



PRESS RELEASE

UK Security and Resilience Industry Suppliers Council (RISC)

28 March 2007

NEW INDUSTRY BODY LAUNCHED TO ENHANCE UK NATIONAL SECURITY

Home Secretary John Reid welcomed the launch today of the Security and Resilience Industry Suppliers Council (RISC). Dr Reid emphasised that the private sector has a vital role in countering the UK terrorism threat.

Speaking at launch of RISC Dr John Reid said:

“We must have the capacity and competence to harness technology in more agile and decisive ways. That is why the partnership offered by RISC with Government is so important. As an alliance of trade associations, suppliers, academia and think tanks, I know RISC offers a powerful channel of communication between Government and markets in security and resilience from which we all need to benefit. I welcome this fresh initiative.”

Launching RISC, Chair Stephen Phipson said:

“Through the formation of RISC the UK security and resilience sector will act as one, in concert with Government, to deliver a significantly fortified frontline of security and resilience.”

RISC is an alliance of suppliers, trade associations and academics. It provides a single industry voice and channel of communication for Government on strategic issues affecting national security and resilience. This will foster unprecedented Industry-Government partnership and dialogue to counter international and domestic terrorism.

Following a meeting Dr Reid and Mr Phipson said that RISC’s work will deliver in three key areas:

Help make Britain’s defences more versatile and agile.

A long-term relationship between RISC and Government will yield knowledge of capability that is needed - today and tomorrow. This will reduce the time it takes to move from identifying new problem-solving technology to getting it into the field. RISC will start work on filling the capability gaps that exist - in advance of, and not after, attacks are launched.

Help better define R&D priorities

R & D resources are limited, be they Government or Industry, and the range of potential threats large. We will focus on key priorities and ensure we allocate the most appropriate resources to the task in hand. Working together as RISC, with the

Government as our partner, we can develop an R&D 'Road Map'. This will put us in a much stronger position for the future.

Help deliver a competitive and innovative UK Industry

By introducing longer-term procurement plans, underpinned by clear guidance, Government will incentivise industry to invest its resources and capabilities into long-term UK projects. Flowing from this will be a pipeline of R&D and products capable of meeting whatever risks intelligence is suggesting and responding to whatever the incident might be.

RISC will immediately embark on a number of key priorities, including:

- Developing a 'R&D roadmap' with Government that will ensure industry investment is better aligned with Government strategic priorities; and
- A strategy to safely deliver major public events, including the 2012 Olympics.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

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Notes to Editor

1. RISC was established in 2006. Over 2000 companies or 80% of the supply base are represented through its members, from prime contractors and global leaders through to Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups.

2. RISC Members include:

Trade Associations

Association of Police and Public Security Suppliers
British Security Industry Association
Defence Manufacturers Association
Intellect
NBC UK
Society of British Aerospace Companies

Academic Institutions

RUSI
Chatham House

Industry

BAESystems
EDS Defence
ESRI UK
Nexor
QinetiQ
SELEX Sistemi Integrati
SERCO
Smiths Detection
Thales UK