

18 March 2025

Factsheet

SINGAPORE DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT 2025

1. The Singapore Defence Technology Summit (Tech Summit) will be held for the fifth time from 18 to 20 March 2025 at Shangri-La Hotel. Hosted by Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), the Tech Summit is a unique gathering of global thought leaders from government, industry, academia and think tanks, to network, confer and collaborate in the development of defence and security capabilities.
2. This year's Tech Summit has attracted over 600 participants from more than 30 countries. Themed "Navigating an Uncertain Tomorrow – Technology and Partnerships", 40 distinguished speakers and moderators from 14 countries will lead a series of plenary sessions, government leader remarks, fireside chats, tech leader remarks and tech talks.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

3. Welcome Address. Minister for Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen will deliver the welcome address on 18 March 2025.
4. Keynote Address. Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Heng Swee Keat will give the keynote address on 19 March 2025.

5. Plenary sessions. The Tech Summit will include four plenary sessions from 19 to 20 March, with the Summary Plenary on 20 March.

- *Plenary Session 1: Evolving Threats, Geopolitics and Nature of Conflicts – Impact on Defence Technology*

The ever-changing threat landscape and new concepts on display in recent conflicts have introduced new uncertainties. A cost-effectiveness dichotomy through the use of low-cost and unconventional systems has come to the fore, and asymmetric warfare is now pervasive. In face of tech contestation among global powers, as well as rapidly advancing technology, it is not business as usual in the defence capability. In this dynamic environment, there is a need to assess how our technology and capability development strategies would need to change and to identify blind-spots for proactive action in mitigating these uncertainties.

Speakers for this plenary include: LG Aymeric Bonnemaïson, Commander of the French Cyber Command; General Sir Jim Hockenhill, Commander of the UK Strategic Command; Mr Waleid Al Mesmari, President, Space and Cyber Technologies of EDGE Group (UAE); Mr Hugh Webster, Chief Technology Officer of Boeing Australia (Australia); and Dr Bastian Giegerich, Director-General and Chief Executive of The International Institute for Strategic Studies (Germany). This session is moderated by Mr Ylber Bajraktari, Senior Advisor of Special Competitive Studies Project (USA).

- *Plenary Session 2: Agility in Action – Driving Innovation to Meet Evolving Defence Challenges*

Fully exploiting technology at the speed of relevance calls for adaptability and agility, especially if we want to take advantage of emerging and dual-use technologies. This panel will review the mindset shifts needed and how defence organisations can adopt agile approaches and rapid adaptation strategies. A new breed of innovative defence technology and dual use companies are emerging. This panel will discuss how we can work with them, as well as

traditional defence companies to accelerate technology innovation, and effectively deliver capabilities.

Speakers for this plenary include: LTG(Armament) Gaël Diaz De Tuesta, National Armament Director of the Directorate General of Armament (France); VADM Carsten Stawitzki, Director-General for Armament of the German Federal Ministry of Defense (Germany); Honorable Andrew P. Hunter, Founder & Principal of Pax Per Consortia Strategies LLC (USA); Mr Ted Elvhage, Founding Partner of Expansion Ventures (Sweden) and Mr Andy Lowery, Chief Executive Officer of Epirus, Inc. (USA). This session is moderated by Ms Clementine Starling-Daniels, Director, Forward Defense Program of Atlantic Council (USA).

- *Plenary Session 3: Artificial Intelligence in Defence and Security – The Technology Gamechanger*

In the ever-evolving landscape of defence, technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) serves as a catalyst for transformation. What are the future trends and developments in AI? Is it real or hype? Where do we get the highest payoff? What are the technological pitfalls? This panel casts a gaze on how AI is reshaping defence and security, and discusses how governments, industry and other defence partners leverage AI for defence applications at speed. The panel will also discuss the challenges and pitfalls of implementing AI for defence and security.

Speakers for this plenary include: Chair Professor Pascale Fung of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (China); Dr He Ruimin, Chief Artificial Intelligence Officer, Ministry of Digital Development and Information (Singapore); Dr Guillaume Lample, Co-Founder and Chief Scientist of Mistral AI (France); Mr Rodrigo Liang, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of SambaNova Systems (USA) and Mr Bertrand Rondepierre, General Manager of the Agency for Artificial Intelligence in Defence (France). This session is moderated by Ms April Chin, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer of Resaro (Singapore).

