

Richard Gardner reports that... Dragonfire tests break cover



The UK government's in-house advanced military research and development organisation, DSTL, has released further information on progress on the Dragonfire Laser Directed Weapon (LDW). Although detailed still images are not yet released, a de-classified video was shown in mid-March 2024 following the successful firing trials in Scotland on a remote range where the test firing unit destroyed small airborne targets for the first time.

DSTL's Senior Programme Partner, Ben Maddison, explained how the laser unit test proved that it could direct an intense beam of light with pin-point precision. It was so accurate, he said, that it could hit a £1 coin at a distance of 1 kilometre. Although a coloured beam was shown in the video this was for illustrative purposes only and DSTL pointed