

Minister for Digital speech at SINET Global Cybersecurity Innovation Summit

Good afternoon.

Thank you to SINET for organising this event and thank you to all attendees, especially those colleagues who have travelled from the US.

SINET plays an important role in connecting the global cyber ecosystem of innovators, investors and customers – be it private or public sectors.

It's great to have you back here for a sixth year and I hope we'll see you again next year.

It's an exciting period, not just for SINET, but for us as a nation. This is a pro-technology Government and I think we need to re-emphasise that, because while regulation is hugely important, the benefits of technology cannot be overstated and in DCMS we're trying to drive forward an exciting digital agenda.

We're improving digital infrastructure, by aiming for nationwide connectivity and we're tackling the issues generated by the digital agenda, for example through our work on data ethics and online harms.

And we're supporting AI and 5G, so that the nation – wherever you are in the country – can benefit from that technology..

Underpinning all of this is our strong and growing cyber security sector. It is one of the strengths we can use as we build our new role in the world.

So today in this short speech I'd like to give you three quick things:

First is to launch our latest UK cyber sectoral analysis report – some copies of which are in the room, and I'd like to take this opportunity to outline some thoughts on the current state of play of the sector;

Second – to look at what my department, is doing across cyber security;

And third, to look to the future at that strategy.

Firstly, we've been delivering our National Cyber Security Strategy for four years now. And we have made some really great progress.

With £1.9 billion invested to protect the nation online, which has greatly increased our defences, building on the 2016 launch of the National Cyber Security Centre.

Programmes like Active Cyber Defence, which is helping defend the UK at a national level dovetails with a host of other more consumer-focused things that look at everything from phishing emails to malicious websites.

Protecting the UK at every level has to be a top priority for the Government. And that means:

Seeking to reducing the threat from those seeking to harm the UK's interests;

Promoting a trusted and secure digital environment;

And continuing to build cyber resilience across Government, our economy and society.

That nexus is how we will tackle some of the problems that I think everyone here will agree we face.

There's a crucial foundation for meeting these aims and that's a strong, homegrown cyber security industry.

So today we see new figures from our cyber sectoral analysis – which tells a hugely positive story about our cyber security sector.

Since 2017, we have seen a 44% growth in the number of cyber security firms in the UK up to over 1,200 at the end of 2019.

This growth is the equivalent to a new cyber security business being registered in the UK every week.

There are now approximately 43,000 Full Time employees which is up more than a third since 2017.

And, the sector's Gross Value Added (GVA) is over £3.7bn – that's up 60% in just the last two years.

And that growth has been driven by several factors:

The widely acknowledged world-leading technological capability that's here already in the UK,

There's also significant support from industry – from the public and private sectors,

And there's sustainable, predictable, sensible, regulation, primarily in the form of GDPR and finally, investment.

2019 was a record year for cyber security investment, with almost £350m in fundraising across eighty deals. And, indeed, over the past four years total investment in the UK cyber security sector has comfortably passed the £1 billion mark.

They're just some of the highlights of the report, which also outlines the growing diversification of the UK cyber sector, with the growth of emerging sub-sectors such as Internet of Things security, and post-quantum cryptography.

There's a lot in there – I'd encourage you to pick up a copy.

But we won't rest on our laurels. To remain as one of the world-leaders, there's more work to do.

We, as Government, will continue to support the sector. We must ensure the most ground-breaking products and services, which offer the potential to keep us ahead of the cyber threat, make it into the market.

This includes ensuring viable early-stage companies are able to secure the investment they need for developing, testing and expanding their offer. And I know so much of that is what SINET is all about today.

We will continue our journey to improve how Government buys cyber security products and services – through initiatives such as the not terribly snappily-named Cyber Security Services Dynamic Purchasing System – never was there a less dynamic name. This aims to give the SME market increased opportunities to bid for Government cyber security contracts.

