

## **WELCOME**

So welcome to the 2014 SCEG Conference from me - the Chairman. This conference has now become a landmark gathering for the private security industry in the UK and elsewhere. It annually headlines the key events that are at the forefront of the industry, and also promotes the day to day work of SCEG and its sub-committees.

## **SPONSORS**

I must early in proceedings thank those that made the format of this conference so special, our sponsors.

- The MAIN Sponsor is Holman Fenwick Willan, an international law firm and an active Associate Member of SCEG. Thanks go to Elinor Dautlich a partner in the firm, and very good to see the whole delegation from HFW. Later in the morning Elinor will be part of the standards and accredited certification panel.
- Next to thank is Lloyds Register Quality Assurance or LRQA. As a Certification Body LRQA have issued accredited certification against ISO 28007 to several SCEG companies. LRQA is an Associate Member of SCEG. A particular thank you to Ron Bishop and the team here today from LRQA, and Ron will be speaking later in the morning.
- Finally, many thanks to Hanson Wade for their support. They specialise in bringing people together through outstanding business conferences. I am sure we have all benefitted from their work. So thanks to Gareth Pearce and all the delegates from Hanson Wade.

## **QUALITY OF CONFERENCE**

While sponsors enable the style of the conference, they cannot alone enable the quality of the debate.

Here today you just have to look at the speakers, panelists and wider audience gathered here today to see the INTEREST in this event, which in turn demonstrates the NEED for the conference.

Let's look at the array of speakers and panel members.

To name but three of them:

Lord Richards, and two ministers of state: Stephen Hammond and Norman Baker. Stephen has spoken at other SCEG events, not least last year's conference.

The key personnel in this auditorium:

All SCEG members and their guests, especially the **CLIENTS** we have here today. It is vital that you understand what the UK PSC industry is doing and where it may well be going!

These complex environments are not easy and working together in them should generate a close partnership, to ensure that all stakeholders benefit.

Our Associate Members from FCO, DfT, MoD, DfID and Home Office. ADS Chief executive Officer, Paul Everitt, who you have heard from already. ADS' support to host SCEG as a Special Interest group is vital.

A particular welcome to our visitors from abroad:

The US, France, Switzerland. Members from the ICoC Association Board and the wider support organisation in Geneva.

MUST say a special welcome to Andrew Orsmond, the new executive director, and those from the Association Board and the Secretariat.

## **SCEG's UNIQUE POSITION**

- There are those that watch from afar - I am told with some envy of the role and significance that SCEG fulfills.
- Our special relationship started when ADS won a competitive tender for the FCO and SCEG was established as a Special Interest Group.

- This relationship now extends to all areas of Government; FCO, DfT, Home Office, MoD and their departments; clients, Civil society, NGOs and the industry as a whole.
- This position enables us to support the development of best practice for the industry, to ensure the maximum benefits for clients, communities and governments within whose countries we operate, for our people and for the UK.

## **CONFERENCE THEME**

So with this position of ours, if we consider the Conference theme:

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FROM COMPLEXITY AND UNCERTAINTY**, there can be few organisations as well placed as SCEG to support our members to **REDUCE THE CHALLENGES** and **INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITIES** of these complex and uncertain environments.

## **RÉSUMÉ OF THE YEAR – WHATS BEEN GOING ON?**

I thought a brief résumé of SCEG's activities would be useful at this conference. Really to benchmark where we are and the key issues we have addressed together.

- I do this as many members are hard at work, day in and day out, trying to earn money in this complex business of ours, and so may have missed some of the major muscle movements.
- There has been huge progress being made across the industry, with the maritime sector the major consumer of time!
- Some clients here today may not be aware of these activities.

## **Standards and Certification.**

- The UK Accreditation Service pilot for PSC1 and 28,007 has been a success. There are now 4 Certification Bodies accredited, all of whom are SCEG Associate Members. And we must thank UKAS for their drive to get this done in what was a very challenging timescale.

- Thanks also to SCEG's Standards and Accreditation group, SAG, which has worked tirelessly to bring many potentially diverse organisations together to support members and the process itself.

These are:

UKAS, Dept for Transport, FCO, BIS Export Control Organisation, all the CBs, BSI, Lloyds register, BIMCO and British Chamber of Shipping, and if I have missed anyone - apologies.

