

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Singapore Develops Risk Assessment and Horizon Scanning (RAHS) System to Anticipate Future Threats

- *Address national security threats through Networked Government*
- *Curtain raiser to the International RAHS Symposium, 19-20 March 2007*

Washington DC, 1 March 2007 – Representatives from Singapore’s National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS), The Arlington Institute, one of the principal consultants to the Singapore RAHS project and M Cam, Inc. revealed more details about the Risk Assessment and Horizon Scanning (RAHS) system, a new tool that helps leaders anticipate and mitigate against conventional threats and anomalies. Plans are in place to roll out the RAHS system later this year in Singapore.

The RAHS system is developed by Singapore’s National Security Coordination Centre (NSCC), in collaboration with The Arlington Institute in the US, Cognitive Edge in UK and Singapore government agencies Defence Science Technology Agency (DSTA) and DSO National Laboratories.

Mr Patrick Nathan, Deputy Director NSCS, Singapore Prime Minister’s Office said, “Singapore is introducing a different approach to risk assessment and horizon scanning through the RAHS system. While it is still in the development stage, the aim is for RAHS to help leaders to anticipate future security threats and patterns through a networked government approach”.

Some of the latest technologies employed in the RAHS system allow for model-building, monitoring, weak signal detection and pattern analysis. The eventual aim is to extend the RAHS system to a partnership with the private sector and the international community.

“One of the most remarkable aspects in human history is the continuity of strategic surprises and resulting shocks to nations. Often, the cause of these shocks is almost always the inability for government to share information internally due to rigid mindsets,” said Mr. John Peterson, Founder and President, The Arlington Institute. “Through collaboration between the public and private

sectors, RAHS will be able to analyze patterns and pick up signals which may be a possible security threat”.

A working version of the RAHS system will be unveiled to invited practitioners, academics, technologists and futurists at the inaugural two-day International RAHS symposium to be held in Singapore this month. A stellar international list of presenters which hail from renowned institutions and companies globally like the Institute for the Future, Center for Terrorism and Intelligence Studies, Stanford Research Institute, British Aerospace, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Nokia and Siemens, will be on hand to share concepts, methods and technology behind risk assessment and horizon scanning. The symposium aims not only to seed new ideas and perspectives but also to raise awareness and collaboration with the international community.

Dr Dave Martin, founding CEO of M CAM, Inc. said, “The implication of RAHS and its foresight into economic turning points in the horizon is tremendous. Many financial institutions already conduct their own risk assessment. However, with a platform to share information, especially across markets, this will be a more robust method of economic risk assessment and horizon scanning”.

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About the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS)

In line with a whole-of-government approach to tackling transnational terrorism, the National Security Coordination Secretariat (NSCS) was established at the Prime Minister's Office in July 2004 to coordinate national security policy and planning, and strategic counter-terrorism intelligence issues. Led by a Permanent Secretary for National Security and Intelligence Coordination, the Secretariat supports a ministerial-level Security Policy Review Committee chaired by the Coordinating Minister for National Security.

NSCS comprises two key agencies, namely the National Security Coordination Centre (NSCC) and the Joint Counter Terrorism Centre (JCTC). NSCC focuses on national security policy coordination and planning. This includes scanning the horizon to identify potential new threats and challenges, and providing the necessary alerts and updates for the development of effective prevention, protection and consequence management measures.

About the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)

The Centre of Excellence for National Security is a research unit within the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Established on 1 April 2006, CENS is devoted to a rigorous policy –relevant analysis of a range of national security issues.

The CENS team is multinational in composition, comprising both Singaporean and foreign analysts who are specialists in various aspects of national and homeland security affairs. CENS conducts research in three key areas of national security; Risk Assessment / Horizon Scanning, Social Resilience and, Transportation Security.

About the Defence Science & Technology Agency

The Defence Science & Technology Agency (DSTA) was established on 15 March 2000 as the first statutory board of the Ministry of Defence. DSTA explores and exploits cutting-edge technologies, whether military or commercial, and fosters an environment of creativity and innovation in developing defence applications. DSTA also manages complex defence science and technology programmes and conduct research and development, in multi-disciplinary areas ranging from engineering to information technology.

In addition, DSTA collaborates actively with local and global partners to augment Singapore defence and security capabilities. Apart from our strong links with the local universities, research institutes and defence industries, we have also established an extensive international network of partners in various countries

Enclosures:

Appendix 1.1: NSCS Fact Sheet
Appendix 1.2: The Arlington Institute Fact Sheet
Appendix 1.3: M CAM, Inc. Fact Sheet

Appendix 2.1: Patrick Nathan's Bio
Appendix 2.2: John Peterson's Bio
Appendix 2.3: Dave Martin's Bio

Appendix 3: RAHS Backgrounder

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