

PRESS RELEASE

MASS Achieves a First in Cyber Security

St Neots, 10 July 2012: MASS, a Cohort plc company, is pleased to announce that its cyber security specialist, David Johnston, is the first person in the UK to be awarded the CLAS certification for Information Assurance (IA) Specialists, under the new IA professionalism scheme. The awarding body, the UK government's Communications Electronics Security Group (CESG) is the national technical authority for IA.

CESG Listed Advisor Scheme (CLAS) consultants play a key role in providing information assurance through a pool of private sector consultants, approved by CESG, to provide IA advice to government departments and other organisations that supply vital services to the United Kingdom.

Membership of CLAS provides IA consultants with a deeper understanding of the public sector's approach to information risk management than can be assumed by IA certification alone. It is recognised that there is a growing public sector demand for well-informed IA advice and guidance. This demand comes from an increasing awareness of the threats to information systems and of the high expectations of the public that data is appropriately protected. Particular factors driving demand are the increasing sophistication of cyber attack, the greater use of on-line public services, together with the wider use of shared services and the consequent need for compliance with codes of connection.

David Johnston said: "Organisations understand that cyber threats are real and it makes sense to approach this area professionally. Cyber attacks are a significant threat to both government and industry. It's vital we have the skills to deal with this ever-changing and fast paced situation. It is of real value to have one's skills and knowledge independently verified."

Commenting on this new award, Ashley Lane, Managing Director of MASS, said: "I would like to congratulate David on his achievement. By supporting such staff development programmes, we continue to strengthen a core capability in information assurance, security and risk assessment. His knowledge, skills and work ethic have been recognised by CESG and this award enhances and builds upon our 20-year pedigree in cyber information assurance."

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Notes to Editors

1. *CESG offers a range of products and services including technical consultancy and advice, policy documentation, product evaluation and training, primarily to UK government and the armed forces, the wider public sector, and industries forming part of the Critical National Infrastructure, such as power and water.*
2. *David Johnston is the first person in the UK to obtain the prestigious CLAS certification via this new qualification route.*
3. *David is part of the MASS Information Assurance team based in St Neots, Cambridgeshire, and Lincoln.*
4. *MASS has been providing Information Assurance advice and solutions to government and industry customers for over 20 years.*

About MASS

MASS, a Cohort plc company, is a high technology business with a focus on the Defence & Security markets. We harness technology to deliver trusted services and solutions that improve the security, efficiency and effectiveness of operations in government and industry.

We are agile and responsive with a natural customer focus and partnering ethos. Combined with our strong project management skills, we have an enviable track record of delivery against challenging timescales. We take a systems engineering approach to all our work and we are adept at integrating COTS to satisfy customer requirements. Above all, we are a people business and we are trusted to deliver in many areas of government operations that are critical to national defence and security.

Our services include applied research, consulting, design, development, system integration, support, training and managed service delivery. To find out more go to www.mass.co.uk

About Cohort

Cohort plc is the parent company for three innovative, agile and responsive businesses operating in defence and related markets. It aims to add real value through the experience and contacts of its senior team while providing a light-touch but effective governance framework. Its objective is to deliver value to shareholders through its three operating subsidiaries: MASS, SCS and SEA.

Cohort was founded on the principle that SME-size businesses can prosper by being part of a larger group, where they can benefit from financial oversight, management support and the exchange of information and practices. Cohort aims to achieve this while preserving the high-growth potential of innovative independent businesses. To find out more go to www.cohortplc.com