So when we talk about one cyber business a week being created, it's that sort of thing that allows these small businesses to prosper and to thrive

And last – but by no means least – we have an eye on regional disparity. This Government and the Prime Minister has a 'levelling up agenda' to ensure no region of the UK is left behind. And at the moment, we're very conscious that talent may be evenly spread across the country – but opportunity is not.

Today's statistics show almost three quarters of the UK's cyber security workforce is in London and the South East. We need to ensure all our programmes and initiatives are truly national – reaching all parts of the country.

Which leads me to talk about what we are currently doing when it comes to growth and innovation.

We've got world-class universities, ground-breaking research and an environment which makes the UK one of the easiest places to start a business, we have some of the most innovative cyber security companies in the world.

But we need more of them to help us meet future challenges. So we have launched a number of targeted initiatives to incubate and accelerate, and support people since 2016.

Hopefully, some of these names will be familiar to this audience:: the Cyber Academic Start-Up Programme (Cyber ASAP), HutZero, Cyber101, and the NCSC Cyber Accelerator. Or taking one specific example – LORCA. the London Cyber Innovation Centre -has just taken on its fourth cohort with 20 cyber startups joining the programme.

This is the largest cohort to date and it demonstrates the strength and attractiveness of the UK market. 35 cyber startups have participated in LORCA's first three cohorts, and they have gone on to raise over £60million since joining the programme. It's a really good example of how Government can work with industry to make sure that companies thrive.

We are also working hard to protect the public and industry. Earlier this week we published the Government's response to the consultation on improving the security of the Internet of Things (IoT).

It's an area where decisive action has been widely welcomed by industry but also where action is clearly needed. Citizens' privacy and safety can't be put at risk because security is not built into consumer IoT products from the ground up. We will make sure this is the case.

It's a staged approach starting with a Code of Practice for Consumer IoT Security, but it's by no means the end. This is a starting point and our work on this will continue.

We have also decided to expand the secure by design project to incorporate improving the cyber security of routers, apps and the use of consumer IoT devices within enterprises.

That sits alongside efforts within the European Telecommunications Standards Institute to transpose technical specifications and is another example of the UK working with bodies around the world to offer coherent regulation to the whole sector.

These three areas have been selected because they are part of the supporting infrastructure associated with consumer IoT devices and they will support future efforts and we'll look to expand that relatively quickly.

You may also be aware my department is currently undertaking a Review of Cyber Security Incentives and Regulations. The Review is looking at what more Government can do to incentivise good cyber risk management across the economy, because we recognise that prevention has to be better than cure.

We've been working closely with industry to understand the barriers and the effectiveness of existing regulation and identify where more action is possible and needed.

And we're going to publish an update on this pretty soon, with the call for views closing last month.

You will get the sense there's real activity going on in the area. Not just where the sector acknowledges that regulation is needed but where there's also a real public demand in a way that wasn't the case just a short time ago.

To support all this work, it is important we continue to improve skills at every level – not just in schools and people coming out of universities, but in the whole workplace.

Today's report shows three in five cyber security businesses are struggling to find the skilled people they need. We need to address this to ensure we continue the pace of growth in the sector. Because without providing that pipeline this will simply not be sustainable.

So building a cyber security workforce fit for the future is far more complex

than simply training more cyber security professionals. It is about ensuring the UK has the right level and blend of cyber security capability.

Through CyberFirst and CyberDiscovery, we're developing the professionals of the future. I want to effect longer term change to statutory education to ensure citizens have the digital/cyber skills and opportunities necessary to participate in the economy, right from the very beginning

In the immediate term, the government will continue to develop extra-curricular cyber security inspiration and learning opportunities. The CyberFirst programme has already engaged over 50,000 young people to consider cyber security and computing careers.

We are also setting up the UK Cyber Security Council by March next year. This is a world first: setting up an independent entity to bring coherence and structure to the complex professional cyber security landscape – that is built fundamentally on the idea that Government can be a great convener, but we don't have the monopoly on good ideas in the sector.

