

12 October 2021

Fact Sheet

SINGAPORE DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT 2021

1. The Singapore Defence Technology Summit (Tech Summit) will be held for the third time from 12 to 15 October 2021. Hosted by Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), the Tech Summit gathers technology leaders around the world to network, confer and collaborate in the development of defence and security capabilities.
2. This year's Tech Summit will be conducted in a hybrid setting – with 100 participants attending in-person, while hundreds of others tuning in online on the Tech Summit's virtual platform. The summit has attracted close to 800 participants from 23 countries including the Australia, China, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, the United States etc.
3. Themed "Building Confidence Amidst Technology Disruption", 23 luminaries from 10 countries including Australia, Estonia, Finland, France, India, Israel, South Korea, United Kingdom, the United States and Singapore will lead a series of plenary sessions that delve into varying perspectives of technology disruption. Beyond these plenary sessions, there will also be a one-on-one dialogue session where a speaker from US will make a special appearance in the Tech Summit with the use of advanced hologram technology.

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES

4. Safety is core in our planning therefore the limitation of 100 in-person delegates at the summit venue, the Shangri-La Singapore Hotel.
 - a. Zones. The conference will be separated into cohorting zones of no more than 50 attendees each. Safe management measures will be strictly enforced and there will be no interaction between zones. A seating plan with designated entry and exit routes will be implemented.

- b. Vaccination and Pre-Event Testing. All in-person participants will have to be fully vaccinated, and will undergo daily pre-event testing using antigen rapid test.
- c. Social Distancing. All attendees must keep at least one metre apart from each other at all times on site.
- d. Controlled itineraries. All international participants attending the event will be on a controlled itinerary, to limit opportunities for and number of close contacts between individuals.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

5. Welcome address. Singapore Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen will deliver the welcome address on 12 October 2021, during the Tech Summit's opening of the Summit.
6. Keynote address. Singapore Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies Mr Heng Swee Keat will give the keynote address on 13 October 2021.
7. Hologram One-on-one dialogue session. Beaming in live from Washington D.C, USA, via hologram, the Honorable Heidi Shyu, Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering from the United States Department of Defense, will delve into the topic of technology disruption in real time with Ms Elizabeth Heng, Director Technology Strategy and Policy Office from Singapore's Ministry of Defence, who will moderate the dialogue. Hon. Heidi Shyu will talk more about the importance of technology and her role to ensure that the US Department of Defense stays ahead.
8. Plenary sessions. The Tech Summit will include three plenary sessions from 13 to 15 October, with a Summary Plenary session on 15 October.
 - *Plenary Session 1: Tackling Disruptions: Questioning Your Assumptions*

Traditionally, defence and defence technology planners adopt a core set of planning assumptions and programmatic processes to deliver capabilities to armed forces. This session will question whether these norms are still relevant to deal with the threats and disruptions of the present and future. It will examine how organisations can deal with unpredictability, emerging technologies and disruptors, as well as address the need to adopt fast-moving technologies.

- *Plenary Session 2: Beyond Terrorism, Cyber and Pandemics: What's Next?*

Terrorism, cyber threats and the COVID-19 pandemic are some major disruptors that have upheaved the world we live in. This session will look at some possible disruptors beyond these that are appearing over the horizon, as well as the implications for government organisations and industries. It will also analyse the interplay between technology and the environment, hypothesise future major threats, and how to uncover and anticipate them.

- *Plenary Session 3: The Government-Industrial Ecosystem: Turning Challenge into Opportunity*

There are nimble start-ups and agile organisations that are able to pivot quickly in times of challenges. This plenary will give a spotlight on companies that have successfully navigated their way through disruptions and created niche opportunities in a challenging environment. It will discuss possibilities of new partnership strategies for defence establishments, industry and start-ups in the face of disruptions.

- *Summary Plenary*

The session will fuse observations and findings from plenary sessions one to three, and examine strategies that government organisations, industries and technology start-ups could adopt to build confidence and resilience in an increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environment.

9. Virtual technology showcase. There will be an exhibition on the Tech Summit virtual platform, where various organisations will showcase their innovative uses of emerging technologies across a myriad of applications and developments, including:

- Internet of Things and Digitalisation
- Robotics, Automation and Unmanned Technologies
- Cybersecurity and Quantum Technology
- Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics

10. Student engagement. To pique interest in science and technology, about 160 students from over 30 universities, junior colleges, polytechnics and secondary schools have been invited to participate in activities at the Tech Summit. These include the plenary sessions, one-on-one dialogue, virtual technology showcases, as well as sharing sessions held in conjunction with the main programme.

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About Defence Science and Technology Agency

The Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), a statutory board under Singapore's Ministry of Defence, exploits science and technology, and provides technological and engineering support for Singapore's defence and security. It delivers leading-edge technological solutions to the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) by tapping the best technologies and fostering an environment of innovation for defence applications. Its role spans the entire spectrum of capability planning, development, and sustainment of weapon systems throughout their life cycle to ensure that the SAF continue to be a formidable fighting force.

Visit www.dsta.gov.sg for more information.