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## CONSENT FORM

### How does complexity affect the successful engineering of systems throughout a system lifecycle?

#### Project Outline:

You have been selected as an interviewee as you are someone who has engaged with system complexity evaluation within Thales Group. Today I would like to talk to you about your experiences with system complexity. The purpose of interview is to examine your thoughts on evaluating system complexity, complexity evaluation and systems development. It is about letting you express your perspectives, opinions and understanding in your own terms.

The interview should take around 90 minutes, and I have 17 questions to ask you, however we may diverge to discuss more pertinent points and we may skip some questions if they are not relevant. You will be asked several questions concerning your thoughts on evaluating system complexity and your thoughts on a complexity evaluation decision support tool.

I will be recording the interview on an encrypted mobile telephone, I will also be making my notes during the interview. The recording will be transferred and secured on an encrypted drive. My notes, when not in use, are stored in a locked cabinet. This data will be stored until the PhD is accepted for publication, whereupon the raw data will be deleted. From the notes and recording, I will be creating secondary data in form of textual excerpts from the interviews, this document will be open access, stored for 10 years on the University of Bristol data repository and stored in accordance with the UK Research Council Data Management Guidelines.

Your responses will be kept confidential. I will be ensuring anonymity by randomly assigning you a number and referring to anything you say using only this number. Only I have access to the notebook containing the translation from assigned number and identify. Your identity may be disclosed in publications, for example a published PhD thesis, however, it should never be possible to attribute interview findings with individuals.

You do not need to take part in this interview and your participation is entirely voluntary. You do not need to discuss anything with me that you are uncomfortable with and you can terminate the interview (withdraw consent) at any time without having to give a reason. However, if you wish to withdraw at a later date please note that once the data has been anonymised and analysed your data cannot be withdrawn.

I will check at several stages that you are happy to continue with the interview but please be aware you are free to stop the interviews at any point. If you would like to pause for a comfort break please just let me know. Do you have any questions at this stage? If you are willing to proceed and participate in this interview please confirm by answering the questions on the next page and signing to give your consent.

## CONSENT FORM

### How does complexity affect the successful engineering of systems throughout a system lifecycle?

Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge

|  | YES                      | NO                       |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>HAVE YOU:</b>   |                          |                          |
| • been given information explaining about the study?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss this study?                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • received satisfactory answers to all questions you asked?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • received enough information about the study for you to make a decision about your participation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>DO YOU UNDERSTAND:</b>  |                          |                          |
| That you are free to withdraw from the study and free to withdraw your data prior to final consent |                          |                          |
| • at any time?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • without having to give a reason for withdrawing?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**I hereby fully and freely consent to my participation in this study**

Participant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in BLOCK Letters: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any concerns related to your participation in this study please direct them to the Faculty of Engineering Research Ethics Committee, via Liam McKervey, Research Governance and Ethics Officer (Tel: 0117 331 7472 email: [Liam.McKervey@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Liam.McKervey@bristol.ac.uk))