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News Release

LEADING GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS ON DIGITAL AND DUAL-USE TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR DEFENCE

Hosted by Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency, the 4th Singapore Defence and Technology Summit (Tech Summit) led conversations on the most pressing issues facing the world today, the latest technology trends, and their implications for defence during the three-day event that took place from 22 – 24 March 2023. Many insights were gleaned from the various government leader remarks, fireside chats, plenaries and tech talks, but two key themes stood out.

The first is that digitalisation and the adoption of dual-use technologies in the military realm are not matters of “if” but “how”, as they are imperative for maintaining technological superiority. Viewed from this lens, governments and militaries must therefore adapt their approach and processes to be agile enough to incorporate the rapidly evolving commercial and open-source technologies.

Closely intertwined to this is the human factor – which involves not only the inventors, engineers and scientists developing such capabilities but also well-trained soldiers and highly-skilled operators who must be able to creatively wield them.

These points were highlighted by many of the speakers, including Mr Volodymyr Havrylov, Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine, National Armaments Director, who gave a live virtual address to the delegates from Kyiv, sharing Ukraine's learnings on the co-dependence of people and technology in the ongoing conflict.

With the increasing adoption of commercial technologies for defence, speakers also stressed the importance of establishing a new framework for partnerships. This

echoes with DSTA's own approach in forging a strong network of military and commercial partners – including small and medium-sized enterprises, startups – as well as the academia.

This year's Tech Summit is the largest ever organised, featuring over 40 eminent speakers and bringing together over 1,400 physical and virtual delegates from government, industry, academia, and think tanks across the globe to network, share ideas and viewpoints, and collaborate in the development of technology to confront the future challenges in defence and security. Highlights of the programme include a fireside chat with Mr Bill McDermott, President and Chief Executive Officer of ServiceNow, who was beamed in live from San Francisco via hologram. There was also a one-to-one conversation with General Paul M. Nakasone, United States Army, Commander, United States Cyber Command, Director, National Security Agency / Chief, Central Security Service. All delegates also had the opportunity to visit one of the three external sites including Singapore City Gallery, Singtel FutureNow Innovation Centre, and ST Engineering InnoSuite, to enjoy a more engaging and immersive experience.

“Technology is going to shape defence more than anything else and being able to be around people that are really pushing to bring technology into the defence space ... and to have them all in one space, talking freely and comfortably about the challenges and opportunities, it's a pretty unique thing to have.... I didn't think anyone else in the world who could do that at this point,” said Mr Sean Gourley, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Primer. Mr Gourley was a speaker at Tech Summit 2023.

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About Defence Science and Technology Agency

The Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) is a top-notch technology organisation that drives innovation and delivers state-of-the-art capabilities to make the Singapore Armed Forces a formidable fighting force. Harnessing and exploiting science and technology, our engineers and IT professionals leverage multidisciplinary expertise to equip our soldiers with advanced systems to defend Singapore. DSTA also contributes its technological expertise to support national-level developments. To achieve our mission, DSTA excels in systems engineering, digitalised platforms, cyber, software development and more.

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