- *Plenary Session 4: Disruption by Digital and Emerging Technologies – Bridging Today and Tomorrow*

Digital and emerging technologies such as advanced materials, advanced sensing and biotechnology are gaining traction in the defence domain, and present potential to unlock new defence capabilities. This plenary will discuss new emerging technologies that will have an impact on warfare. It will also explore how conventional and emerging technologies can work together to complement each other for the operational capabilities of tomorrow.

Speakers for this plenary include BG Jonas Lotsne, Director Land Systems of the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (Sweden); Mr Oliver Burkhard, Chief Executive Officer of thyssenkrupp Marine Systems GmbH (Germany); Dr Li Wei Wei, Associate Research Fellow, National Innovation Institute of Defense Technology of the Academy of Military Sciences (China); and Mr Charles Ng, Chief Executive Officer of Ensign InfoSecurity (Singapore). This session is moderated by Dr Victoria Coleman, Chief Executive Officer of Acubed as well as Head of Research & Technology of Airbus North America (USA).

- *Summary Plenary: Defence Technology Strategies for Innovation and Resilience*

This summary plenary discusses how defence technology and acquisition strategies would need to evolve to enhance innovation to cope with potential disruptions and strengthen resilience to deal with supply chain shocks. Strong partnerships, robust policies and mindset shifts would be needed to maintain our technological edge.

Speakers for this plenary include: Dr Horie Kazuhiro, Vice-Commissioner & Chief Technology Officer, Acquisition of the Technology and Logistics Agency (Japan); Honorable Shon J. Manasco, Senior Counselor of Palantir Technologies (USA); Dr Thomas Rothacher, Director Science and Technology, Deputy National Armaments Director (Switzerland); LG(Ret) John Shanahan, Adjunct Senior Fellow, Technology and National Security Program of the Center

for a New American Security (USA). This session is moderated by Honorable Will Roper, Chief Executive Officer of Istari Digital (USA).

6. Government & Tech Leader Remarks. On 19 March 2025, Mr Seok Jonggun, Minister, Defense Acquisition Program Administration (Republic of Korea) and MG Salman Alharbi, Deputy Minister of Defence for Strategic Affairs of the Ministry of Defense (Saudi Arabia) will be giving Government Leader remarks. On 20 March 2025, Mr Melvyn Ong, Permanent Secretary (Defence Development), Ministry of Defence, as well as Permanent Secretary (Development) Ministry of National Development (Singapore) will be giving Government Leader Remarks, while Honorable Heidi Shyu, Former Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering of the United States (USA) will be giving Tech Leader Remarks.

7. Fireside Chats. Ms Safra Catz, Chief Executive Officer of Oracle (USA) will be giving a Fireside Chat on 19 March, moderated by Ms Gayle Chan, Deputy Chief Executive (Information) of DSTA (Singapore). Mr Palmer Luckey, Founder of Anduril Industries (USA) will be giving a Fireside Chat on 20 March, moderated by Ms Ng Teng Teng, Director (IT Delivery) of DSTA (Singapore).

8. Tech Talks. Dr Christopher Kirchhoff, Author of Unit X: How the Pentagon and Silicon Valley are Transforming the Future of War (USA); and Mr Ivan Zhang, Co-Founder of Cohere (Canada) and Mr Brandon Tseng, President and Co-Founder of Shield AI (USA) will be giving Tech Talks on 19 March 2025. Mr Ryan Westerdahl, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Turion Space Corp. (USA) will be giving a Tech Talk on 20 March 2025.

9. Technology Showcase: The DSTA booth at Tech Showcase will highlight key outcomes from the various collaborations forged with partners in emerging tech domains over the years, made possible with DSTA's expertise in system engineering and integration capabilities. This includes a static display of the Hovering Autonomous Underwater Vehicle for Underwater Survey which harnesses innovative tech from

start-ups like BeeX from Singapore and EL Wave from France, a presentation on DSTA's collaboration with Thales, Safran and Leonardo to unlock new dual-use CUAS capabilities, an interactive demo on Robotics-enabled C3 systems capable of one-to-many control of ground and aerial robotic platforms, as well as an interactive demo on deepfake detection capabilities that DSTA has worked on with industry partners like Resaro. The Tech Showcase will be complemented by sponsor booths from a diverse array of organisations in defence and commercial industries.

10. Student engagement. To pique interest in science and technology, about 120 students from various universities, junior colleges, polytechnics and secondary schools have been invited to participate in the activities in Tech Summit. These include the main event programme as well as the sharing sessions with selected speakers.

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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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