BAE Systems will pay towards educating children in Tanzania after signing an agreement brokered by the Serious Fraud Office

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The Serious Fraud Office, the Government of Tanzania, BAE Systems and the Department for International Development (DFID) have now signed a Memorandum of Understanding enabling the payment of £29.5 million plus accrued interest to be paid by BAE Systems for educational projects in Tanzania. The payment follows the settlement between BAE Systems and the SFO (see previous press release of 21 December 2010).

The UK Government has been helping BAE and the Government of Tanzania to determine what the money should be used for and how it will be delivered and monitored to ensure the funds are used effectively. Textbooks will be purchased for all 16,000 primary schools in the country and as a result 8.3 million children will benefit. Emphasis will be placed on the following key subjects of Kiswahli, English, Maths and Science.

Having a textbook alone will not improve the quality of education, so funds will also be used to provide all 175,000 primary school teachers with teachers’ guides, syllabi and syllabi guides to help improve their teaching skills. Up to £5 million will be spent on the purchase of desks to benefit primary school children living in nine districts where the need for investment in education is considered greatest.

The availability of these materials will support the Government of Tanzania’s priority to improve education quality in primary schools.

The procurement process will be rigorously and independently monitored to ensure monies are used solely for the benefit of the Tanzanian people.

Commenting on the agreement, the Director of the Serious Fraud Office, Richard Alderman, said: "This agreement is a first for the SFO which piloted it through the UK legal system. It provides a satisfactory outcome for all concerned but most of all for the Tanzanian people and I am personally delighted that SFO staff were able to achieve this".