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News Release

SINGAPORE DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT 2021

ADVANCES GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSIONS

1. The Defence Science and Technology Agency, Singapore, is bringing together a record number of close to 800 participants including eminent global thought leaders across government, commercial sectors, academia and think tanks to examine the impact of recent disruptions, share their perspectives and forge collaboration to shape the future of technology.
2. The third Singapore Defence Technology Summit (Tech Summit) will be conducted both in person and online, from 12 October to 15 October 2021. About 100 delegates who are attending the physical event have been fully vaccinated and follow a controlled itinerary. On top of safe distancing measures in place, the participants are also required to undergo daily pre-event testing before participating in the Tech Summit's activities. The dialogues and discussions will be live-streamed to some 700 participants around the world via a virtual platform. With twice the number of participants as compared to the previous two Tech Summits, this year's event is set to offer stimulating views focusing on the theme "*Building Confidence Amidst Technology Disruption*".
3. The Tech Summit has a stellar line-up of 23 technology luminaries including tech experts, senior management of technology companies, academia and entrepreneurs who will delve into varying perspectives of current disruptions brought about by technology, geo-politics as well as the global pandemic. In an increasingly globalised and interconnected world, these disruptions have caused rippling effects to both government organisations and industries. At the Tech Summit, leaders will

exchange ideas on the organisational changes and interventions necessary to face the future threats and to reap the opportunities brought about by these disruptions.

4. Delivering his welcome address, Singapore's Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen stressed the purpose and importance of the Tech Summit, which gives "leaders and practitioners in defence technology a louder voice in shaping our future". "To achieve that goal, there must be partnerships and consensus among friends and allies and even, perhaps especially, among those who disagree," he added. Dr Ng also urged to put a timely focus on advances in the digital domain, space, autonomous technologies and AI as these disruptive technologies are transforming how organisations and industries operate. He said, "Our search for stabilisers in this age of technological disruptions must necessarily involve partnerships. Countries need to come together to develop frameworks to guide behaviour and outcomes in digital, cyber, AI and other emerging domains."

5. Technology is intrinsic to unprecedented disruptions, whether as a cause, an amplifier, or a solution. At the Tech Summit, in-person attendees will get to experience a life-like 3D hologram which many technologists believe will unlock the transformative potential of how people will engage, interact and collaborate across the globe in the future. The Honorable Heidi Shyu, Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering from the United States Department of Defense will be making a real-time holographic appearance to talk about technology disruption and the importance of technology during a one-on-one dialogue session.

6. On the Tech Summit virtual platform, several government organisations and commercial companies will be showcasing their innovative use of technologies in diverse domains. Daily tech talks have also been scheduled for the delegates to explore the opportunities brought about by disruptive change. As part of DSTA's student engagement efforts, arrangements have also been made for some 160 students from over 30 schools to participate in activities of the Tech Summit, trailblazing new opportunities made possible by technology and collaboration among these young minds. This underscores the importance of inspiring future generations of thought leaders.

7. DSTA first held the inaugural Tech Summit in 2018 with the aim of providing a platform for the exchange of ideas and discussion of ways to confront future challenges. The summit continues to generate insightful conversations, foster new relationships and invaluable networking.

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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.

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