

Presentation

Director, thank you for the introduction. Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon. I am delighted so many delegates have been able to join us today and I would like to take this opportunity to offer an insight into the Security in Complex Environments Group or SCEG.

- The SCEG is a special interest group within ADS, the trade organisation for Aviation Defence Security and Space and was created in 2011 for and by UK security companies working overseas in complex, often hostile environments. Appointed shortly thereafter by the UK Government as a trusted partner and authoritative voice of industry, SCEG earnestly set about delivering its primary objective, which was the creation, implementation and through life evolutionary development of professional industry standards and third party accreditation.
- Initially formed from just 3 UK companies, the SCEG has grown its membership to 60 companies comprising an 80% core of both land and maritime security providers with 20% associate members from the legal, insurance, logistic supply chain and accreditation sectors.
- The SCEG has established a number of working groups 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 best practice.
- As so positively articulated by Baroness Anelay in her video message, the UK Govt is committed to raising standards for the private security sector across the globe with SCEG at the vanguard of that initiative. As such SCEG has recently undertaken a process of conceptual development in terms of reach and scope while seeking to evaluate and indeed redefine the definition of what constitutes a “complex” environment. In a constantly evolving and extremely challenging market coupled with an increasingly nuanced and asymmetric risk management landscape, in order to remain relevant and continue to provide value added benefit to its members, SCEG continues to innovate and while ensuring security in its pure sense remains the functional centre of gravity, SCEG has widened its reach in terms of sector engagement and geographical footprint.
- Consequently, the SCEG’s international membership continues to grow and now includes companies from the Netherlands, UAE, Iraq, and Kurdistan, each of which has made a commitment to embrace regulation through overarching professional industry standards and either already has accredited certification or is actively working towards achieving such.
- SCEG members range from large multinationals to small and medium enterprises from across the spectrum of security risk management and related service sectors including armed and unarmed security both land and maritime, consultancy, training and advisory, crisis risk management, response and business continuity, intelligence and risk analysis, procurement and logistics, ordnance disposal and due diligence.

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- SCEG companies are operating worldwide in many varied complex environments from South America and the Middle East to Africa and Asia. The services delivered 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 telecoms, energy and extractives sectors, training and advisory services to the UN and NGOs.
- Each member company by joining has demonstrated 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.
- On a practical level, SCEG provides a platform for sharing ideas and harnessing best practise pan industry and as industry has embraced standards and evolved its commitment to self-regulation, the positive forum provided by SCEG has engendered a collegiate approach amongst its members to augment the work done by the SCEG Executive Committee helping to shape doctrine, develop procedures and introduce value added capability. Some examples of which are the development and implementation of the now ubiquitous Maritime Security Officer Course achieved in partnership with City and Guilds and the Disclosure and Barring Service offered to SCEG companies for the enhanced vetting of personnel.
- Since inception, SCEG has developed very positive and productive relationships with 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 - many of whom are represented here today.
- SCEG remains the primary interface 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 the SCEG enjoys reciprocal access. This provides an enabling function to industry and allows for critical sharing of information helping to shape and inform policy while creating commercial opportunity. Some notable recent examples are the Foreign & Commonwealth Office outreach briefing to industry on the 1HMG supplier procurement platform and the hugely significant collaboration between SCEG and what was formerly the Dept. for Business, Innovation and Skills to facilitate the revised Open General Trade Control License for maritime anti-piracy, which governs the movement of controlled goods and is so critical to the compliance requirements of the maritime security industry.
- The negotiation of the International Code of Conduct or ICoC for Private Security Service providers which was published in 2010 was a game changer for the industry. This for the first time codified principles in international law and best practice to govern the activities of private security operations. The adoption of the Code marked an end to the era of freewheeling and scandalous behaviour within the industry, and SCEG made adherence to the ICoC a requirement of its due diligence. The further negotiation as required under para 7a of the ICoC to develop internationally recognised operational and business practice standards to help assess compliance with the principles of the Code was a further major step. The American national standard PSC1 published in 2012 and its ISO counterpart published in September 2016 made the principles of the ICoC auditable. There was now a real incentive for companies to travel the route of certification to demonstrate their respect for human rights and adherence to the principles of the Code.

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- Further, the ICoC Association or ICoCA was created in 2013 and SCEG holds observer status with the Association. There are now 15 SCEG companies who are members of the ICoCA, currently as temporary members and it is hoped that, after three years, the ICoCA can soon further progress their transition to full membership. We are very grateful to those individuals from SCEG companies who have served on the ICoCA Board and sought to give impetus to its deliberations. Indeed we extend our best wishes to the 3 British industry representatives who are running for election at next week’s ICoCA AGA in Geneva.
- SCEG has also worked hard to create an inclusive approach which seeks to build and nurture relations with many other industry stakeholders such as the United Kingdom Accreditation Service, Baltic and International Maritime Council, City and Guilds, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Company Security Officers Alliance to name a few. Wherever SCEG companies interact with other stakeholders, agencies and regulatory bodies, it is important for SCEG to engage as widely as possible with those entities to ensure maximum facilitation, education, sharing of information and development of best practice.
- SCEG strives to maximise the widest possible engagement with all stakeholders and members client’s through a proactive and informative outreach programme. As you will hopefully experience today, these outreach events are designed to inform and educate on matters of critical strategic importance for current and future trends, 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.
- The SCEG also deals with the human dynamics of the industry and has: promoted support for maritime security operatives left stranded around the Indian Ocean when a maritime security company went bankrupt, and similarly for those British maritime operatives imprisoned by the Indian authorities at no fault of their own. A number of companies were very generous in providing support to those individuals and their families and we are delighted that the ABF - the Soldiers Charity, so instrumental in orchestrating that support is here today.

So what does the SCEG logo tell you about a company?

- I would like to think that SCEG and its member companies are synonymous with best practice, compliance and transparency. Each member company has made a demonstrable commitment to exacting, accredited and accountable professional standards underpinned by robust corporate responsibility and good governance with human rights and sound ethics at the core of their businesses. In a commoditised market place increasingly driven to the lowest common denominator, SCEG companies offer a quality differentiator that provides peace of mind to clients that their people, assets and reputation are in the best possible hands.

I thank you for your attention and welcome any questions later in the session.