BvS10 Viking Technical Documentation

Making sure technical documentation is as versatile as the vehicle

Facts:

- **6 variants of vehicle**
- **2,327 data files**

- **2,436 illustrations**
- **5,188 page AESP suite**

Operating in austere environments

BvS10 Viking is a dual body, amphibious vehicle designed to provide mobility in the harshest of environments where other vehicles cannot.

Although the vehicle was able to go wherever needed, the interactive yet IT-intensive technical documentation associated with it proved to be less adaptable. The UK Forces needed documentation that was accessible and easy to adhere to, even when communications networks and power were scarce.

The decision was made to convert the interactive documents into Army Engineering Support Publications (AESP). A more standard version of technical documentation, the AESPs could be relied upon to be available, whatever the environment.

Breaking it down

BAE Systems Hägglunds tasked CDS DS with the conversion and rationalisation of six independent Commercial Off the Shelf manuals into a single multi-variant AESP suite.

We did this with a blended approach; utilising both a bespoke in-house software solution and drawing on the experience and expertise of our team. This approach proved successful as it eradicated the errors inherent with a strictly software solution by including the oversight of a technical author. Our authors are first and foremost engineers, but they also understood the military environment in which the vehicle was being asked to operate; this understanding is something that software will never be able to fully replicate.

First, the software converted thousands of source data files into a format that would suit the AESP suite. Illustration files were also converted and automatically inserted as part of the conversion process. This was a quick process, but more care did have to be taken in the design of the software for this project to ensure the original Swedish data module tags were replicated correctly.

DIAGRAM

Next, our team of five worked tirelessly from our secure site to improve and quality assure the documents before delivering them to BAE Systems Hägglunds.

Delivered within nine months

All 2,327 data files and 2,436 illustrations where put into a 5,188 page AESP suite within nine months. Our efficiency and accuracy bred confidence and resulted in us being asked support with the BAE Systems BV206 vehicle.

Future use

We created a fully operational gamified training solution, that not only demonstrates the blend of research, gaming, digital learning design and learning analytics (exploiting xAPI), but one that could be applied to multiple real-life scenarios and future outbreaks.

Research and analysis of the trial is still ongoing, with further test periods scheduled for this year. So far, it seems that participants who stated a greater level of leadership experience were quicker at decision making.   More research time is being used to capture, analyse and understand the findings of this work.

In time, this research has the potential to allow us to contribute knowledge on the following:

- **Issues that leaders have been facing and the solutions available to them**
- **Training and decision making under pressure**
- **Identifying individual learning needs**