

## **EUROPEAN SECURITY FORUM, BRUSSELS, 23 SEPTEMBER**

**Stephen Phipson, President, Smiths Detection**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- It is a great pleasure to be speaking to you at the opening of Smith Detection's office in Brussels.
- I am particularly honoured to have Gilles De Kerchove and John Reid here today. Thank-you for joining us.

### **BACKGROUND ON STEPHEN**

- For some of you in the audience, this will be your first acquaintance with both me and Smiths Detection so I thought I would take this opportunity to give some quick introductions.
- As well as being the President of Smiths Detection, I am also the Chairman of the UK Government's Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation. This role involves acting as an ambassador on behalf of the Government for UK business abroad.
- I was also formerly the Chairman of the UK Security and Resilience Industry Suppliers Community (RISC). RISC is an alliance of thousands of suppliers, trade associations, and think tanks with links to academia that provides a single industry voice and channel of communication for Government on strategic issues affecting national security and resilience. This is fostering unprecedented industry-government partnership and dialogue in the United Kingdom to counter international and domestic terrorism.

### **BACKGROUND ON SMITHS**

- Smiths Detection is a world leader in the provision of Government regulated detection systems, more than double the size of its nearest competitor. We have over 40,000 x-ray machines helping over 100 Governments worldwide to ensure public safety and economic stability across the world.
- I am genuinely proud to work for a European company, with a large production base in the continent, that is breaking new ground in the security and inspection market. Our portfolio of detection technologies is becoming a critical layer of security at airports, ports, borders and critical national infrastructure.
- You might also be interested to know that Smiths is probably the closest co-operator with Government R&D establishments worldwide in the security market -- accounting for 5% of turnover. We invest 10% of turnover in private venture R&D projects in security and spend over 45 million alone on R&D in explosives technologies.

## **SMITHS IN BRUSSELS**

- The fact that Smiths is opening its office here today is recognition of just how important Brussels is for the company. Our goal is to become trusted partners with the community here and contribute Smiths' weight of expertise in the technology area to the wide-ranging public debates that are now taking place in the security area, ranging from counter-terrorism policy to critical infrastructure. My colleague John Backhouse, whom I think is well known by many in Brussels, has been instrumental in organising and setting up Smiths Detection's Government Relations activities – thank you John for all your efforts in this regard.
- I believe now is a particularly opportune time for Smiths to launch its new office here in Brussels owing to the launch of the so-called 'Stockholm programme' -- which as many of you will form the next 5 year plan for Justice and Home Affairs from 2010 to 2014.

## **BUILDING PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

- As I believe the proposals in the Stockholm agenda make clear, if we are build the area of enhanced "freedom, security and justice" in Europe that the Commission rightly advocates, I believe that one of the key requirements will be growing cooperation between government and industry in the future.
- I mentioned earlier, in the UK context, that creating stronger industry-government relations has been one of the pioneering ventures that I have pushed forwards through forums such as UKTI DSO and RISC. Some of the immediate benefits that have come from these efforts in the UK have included developing a research and development 'roadmap' with Government that will ensure industry investment is better aligned with government strategic priorities; and also producing a strategy for delivering major public events, including the 2012 Olympics in London.
- This is exactly the type of productive public policy contribution that I hope Smiths will now increasingly be able to play in Brussels given our expertise as one of the world's leading technology firms.

## **CLOSING**

- I'd like to thank Magnus Ovilus, Caroline Persson and their team for all the hard work in organising this event. Thanks also to everyone for coming along today, and please do keep in regular contact with Magnus and Caroline who will be leading Smiths presence here.
- Let me sign off today by re-affirming how much I am looking forward to working closely with the Brussels community over the next few years to help realise the Stockholm agenda vision of enhanced freedom, security and justice. To this end, I very much intend that today's event is only the first of many more that Smiths hosts in Brussels in the years to come.