- An increasing number of SCEG members (17?) have achieved accredited certification against PSC1 or ISO 28007. Others are deep into Stage 1 or 2. These are great achievements and the UK is the first in the World to have this independent assessment by CBs. All details on the SCEG website. These are major achievements.
- But there is more to do to sustain these standards and SCEG members and SCEG itself are playing a crucial role in the process to move them to full ISO standards. This is important work to ensure that the standard is protected.

## **ICOC Association.**

- 157 members are signed up from 21 countries: from the UK and USA, to India and the Philippines, to Ghana and Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The Association's Board has met twice and has done a considerable amount of preliminary work. Now that it has its Executive Director in place I am sure the pace will accelerate.
- So to Andrew Orsmond, very good luck with your challenges ahead.
- ICOC Association has some way to go to develop, with Civil Society Organisations, with industry and with Government, the protocols for their oversight mechanism. But we in the UK are keen to fully support and advise this important process.
- The criteria for membership of the Association were circulated in March and the Board has identified ANSI PSC.1-2012 and ISO 28000/PAS 28007 as the first two standards to be assessed to meet those criteria.
- These assessments will include specifying any additional information relevant to the human rights and humanitarian impacts of operations to assess whether a company's systems and policies meet the requirements of the Code.

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- The goal is to have these assessments completed by late May and for there to be **NO DUPLICATION** with the standards and **AS LIGHT A TOUCH AS POSSIBLE**. The aim being to ensure compliance with the Code, not to have to generate a new standard per se.

## Important Day to Day Business for Members.

- UK Flagged Floating Armouries.
- Firearms Course for MSOs on UK Flagged Ships and in time all operators.
- Seaman's cards and Documentation to PCASPs.
- DBS Checks and lots more besides.

## Outreach Activity.

- Without reaching out to clients, other trade organisations, other nations PSCs, and government organisations, we can do all we like, but with little commercial traction.
- Additional expense to achieve these higher standards and sustain them in firms in an attempt to gain **COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE** will be lost, as cheaper – less well qualified firms will be hired.
- So outreach very important. SCEG and UK Government have been heavily engaged in outreach activities throughout late 2013 and 2014 to date.
  - Chair of the HofC Defence Committee to discuss ways in which the private security sector might influence SDSR 2015.
  - House of Lords Maritime briefing day.
  - Lloyds of London briefing day.
  - This conference and more besides.

In short there is plenty going on with SCEG in support of members and through them, the support of our all-important clients.

## THE FUTURE – YOUR VIEWS – A SURVEY

Last time I addressed the SCEG conference, I suggested that the Executive Committee would look to better meet members' **COMMERCIAL** needs. This

remains the requirement and today we are launching a survey amongst members to identify your main requirements from SCEG as your trade organisation.

The Director, Paul Gibson, will coordinate this survey, using expertise from within ADS, and this will be circulated to you shortly after this conference. Please DO RESPOND to the survey. Without the data that gives us, your executive committee will be unable to shape the Way Ahead.

For some areas we will ask specifically for your views, such as:

- SCEG membership criteria: Full, associate, observer??
- Terms and conditions for that membership.
- Frequency of main SCEG meetings.
- Outreach ideas.
- Even stronger international links with US, EU and other nations.

But in the main we look to gain your feedback on SCEG, how can we do better, how can we in the post-standards era better support your commercial activities to ensure that the UK PSC industry prospers while demonstrating the best possible practice worldwide.

## **CLOSURE**

So I close by suggesting that there is much to be proud of as the UK industry and SCEG looks back over the last 12 months, with the highlight being the efforts of many to bring to fruition two standards to which Private security companies, land and maritime, can now certify and be held to account. These standards will very openly demonstrate which firms operate to the highest standards and who safeguard the human rights of all stakeholders.

But lots more to do:

- We should take the standards and establish them as the norm for UK and global PSCs.

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- We must use them, *in partnership with civil society organisations and Government*, to take forwards in *a light touch* manner the criteria for ICOC Association membership,

AND

- We must ensure that our clients see the benefits of contracting with certified UK firms,
- EVEN if these may be slightly more expensive.
- This is a commercial imperative.

**THANKS FOR LISTENING**

Andrew Farquhar

14 May 2014

at the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, London.