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**Tom Bennington**

Tom is an ex-military pilot with over 30 years’ experience in the Royal Air Force, with his latter career focussed on procurement - notably as an Assistant Director of Capability within the UK MOD’s Equipment area. He has a strong operational background having been a Chief of Staff to both the NATO MARCOM HQ at Northwood and the UK Expeditionary Air Wing deployed to Iraq.

Since leaving the RAF, he has worked as a Defence contractor and is a Chartered Programme Manager (MSP Methodology ) and project/portfolio expert. He has worked at the EDA since September 2013, initially as the Programme Manager for Energy and Environment , establishing the working group and the 2015 workplan including: EDA’s SMART Energy Camp technical demonstrator, the Strategic Research Agenda for Energy and the initial work for the Consultation Forum before handing over to Sharon in Jun 2015. Among his other duties related to military aviation, he remains the Project Officer for the European Armed Forces GO GREEN pilot initiative to build a solar facility in Cyprus and has gained a deep understanding of the public finance models and limitations of defence spending within the EU framework. He lives in London (at weekends) and is married with three adult children.