The council will make it easier for individuals to pursue and develop a career in cyber security both now and in the future.

And alongside NCSC I recently attended the launch of our new Cyber Security Body of Knowledge ("CyBOK"). This is a new, open source reference tool which sets out the foundation knowledge areas which make up the discipline of cyber security. CYBOK provides the basic definitions that allow Britain to take a foundational role in this sector, but also it will allow Britain to play its part on the world stage. This is why it's so important to work alongside GCHQ and NCSC to provide an open document which will allow the sector to move forwards.

I hope this has been a helpful update on what the Government's doing and our commitment to cyber security. It is multifaceted but i hope you also get the sense that it is going one coherent and confidently pro-technology direction.

We are now looking to the future and developing our thinking for what happens beyond 2021. I would like to thank you for all of your work so far, and all of your collaboration. It's collaboration that will be key to this area.

May we continue to work together in our ambition to make the UK the safest place to be online.

Thank you.

Concern for the increased tensions and

fragility in Libya

I want to start by thanking SRSG Salamé for his briefing and for UNSMIL's continued efforts to broker an end to the conflict in Libya. And I just want to assure SRSG Salamé of the United Kingdom's full and unwavering support and appreciation for his untiring efforts in this regard.

Let me also thank Germany for hosting the Berlin Conference and for all their efforts to bring international leaders together in order to create the right environment for a ceasefire and a resumption of the political process.

Mr President, let me start with Berlin. We particularly welcome the Conclusions document agreed in Berlin, which includes a commitment by all not to interfere in the conflict or in the internal affairs of Libya. It is essential that these commitments are adhered to. It is only eleven days since Berlin, but it is clear from SRSG Salame's briefing that the Libyan people are in grave peril and that the situation has become more fragile and more dangerous. Libya stands on the brink of disaster, and we are gravely concerned by reports of breaches of the arms embargo in recent days. Member states have obligations to abide by the arms embargo imposed by this council.

Mr President, we are also deeply concerned by reports of increased fighting over recent days. This underlines the urgency of the UNSMIL-convened 5+5 Joint Military Commission meeting to agree a permanent ceasefire. It is essential that both sides commit to participating in these talks without delay.

We also support UNSMIL's work to convene the Political Forum, and to establish the Libyan Expert Economic Commission. Both initiatives will provide opportunities to address the political and economic questions which lie at the core of this conflict.

We condemn the blockading of oil terminals in the east of Libya, which has led to the declaration of Force Majeure by the National Oil Corporation. The consequent loss of oil revenue will only lead to the further suffering of Libyans.

Mr President, the Secretary-General's report underlines the worsening human rights situation in Libya. And let me at this point echo SRSG Salamé's call for clarity on the whereabouts of Siham Sergiwa. It is particularly distressing, Mr President, that there have been at least 50 attacks on healthcare facilities, healthcare workers and ambulances since April last year. All parties to the conflict must comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law.

Mr President, the Berlin Conference was a vital step in bringing together key international players. They agreed to support the UN-led political process and they pledged to respect the UN arms embargo. However, as SRSG Salamé has just highlighted, the situation on the ground is extremely worrying. The risks in Libya are high. It is vital that the international community and

this Council show unity and put momentum in support of UNSMIL and the UN-led political process. There is no alternative solution. We should send a clear message.

Thank you, Mr President.

[GC team shares expertise in food authenticity in Vietnam](#)



[Selvarani Elahi](#), Deputy Government Chemist, was invited by Simon Kelly of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA](#) to attend the second coordination meeting of the IAEA Asia-Pacific Technical Regional Cooperation Project RAS5081 “Enhancing Food Safety and Supporting Regional Authentication of Foodstuffs through Implementation of Nuclear Techniques”. The meeting was held during 20 – 22 November 2019 in Vietnam and hosted by the [Institute for Nuclear Science and Technology](#).

