

Email to JSaRC Sent 21 March 2020

As we discussed SCEG is able on behalf of government to examine the potential contribution of capabilities in security and risk mitigation companies to support UK Government's COVID-19 strategies. SCEG has had a unique partnership with the UK Government since 2011. It is a trusted organisation providing authoritative advice without a commercial objective and is ideally placed to provide an interface between government and the private security and risk mitigation providers. SCEG companies have considerable expertise, capabilities and reach and will be able to react to government requests in a short time frame. The challenge is for government to articulate those requests. I would be delighted to meet (virtually) with you and colleagues to explore this further

SCEG members include multinationals and SME with niche capabilities. Several of them have well established relationships with the UK government including the world's largest private security services company which has provided services to a range of government departments. Several SCEG companies have capabilities that may be highly relevant and of considerable utility to the UK Government as it implements its COVID-19 strategies. The resources of these companies are available now to back-fill or complement staff when first response teams need replacement or replenishment because of sickness, exhaustion or the need to be scaled up. This will be a key consideration given the long term and high tempo challenge of COVID-19.

The Capabilities of SCEG companies include:

Business Continuity and Crisis Management

SCEG companies have the ability to mobilise Business Continuity and Crisis Management consultants to provide the UK government, Local Authorities and other government departments with everything from Crisis Management Teams to individual experts, advisors or augmentees as required.

Contingency planning

There is a highly relevant expertise within the planning staff of the companies. Several individuals have direct and relevant experience of integrated contingency planning for civil emergencies including flooding, foot and mouth and terrorism.

Logistics and supply chain management

In the multinational security companies there is considerable experience in and access to logisticians who could assist with supply chain management and security. If neighbourhood logistical distribution hubs are set up these could be protected by suitably trained and qualified individuals with SIA licenses. Licensed personnel could also be used to deliver supplies to vulnerable citizens.

Security Consultancy

Companies provide consulting services for security audits and physical security assessments. Any security issue, be it physical or procedural can be addressed by their consultants. This may become relevant to the construction of temporary buildings and sites for perhaps sensitive counter-COVID-19 work.

Security Systems

Companies offers the most complete and innovative protection systems on the market including smart security and alarm system technology. These are ideal for office premises which may be temporarily out of use, or for a 24/7/365 technical over-watch of occupied, but vulnerable offices or warehouses. This might become relevant in this pandemic due to the requirement to secure critical supplies, such as vaccines or test equipment.

Travel Security and Duty of Care

Travel Security Services provided by companies ensure employees are looked after via smart phone tracking systems to identify their locations globally and Virus 'push alerts' to smart phones, which cover COVID-19 progress and mitigation measures. They also provide a global response service should it be required, from Operations Rooms.

SCEG companies operate across the globe and provide expertise and turn-key solutions in numerous countries including in a pandemic environment.

One SCEG company has developed a ‘check-in monitoring tool’ to help the public and private sector provide their duty of care to all employees now that most of them are having to work from home. This enables a company to monitor the wellbeing of an individual and highlights issues as they occur. This could be of significant benefit for the NHS. The system allows organisations to load in data about their personnel and schedule them times each working day (or as frequently as required) to check in. The system sends a reminder at each check in time to each user. If they check in they turn green, in the monitoring list, if they do not, they turn amber until the end of the designated tolerance time. Once they go past the tolerance time, they turn red and a notification goes to their manager (or the private security company). This system shows the company everyone is well or otherwise and highlights potential issues quickly if people miss their check in.

Medical

SCEG Companies are actively engaged with the provision of 24/7 medical advice to those travellers overseas with concerns about COVID-19. Operation centres are supporting those clients with suspected Covid-19 symptoms, whether they are at a medical facility or self-isolating. One SCEG company has been the UK Government’s preferred global medical assistance provider of choice for the FCO. This company responds annually to circa 35,000 assistance cases in over 160 countries and conducts over 2,000 aeromedical evacuations from over 110 countries. The core assistance services include:

- 24/7 multilingual medical and security response/assistance
- Outpatient and inpatient medical case management
- Global medical repatriation and evacuation
- Political evacuations/repatriations and natural disaster evacuations/repatriations
- Embedded medical consultancy/personnel, domestic or international
- Medical emergency response plans
- Web based e-learning, travel security risk awareness, LGBTQ, Malaria, COVID 19
- Medical screening

Significant pool of trained manpower

SCEG represent two of the largest security providers in the world. They have between them tens of thousands of personnel who can be called upon to assist the UK government if required. These numbers have become available because they had been trained and vetted for summer events that have now been cancelled. If they are deployed in support of the UK government tasks this training will be relevant. This manpower could be allocated tasks as

diverse as drivers, hospital porters, security professionals, managing operations rooms and call out centres, medics etc. Such a deployment would alleviate pinch points amongst the front-line staff and allow the UK government flexibility to back-fill or complement staff when first response teams need replacement or replenishment because of sickness, exhaustion or the need to scale up.

These operators will already be known to the Home Office via the SIA licensing scheme. All will be vetted and for sensitive tasks only security cleared individuals will be employed. The company directors and managers will also be licensed, and the operations will be insured.

Technical solutions

The COVID -19 symptoms in the initial stages include an individual experiencing a rapidly elevating core temperature. This symptom is easily identified with a quality thermal imaging device. One SCEG company in partnership with Dahua Technology is bringing to market a ground-breaking Thermal Body Temperature Measurement System which will enable site management to implement an early isolation procedure. This system has been installed in thousands of locations in China and across Asia.

This technology could be a vital tool in helping to maintain the continuous availability of workforce on site, whilst also minimising COVID -19 contagion risks.

- The Thermal Body Temperature Measurement System shown in the attachment is available for purchase on a fast turnaround and installation.
- Staff would be trained, or the company would manage the system.
- The system offers extremely precise temperature readings of everyone passing within their field of view, and are able to detect differences of $\pm 0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$
- These cameras can scan up to 30 people at the same time to alert management to possible virus threats.
- The system is designed to be either standalone or can be networked and viewed from a control room.

To see a short video demonstration is click here: [HERE](#)

Used in conjunction with other measures as advised by the WHO, Public Health England and other medical bodies, this technology will enhance the operational continuity of a site.

One SCEG company has particular expertise in the cyber space providing threat intelligence and the ability to monitor 'fake news'.

Beyond a list of capabilities, I want to remind you that government contracting with private security companies is routine business which can be enacted quickly. The legal and liability issues have all been addressed in the past. The private sector, particularly the security industry and other contractors have supported UK government for decades - providing equipment and services. Current examples include guards on UK flagged vessels, close protection of UK embassies and until recently, large numbers of contractors supporting the MoD in Afghanistan. New deployments include private medical providers supporting the NHS. All these activities are performed by companies fully insured for their liabilities to their client (HMG), third parties and their employees, with no recourse to UK Government. As the client, the UK Government can rely on an assured service by companies with robust insurance from A rated insurers.

Conclusion

SCEG companies have unique skills and capabilities that can be drawn on by the UK Government as it deals with this pandemic. A critical area may prove to be the need to complement staff when first response teams need replacement or replenishment because of sickness, exhaustion or the need to be scaled up. Government contracting with private security companies is routine business. The sector will step up to whatever challenge government poses to defeat COVID -19. SCEG colleagues are on standby to meet government officials as and when required.