

*SCEG Maritime Security Symposium 13<sup>th</sup> Sep 17 Opening Address*

Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon and welcome to this most iconic venue, the Old Library at Lloyds of London for the Security in Complex Environments Group Maritime Security Symposium 2017.

- I am delighted to see so many delegates here today from across the full spectrum of the maritime stakeholder community. The truly international makeup of speakers and delegates reflects the importance of maritime security and the pivotal role played by Private Maritime Security Companies (PMSCs) in ensuring the safety of the maritime space.
- For those not familiar with the Security in Complex Environments Group, or SCEG, it is a special interest group within ADS, the trade organisation for Aerospace Defence Security and Space and created in 2011 for and by UK security companies working overseas in complex, often hostile environments.
- Subsequently appointed by the UK Government as a trusted partner and authoritative voice of industry, SCEG was initially formed by 3 UK companies and now has a membership of over 60 companies from both land and maritime of which a 1/3 are Private Maritime Security Companies with a further 20% associate members from the legal, insurance, logistic supply chain and accreditation sectors.
- From inception, SCEG has developed very positive and productive relationships across a number of Government Dept.'s including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Dept. for Transport; both of whom are Affiliate Members, the Home Office, Department for International Trade and Ministry of Defence and I delighted to see those departments so well represented here today.
- SCEG remains the principal link between the UK Government and increasingly international security industry through a quite unique and mutually beneficial partnership whereby Government has direct access to industry while SCEG enjoys reciprocal access. This has enabled SCEG to engage with Government across a plethora of maritime security regulatory and compliance related areas from, floating armouries and controlled goods licensing to operator vetting and training competence.
- SCEG members range from large multinationals to small and medium enterprises from across the range of security risk management and related service sectors both land and maritime including several non-UK registered companies as SCEG has sought to internationalise its membership and reach.
- SCEG companies are operating worldwide in many varied complex environments from South America and the Middle East to Africa and Asia. Their services cover a vast array of specialist capability at national and international level including capacity building to Governments and international organisations, risk mitigation services to the global shipping, telecoms, energy and extractives sectors, training and advisory services to the UN and NGOs. Its member PMSCs are actively engaged in all three of the most prolific maritime threat areas, the Gulf of Guinea, Indian Ocean and South-East Asia delivering kinetic and non-kinetic solutions to meet the challenges of the evolving and ever amorphous threat while seeking to innovate and diversify their offering to mitigate that threat.

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- By joining the SCEG, PMSCs demonstrate a willingness to embrace regulation and professional standards to ensure that their operations are transparent and accountable, compliant with international and national legislation and critically with human rights at the heart of their business models.
- The maritime security industry has worked extremely hard to get its house in order and has indeed come a very long way from the early days of unaccountable companies delivering services in an opaque and unregulated space. Progress to the internationally accredited and regulated industry environment we now see has been significant and expeditious and while avoiding trying to advocate the normalisation of the use of armed security in the merchant marine and offshore space, I believe the private maritime security industry has earned its place as a legitimate part of the maritime supply chain. It is very encouraging and satisfying to see the extent to which PMSCs are now viewed as a trusted partner and an increasingly accepted part of the solution to the many and varied security risk management challenges faced by their clients.
- SCEG and has been particularly influential in those key developments for the maritime security industry and a major stakeholder in the creation of the industry standard ISO 28007 and pivotal to its implementation. SCEG through its symbiotic relationship with the Dept. for International Trade played a major role in the development and implementation of the Open General Trade Control License (MAP) and provided the primary interface between industry and Government when shaping its subsequent revision.
- SCEG provides a platform for sharing ideas and harnessing best practise pan industry with member companies routinely collaborating through working group initiatives to provide solutions to often complicated issues of vital importance to industry. This enables the SCEG to provide expert support and advice to its members; discuss technical issues of mutual interest across industry; provide a forum for government engagement with the private security sector; and capture views to represent to the UK Government. Two of these groups: The Maritime Security Working Group and Standards and Accreditation Working Group, have been pivotal in the evolution of industry accredited certification and the continued development of best practice within the sector. Current examples of which are the maritime weapons register, vetting of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) for UK flag vessels, and life firing competence.
- SCEG has also worked hard to create an inclusive approach which seeks to build and nurture relationships with our members clients and many other industry stakeholders such as the ICoCA, United Kingdom Accreditation Service, BIMCO, City and Guilds, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, PnI Clubs, the UK Chamber of Shipping and Company Security Officers Alliance to name a few. This critical stakeholder and client engagement is achieved through a proactive outreach programme designed to inform and educate, showcase the considerable capability and excellent work delivered by SCEG companies while championing the cause for the universal application and adherence to internationally accredited standards. Today's Symposium is another example of positive multi stakeholder engagement.
- To further demonstrate the very close relationship the SCEG enjoys with Government, we will now receive a short video message from the UK Shipping Minister, the Right Honourable John Hayes CBE MP.

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- Thanks to the Minister for acknowledging the relevance and importance of SCEG and for such a positive endorsement of the outstanding work being delivered on the global stage by the private maritime security industry with SCEG PMSCs at the vanguard.
- We are indeed privileged to have such a stellar line up of erudite speakers today. Each panel will address key areas of critical interest for all sector stakeholders. I encourage maximum audience participation during the Q&A and look forward to some lively debate, however, may I politely ask that any commercial interests are reserved for the lobby and ask all to respect Chatham House Rules please.