importance of rapid, reliable intelligence in modern warfare. It is divided into five lots, each worth £180 million: – **Data Integration** – streamlining access and fusion of information – **Accelerators** – AI/ML models to cut time-to-insight – **Applications** – secure, scalable software development – **Edge Storage and Compute** – real-time distributed processing – **Services** – training, consultancy and proof-of-concept support

The framework will run from November 2025 to November 2029, with potential extensions. Award criteria will assess suppliers’ technical maturity, scalability, collaboration and alignment with the Land Industrial Strategy. By prioritising accessibility for SMEs, the MOD hopes to broaden innovation while sustaining sovereign digital capabilities.

DDAD sits within a wider digital transformation effort. The Defence Digital Foundry delivers agile software solutions across the armed forces, while the Defence Artificial Intelligence Centre (DAIC) coordinates AI innovation across government, academia and industry. Together with the MOD’s Data Strategy for Defence and its push for a secure Digital Backbone, these initiatives are reshaping how the military harnesses data.

The approach signals a shift away from closed, static procurement models toward open, adaptive frameworks that encourage continuous engagement. By embedding AI into decision-making while ensuring robust governance, the MOD aims to maintain the UK’s technological edge and strengthen its industrial base. With ASGARD and DDAD at the forefront, the British Army is advancing battlefield capability while reinforcing the UK’s reputation as a leader in responsible military AI.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://ukdefencejournal.org.uk/mod-sets-out-900m-framework-for-ai-decision-tools/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/026913-2025> - The UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) has announced a procurement for a new Defence and Security Open Framework aimed at developing advanced digital 'Decision' capabilities. This framework will serve as the primary delivery mechanism for ASGARD, the British Army's flagship Transformative Capability Initiative, which is part of the Chief of General Staff's Growth Through Transformation strategy. The framework will focus on the 'Decide' element of the target acquisition cycle (Sense-Decide-Effect) and will support ASGARD's goal of transforming how land forces deliver operational decision-support and decision-making software using modern Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies. The framework is structured into five lots, each valued at £180 million, covering areas such as Data Integration, Accelerators, Applications, Edge Storage and Compute, and Services. The MOD has indicated that the framework will be suitable for Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to bid for. The framework is scheduled to run from November 2025 to November 2029, with possible extensions.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fundamental-lethality-shift-for-british-army-spearheaded-by-novel-targeting-tech-asgard> - The British Army has showcased ASGARD, a pioneering digital targeting web that improves the accuracy of targeting enemies and reduces decision-making time for strikes. Following successful trials by British soldiers deployed on NATO’s eastern flank, ASGARD enables soldiers to rapidly find and strike enemy targets at greater distances. The project is part of the Army's plan to deliver a tenfold increase in lethality over the next ten years by harnessing firepower, surveillance technology, autonomy, digital connectivity, and data. ASGARD exploits AI and novel communications networks to provide rapid targeting and decision-support to personnel. The Ministry of Defence is committing funding for the next phase of ASGARD’s development, aiming to expedite the Army's lethality and deepen its links with society through partnerships with British industry.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-support-modelling-and-analysis-framework> - The Defence Support Modelling and Analysis Framework sets out how better modelling and analysis will improve decision-making across the support environment. It establishes standard methods and practices that everyone, including industry partners, can adopt so that tools, methods, and operational models can be shared more openly across the defence support community.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/defence-digital-foundry> - The Defence Digital Foundry is an alliance of teams that provides digital services to help people in Defence get things done. It offers user-facing digital services, enabling tools and platforms to help teams across Defence deliver better and faster. The Foundry aims to build an effective and scaled software delivery organisation that exploits modern ways of working, providing strategic advantage and capability for Defence through rapid and effective software delivery, based on clear prioritisation and agile practices.
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-strategy-for-defence/data-strategy-for-defence> - The Data Strategy for Defence outlines how the Defence Digital Function will enable access to data through a secure, singular, modern Digital Backbone. It includes the establishment of the Digital Foundry in partnership with HMG and the best of British industry and academia, to deliver a unique digital exploitation capability for all of Defence. The Digital Foundry will leverage all Digital Backbone components (people, process, data, and technology) to rapidly solve problems and deliver operational solutions to Defence users in near real time.
7. <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/defence-artificial-intelligence-centre> - The Defence Artificial Intelligence Centre (DAIC) champions, enables, and innovates artificial intelligence (AI) across UK Defence, working collaboratively with government, industry, academia, and allies for the strategic advantage of the Armed Forces. The DAIC aims to accelerate the UK's ability to harness the game-changing power of AI, enabling military use cases by working collaboratively with international partners across government, academia, and industry. Its work spans from enhancing the speed and efficiency of business processes and support functions to improving the security and resilience of interconnected networks and enhancing the mass, persistence, reach, and effectiveness of military forces.