Selvarani gave a presentation on the [Food Authenticity Network](#), highlighting the benefits, to the 19 Member countries of this project, in joining this one-stop-shop for food authenticity testing and food fraud mitigation in the global fight against food fraud.

There was a unanimous decision by the members attending the meeting to support the affiliation of the project to the Food Authenticity Network with the creation of country-specific pages. Discussions are in progress with IAEA to explore funding options for the creation of national web-pages for Member States in the Asia-Pacific region.

For more information about the work of the Government Chemist, contact

Published 30 January 2020

UK Ambassador to Slovenia meets Slovenian Foreign Minister ahead of the UK's departure from the EU

Scroll down for the Slovene version of the text.

ENGLISH:

UK Ambassador to Slovenia, Sophie Honey, met today with Foreign Minister Miro Cerar. They discussed the UK's departure from the EU, on 31st January 2020 and the shared goal of further building our strong bilateral relationship.

Following the meeting the Ambassador said: "It was good to meet with Foreign Minister Cerar at this historic moment for the UK's relationship with the EU. We remain strongly committed to growing our close bilateral relationship. The UK and Slovenia are partners in the fields of defence and security, trade, education, science and research. Our people share strong ties, and we have many shared interests and values. In particular we agreed on the need to work more closely together on climate change."

"I am grateful to the Foreign Minister and colleagues across the Slovene government for their partnership in preparing for an orderly withdrawal of the UK from the EU, including through assuring reciprocal respect for the rights of our citizens. We agreed that citizens will continue to be a priority for both of us and that the Withdrawal Agreement protects the rights of Brits living in Slovenia and Slovenes living in the UK.

"The UK wants a positive new partnership between the UK and EU, building on our common bonds of friendship and cooperation. We look forward to constructive negotiations to that end in the year ahead."

The UK and Slovenia have a long-standing bilateral relationship. 2019 was an especially important year for bilateral ties between the UK and Slovenia: President Pahor met with Her Majesty the Queen, and launched Slovenia-UK Friendship Day with Prince Edward. Business partnerships continued to drive strong trade in both directions, which had hit nearly £1.5bn combined trade in goods and services – a growth rate of nearly 13% in the last three years. The volume of scientific research collaboration has approximately doubled over the past decade. Security and defence cooperation continued to strengthen, including through joint training and workshops on recruiting and retaining the best people. And the British and Slovene people continued to build deep connections, including through education, culture, and research. In 2020 the British Embassy in Ljubljana plans to continue to build on this growth, with further plans to be announced in due course.

SLOVENE:

V luči jutrišnjega izstopa Združenega kraljestva Velike Britanije in Severne

Irske iz Evropske unije kot država članica, se je britanska veleposlanica Sophie Honey danes sestala s slovenskim zunanjim ministrom, dr. Mirom Cerarjem. Govorila sta o Brexitu, predvsem pa o skupnem cilju nadaljevati odlične bilateralne odnose.

Veleposlanica je ob srečanju povedala: "Veseli me, da sem se srečala z zunanjim ministrom dr. Cerarjem v tem zgodovinskem trenutku za odnose med Združenim kraljestvom in Evropsko unijo. A odnosi med našima državama presegajo članstvo v evropski povezavi. Državi sta partnerici na področjih obrambe in varnosti, trgovine, izobraževanja, znanosti in raziskav in z ministrom sva glede nadaljevanja močnega partnerstva enotna. Delimo mnoge skupne interese in vrednote, pred nami so izzivi, ki jih bomo naslavljali skupaj, med njimi tudi podnebne spremembe," in nadaljevala "Hvaležna sem zunanjemu ministrstvu in slovenski vladi širše za sodelovanje pri oblikovanju podrobnosti v izstopnem sporazumu, predvsem v delu o zagotovitvi recipročnosti spoštovanja pravic državljanov." Dodala je še, da si bo v prehodnem obdobju do konca letošnjega leta Združeno kraljestvo prizadevalo za "pozitivno novo partnerstvo z EU, ki bo temeljilo na skupnih prijateljskih odnosih in sodelovanju."

