

28 August 2008

## Census reaches contract award milestone

The Office for National Statistics today announced the award of the first large contract to support the delivery of the 2011 Census for England and Wales. The contract has been won by Lockheed Martin UK Ltd.

The contract includes provision of a customer contact centre, questionnaire printing and data capture and processing. The contract will create around 1,500 jobs in the UK at its peak and is a significant step forward in the preparation for the next ten-yearly census.

A census, a count of all people and households, has been carried out every ten years since 1801. It provides information about local areas and communities as well as a complete national picture and is the most complete source of information about the population.

Central and local government, health and education services, the business community, genealogists and the public at large, rely on census data for a range of purposes. The information is used by government to inform central and local policy making by showing exactly where investment in public services is most needed and to help allocate funding to local government and health authorities. Information from the census forms the basis for the allocation of over £100 billion of public funds each year.

The census will be held on 27 March 2011 and will create between 30,000 and 40,000 jobs in total in the operational period.

Glen Watson, ONS Census director, said: "Awarding this contract is an important step towards a successful 2011 Census that will provide valuable information to help shape future plans for England and Wales."

Building on lessons learned from 2001, the design of the census has been amended for 2011. Census questionnaires will be posted to every household in England and Wales and a questionnaire tracking system will help ONS keep track of progress and chase up

**Issued by**

Office for National Statistics  
Government Buildings  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
NP10 8XG

**Contacts**

**Media Relations**  
0845 604 1858

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

responses. For the first time people will be able to fill in the census online as well as through traditional paper questionnaires.

The collection, processing and analysis of information from more than 25 million households is a complex project run by ONS with the support of a range of specialist service providers – using the best specialist expertise available to provide the most cost effective solution.

The contract awarded to Lockheed Martin UK is to design the processing systems to capture the data and to coordinate the day-to-day running of operational services provided by a consortium of UK and European partners.

ONS staff are responsible for the design of census procedures and field operations, quality assurance, secondary processing, analysis and the publication of results.

Glen Watson, ONS Census director, commented: “The protection given to personal census data has always been very strong – ONS takes data security and the confidentiality of personal information extremely seriously. The security and protection of personal information is a top priority for the census.

“All the information collected is owned by ONS, it is protected by law and it will not leave the UK. We have also put stringent operational and contractual processes and safeguards in place to maintain data security and confidentiality.”

## **BACKGROUND NOTES**

1. For further information see <http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-project/commitment-to-confidentiality/index.html>
2. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for carrying out the census in England and Wales. Under the Statistics and Registration Services Act, with effect from 1 April 2008, strategic oversight of ONS and the authority to conduct the census rests with the UK Statistics Authority, which reports direct to Parliament.

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is responsible for conducting the Census in Northern Ireland.

The General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) is responsible for carrying out the census in Scotland.

3. Lockheed Martin UK supports a variety of UK public services, providing the systems for the Metropolitan Police command and control response to 999 calls, National Air Traffic Services and Transport for London. Lockheed Martin also supports the UK Ministry of Defence with advanced technology products such as the Royal Navy Merlin helicopter, the Joint Strike Fighter and military training systems. Lockheed Martin has significant experience of managing data capture and processing contracts for censuses in the UK and internationally. It held the contract for data capture and processing for the 2001 UK census.
4. The consortium of UK and European partners providing day to day operational services consists of Royal Mail, Cable & Wireless, Logica, Polestar, Oracle, UK Data Capture, bss and Steria.
5. The contract value is about a third of the £450 million allocated for the 2011 Census.
6. Existing UK law already prevents disclosure of Census data. Under the Statistics and Registration Act 2007 it is a criminal offence to disclose personal Census data, punishable by a fine or imprisonment (up to two years) or both. Census data will be processed in the UK and will be protected to the standards required by the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).
7. To maximise public reassurance on the Census ONS has built in additional operational and contractual safeguards. These safeguards include:
  - All data processing will be carried out in UK – no data will leave or be held at any point outside the UK;
  - All data is the property of ONS and only UK/EU owned companies will have access to the data
  - All staff who have access to the full Census data set in the operational data centre will be ONS employees.
  - ONS will control system access rights to all data systems;
  - Everyone working with census data will sign declarations of confidentiality
  - Independent checks by an accredited UK security consultancy of both physical and electronic security will be carried out for ONS