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News Release

DSTA COMMEMORATES 25 YEARS OF ENGINEERING SINGAPORE'S DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

Senior Minister (SM) Lee Hsien Loong attended the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA)'s Silver Jubilee Dinner this evening at the Shangri-La Hotel as Guest-of-Honour, marking a significant milestone in Singapore's defence technology journey. The dinner was also attended by defence technology and DSTA pioneers, DSTA staff past and present, industry leaders, and senior government officials.

The event commemorated DSTA's journey since its establishment in 2000, and its contributions towards advancing the nation's defence capabilities through science, technology, engineering and digital innovation. Before the agency's inception, generations of defence engineers in its predecessor departments under the Ministry of Defence had also played a crucial role in building Singapore's defence, laying the foundations for the SAF's capabilities today. Over the past 25 years, DSTA has developed and honed its capabilities in acquisition of platforms, systems integration, in-house development of digital systems, as well as architecting complex systems-of-systems. DSTA has spearheaded major projects – from smart weapons systems, sophisticated military platforms such as the F15SG and upgraded F16 fighter jets, custom-built *Invincible*-class submarines, as well as the fully digitalised and locally developed Hunter armoured fighting vehicle, to advanced command-and-control solutions and the digitalisation of defence operations – while nurturing strong partnerships with industry and academia globally.

SM Lee and guests toured an exhibition which traced the build-up of defence capabilities, innovations beyond the defence arena, as well as the agency's push into

emerging technology domains including robotics, drones, autonomy, AI and digital platforms to give the SAF its technological edge.

Looking ahead, Permanent Secretary (Defence Development) and DSTA's Chairman, Mr Melvyn Ong said, "DSTA is in a position of strength today, a position built through years of hard work, professional dedication and gumption. Amidst the geopolitical and technological disruptions today, I am glad that DSTA continues to build on its strong fundamentals, while striving to be more agile, innovative and resilient to the changes around us. For instance on agility, DSTA is constantly rethinking its procurement processes to accelerate its pace of technology adoption as technology cycles become shorter and more rapid; they strive to be more innovative in order to translate novel technologies into operational advantages in areas such as robotics and autonomy; and they have enhanced the SAF's resilience by strengthening partnerships with trusted allies and defence industry players to create more diversified and secure supply chains. I am confident that DSTA will continue to give SAF the technology edge it absolutely needs in the coming years."

DSTA's Chief Executive, Mr Ng Chad-Son said, "As DSTA celebrates our 25th Anniversary, we remain committed and steadfast in our mission to advance technological capabilities that strengthen the SAF and safeguard Singapore. With technology evolving at unprecedented speed, DSTA will step up our pace of innovation, especially in areas of artificial intelligence, drones, robotics, counter-drones as well as cyber and digital platforms. We will deepen our partnership with the SAF and industry partners as we push new frontiers in defence science and technology. We invite a new generation of defence technologists and engineers to join us at this critical juncture to carry the mission forward."

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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.

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