



ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES FOR THE DEFENCE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Prioritising Research Activities

HVR Consulting, in association with our partners on the Defence Research Programme, developed a robust process for establishing priorities on an annual basis for defence research spending. Working closely with the designated Research Coordinator, HVR ensured this process was fully implemented to deliver maximum benefit to the programme.

Our Approach

Our processes allowed the client to effect and justify changes to UK defence research programme packages according to evolving requirements and HM Treasury or Ministry of Defence (MoD) budget variations. Of particular importance was the audit trail required to comply with Treasury scrutiny processes and to justify the financial re-profiling of programmes across multiple MoD establishments. Our process allowed potential research activities to be reviewed across multiple criteria, e.g. benefit, need, cost risk, whilst factoring the relative importance of each parameter. The defined process also captured research dependencies within or between packages to guarantee that activities were packaged to extract maximum value for money from the overall research programme.

Adding Value to the Research Programme

The client required a rigorous and auditable process that involved all of the stakeholders. The process also needed to recognise the dependencies, and potential synergies, that existed between research activities. HVR's approach added value to the programme by:

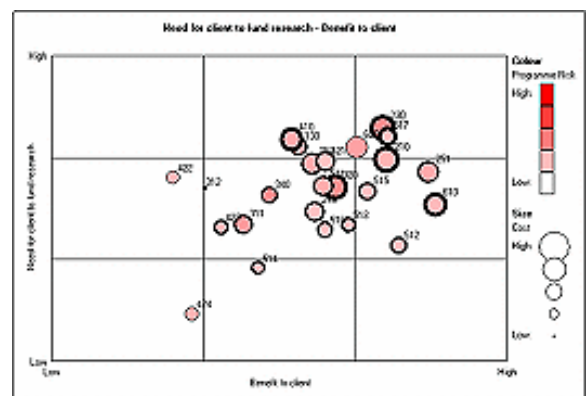
Maximising Research Value For Money

We developed a methodology based on portfolio analysis approaches that are extensively used in commercial marketing and product lifecycle management. Our prioritisation activities ensured that

maximum benefit was derived from the research budget.

Providing a Comprehensive Audit Trail

The approach was adapted to meet the needs of the defence client with a focus on providing, as far as possible, a fact based decision support approach. HVR scoped scoring criteria, undertook the scoring exercise and facilitated the process of reviewing the resulting portfolios of research. A bespoke decision support tool was created to collate, analyse and communicate the results to feed our rigorous audit process. Our audit trail functionality provided complete transparency in the balance of investment process.



Our Experience

HVR Consulting's combined defence subject matter expertise, group facilitation and software development skills provide our clients with all the essential skills required to optimise research programme activities. Our client's requirement was met through HVR's knowledge of existing problem structuring techniques and innovative thinking. Application of our skills ensured that we could adapt best practice techniques to meet our client's needs on the Defence Research Programme.