Kljub dolgoletnemu zavezništvu in partnerstvu, pa je bilo leto 2019 še posebej pomembno za dvostranske vezi med Združenim kraljestvom in Slovenijo. Trgovinska izmenjava med državama je dosegla skoraj milijardo in pol evrov v blagu in storitvah, kar je velik napredek. V zadnjih teh letih številke sicer kažejo 13-odstotno rast, na področju medicine, fizike in raziskovanja vesolja, so se znanstvene raziskave vezane na obe državi podvojile. Turizem raste. Na diplomatski ravni se je predsednik Republike Borut Pahor srečal z Njenim kraljevim visočanstvom, kraljico Elizabeto II., kasneje pa v Sloveniji s princem Edwardom obeležil Dan prijateljstva med Združenim kraljestvom in Slovenijo.

[Defence invests billions into UK prosperity](#)

The MOD has released the official statistics for 2018/19 regional expenditure with UK industry, commerce and employment, putting the total MOD expenditure at £19.2 billion.

The report demonstrates the Government's commitment to doing more than ever to improve the defence enterprise while invigorating the economy, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country and championing a Global Britain.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

Defence continues to provide security and prosperity for the UK as we see billions invested in every corner of the country and the subsequent hundreds of thousands of jobs.

As we continue to innovate and improve the defence enterprise, it is essential that we recruit and retain the best of British skills and talent to ensure we meet our goals.

The 2018/19 expenditure supported an additional 3000 jobs compared to the previous year, which means roughly 1 in every 220 people are working in full-time roles to support defence. Through both expenditure with UK industry and direct employment, the MOD supported over 322,000 jobs, with 306,000 based in the UK.

The South West continues to lead in employment, followed closely by the South East. The South West is a notable defence hub with helicopter manufacturing in Yeovil and Rolls Royce engine manufacturing in Bristol. The South East is home to several key suppliers including Babcock, BAE and Thales, amongst many others.

Defence Minister James Heapey said:

It is great to see how our investment is expanding employment opportunities and ensuring value for money for each taxpayer.

Defence is a prime example of how we can level-up our economy by investing in the talented people across our country.

An average of £290 is being spent on defence for each person living in the UK. This figure has stayed consistent over the past three years after adjusting for inflation. Wales saw an 11 per cent rise in overall expenditure, the highest of all areas.

Wales also saw the largest rise in jobs at 22 per cent. This boost can be attributed to a 79 per cent increase in training related jobs thanks to the increased payments to the UK Military Flying Training Service at RAF Valley. An additional 400 Welsh jobs were also supported by work on the AJAX vehicle.

In Scotland, MOD expenditure rose by 4.6 per cent, making Scotland the only region to see a year-on-year increase in total expenditure since 2013/14, with an average yearly increase of 4 per cent.

The report indicates that the Government's National Shipbuilding Strategy is coming into fruition. MOD expenditure on shipbuilding continued to increase, rising by a further 2 per cent since 2017/18. Shipbuilding in the North West now accounts for 60 per cent of the region's MOD investment, up from 53 per cent in 2017/18.

ADS Chief Executive Paul Everitt said:

The UK defence industry directly employs 135,000 people in every region and nation of the UK and is proud to supply our Armed Forces with the world-leading equipment and services it needs to protect our national security.

We look forward to continuing work with the MOD on current and future programmes such as the UK's future combat air capability and Type 31 frigates, supporting thousands of high-value, high-skilled jobs. It is important Government and industry work in close partnership to seize the opportunity for further levelling up of employment and income in the years ahead.

Overall, the MOD Regional Expenditure with UK Industry and Commerce and Supported Employment 2018/19 statistical bulletin presents the sum of MOD expenditure with industry and commerce, with the UK broken down by region and industry group. It then calculates the number of full-time equivalent jobs this expenditure supports.