

## News Release

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4 January 2017

### **SEA AWARDED CYBER ESSENTIALS PLUS ACCREDITATION FROM IASME**

Cohort plc company SEA has become the latest business in the group to be awarded the Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation that is now mandatory when bidding for Government work.

SEA's defences against cyber attack were tested by MASS and certified by external certifying body IASME. Using a range of tools and techniques, SEA met the criteria that qualified the company to achieve the considerably more demanding Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation.

SEA was required to implement five key controls to demonstrate to customers its effectiveness in countering any potential cyber attack. These controls were: secure configuration; boundary firewalls and internet gateways; access control; patch management and malware protection. When properly implemented these five basic controls help protect against internet based attackers using capabilities freely available on the internet.

IT Service Delivery Manager, James Cleford, commented: "Having passed the Cyber Essentials self-assessment, we were keen to undertake the more thorough, independent checks required to achieve Cyber Essentials Plus. To pass this certification shows our ongoing commitment to ensuring the confidentiality, integrity and availability of our own and our customers' information."

SEA was able to call upon the Cyber Essentials services of its sister company MASS to support its certification. MASS has become a leading consultant helping businesses in the defence and non-defence sectors to achieve the Cyber Essentials accreditation.

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### Cyber Essentials Notes to Editors

Cyber Essentials aims to help organisations implement basic levels of protection against cyber attack, demonstrating to their customers that they take cyber security seriously. The scheme is available at two levels:

- Cyber Essentials - an independently verified self assessment. Organisations assess themselves against five basic security controls and a qualified assessor verifies the information provided.
- Cyber Essentials PLUS – a higher level of assurance. A qualified and independent assessor examines the same five controls, testing that they work in practice by simulating basic hacking and phishing attacks.

The five basic controls within Cyber Essentials were chosen because, when properly implemented, they will help to protect against unskilled internet-based attackers using commodity capabilities – which are freely available on the internet.

Organisations that undertake Cyber Essentials are encouraged to recertify at least once a year and, where appropriate, progress their security.

Since 1 October 2014, Cyber Essentials became a minimum requirement for bidding for some government contracts (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0914-cyber-essentials-scheme-certification>)

For further information please see [www.cyberstreetwise.com/cyberessentials](http://www.cyberstreetwise.com/cyberessentials)

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### Notes to Editors:

**Cohort plc** is an independent technology company and the parent company of four innovative, agile and responsive businesses, EID, MASS, MCL and SEA, providing a wide range of services and products for UK, Portugal and international customers in defence, security and related markets.

[www.cohortplc.com](http://www.cohortplc.com)

**SEA** was acquired by Cohort plc in 2007 and today is a major supplier of applied research, technology development, systems integration, specialist electronic systems, engineering and software design services to the defence and security markets. Its engineering and project management skills include naval communications systems, maritime combat systems, through-life support, dismantled soldier systems, subsea engineering and traffic enforcement. Complementing its work for the UK Ministry of Defence, SEA is growing its business overseas and extending its expertise into adjacent markets, including offshore, railways and roads. SEA employs circa 300 high-calibre staff and has offices in Beckington, Bristol, Barnstaple and Aberdeen.

[www.sea.co.uk](http://www.sea.co.uk)

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