

FESTIVE THOUGHT FROM CHRIS

As the festive season approaches, Optima are sending our warmest wishes to you, your colleagues and families. It's a good time to share the joy and I'm pleased Optima has been able to support so many charitable causes this year, and make real progress on our sustainability and social value programmes, alongside our core client facing projects. These successes are made possible through the positive attitude of our team to make a real difference in all we do, and to enable true collaborative engagement with our client organisations. This way we tackle the challenges together. So thank you for partnering with us, and sharing the journey together.

Merry Christmas & a Prosperous New Year!

Chris Lamb
Managing Director at Optima



Building our capability

In 2023, we welcomed four Systems Engineers, enhancing our team's expertise in Electronic Warfare, Radar, Engines, Maritime Air Defence, and aerospace technologies. We've broadened our framework access through direct partnerships with industry and government, enabling us to offer a wide variety of interesting and challenging work. This provides long term career development opportunities to our team and attract new engineers. We continue to see strong demand for our services into 2024 as a number of large frameworks and projects are due to start. We will also have news soon on our involvement in UK Missile Defence.



Key events in 2023

We actively engaged with key stakeholders in the defense and nuclear sectors, seizing opportunities to showcase our services at high-profile events such as DSEI, with our own stand for the first time. Our Systems Engineering training was particularly popular. Additionally, we maintained support for Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) events, including their Decommissioning & Waste Management and Fusion Working Groups, resulting in valuable engagements and new client contracts. Our sponsorship of the INCOSE UK Annual Systems Engineering Conference (ASEC) in Liverpool and ongoing support for their Advisory Board (UKAB) continued throughout the year.



Adding Social Value

This year, we released our Carbon Reduction Plan and are actively advancing our Social Value initiatives. We have supported the UKAEA Fusion School again this year, sending four of our Systems Engineers to build the UK's fusion skills. We have continued our substantial spend with other SME companies and startups, enabling us to deliver more to clients whilst building resilient and diverse supply chains. In November, we installed a defibrillator at our office that will be available to the public. We continue our annual contributions to over 30 charities on behalf of our employees. In 2024 we are exploring potential solar offset schemes to accelerate our Carbon Reduction Plan.



Looking ahead to 2024

As the world starts to see the impact of rapid developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI), we are well placed to apply our systems thinking skills to both the opportunities and threats of AI. We are already experimenting with AI to accelerate our internal business processes and exploring how our Systems Engineering services can be enhanced by use of AI technologies. Analysis of the use of AI is increasingly featuring in the scope of work we deliver to our clients and we expect this to increase in 2024.



Socially speaking

We had a socially eventful year in 2023. Some of our key highlights included our popular beer tasting club and curry nights, Thornbury 10k run, summer barbecue and team away day at Mendip Activity Centre. Our people also attended external networking opportunities at various defence and nuclear industry events and training days. We are closing the year with a charity bake-off and a glitzy Christmas lunch at Tortworth Court.

