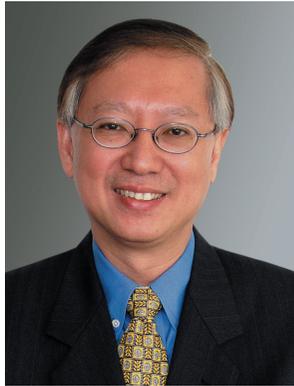


# EDITORIAL

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**Chan Keng Luck**

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The Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) is an amalgamation of organisations that had been involved in augmenting the defence capabilities of the Singapore Armed Forces since Singapore's independence. The mission of DSTA is to harness and exploit science and technology for the defence and security of Singapore. Since its formation in March 2000, DSTA has successfully undertaken numerous projects. DSTA engineers and scientists have participated in international forums and achieved good standing among their peers. The knowledge and expertise acquired are invaluable assets to DSTA as well as other members of the defence community.

The publication of this journal, the DSTA Horizons, serves as a channel for the sharing of this knowledge. It is intended to be a compendium of papers written by DSTA members based on work they have done and their thoughts on the developments in their respective field. Over time, this journal can be an important repository of DSTA's knowledge.

This inaugural issue starts off with the development and deployment of the first infrared-based system in the world used for fever screening of large groups of people. This system was one of the critical weapons Singapore used in the battle against the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) which, in 2003, had

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gripped a number of Asian countries in fear and killed about 800 people. Until the advent of the Infrared Fever Scanning System (IFss), there was no quick and effective means of screening large groups of people for fever, a symptom of SARS. The article describes the challenges faced and the experience gained in deploying this device within a matter of days.

The eight articles that follow are a testimony to DSTA's diverse capabilities in defence science and technology. They cover unmanned vehicles, both in the air and on the ground. They also cover technologies available commercially but which can also be adapted for military use, such as commercial off-the-shelf software for military simulation and radio frequency identification. Because weapons have their inherent dangers, safety in their deployment and storage is of paramount concern. This is addressed in the articles on weapon danger area and the underground ammunition facility.

We hope that readers will find these articles informative and insightful. We thank the authors for sharing their knowledge. We would also like to invite contributions from the defence community. Together, we can make DSTA Horizons a thriving market place of ideas.