

**DESO  
PRESS STATEMENT**

**COUNTERING CORRUPTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE**

**Main Points**

- The Ministry of Defence and Transparency International (UK) (TI(UK)) have been cooperating on work concerned with the issue of bribery and corruption in the international arms trade.
  
- The Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) and TI(UK) jointly hosted a discussion meeting with leading representatives of UK defence exporters in London on 7 July. The theme was ‘Strengthening international defence contracting against corruption’.
  
- The occasion proved to be an excellent forum to debate the issues, and for DESO and TI(UK) to hear industry’s views on ways of promoting high standards of corporate governance. Companies were able to share their experiences, based on operating in a wide variety of market circumstances worldwide. It was in addition a useful opportunity to discuss the efforts made by UK companies to enhance internal procedures so as to provide the strongest possible assurance of the highest standards of employee behaviour and full compliance with the law.
  
- DESO, TI(UK) and the UK defence industry were also able to discuss their common interest in measures to promote high standards of transparency in international defence procurement.

Defence Procurement Minister, Lord Drayson said:

“I am pleased that DESO has organised this event, in partnership with Transparency International, whose efforts in this field I welcome. The Government is determined to play its full part in preventing corruption in international business transactions.”

TI(UK)'s Chairman Laurence Cockcroft said:

“60% of cross-border arms purchases are made by developing countries, and the often-associated corruption can play a major part in destabilisation. The European defence industry can and should do more to ensure that corruption forms no part of these purchases. This meeting was a useful start and the UK Ministry of Defence deserves credit for hosting it.”

For BAE Systems, Group Marketing Director, Mike Rouse said:

“I welcome the dialogue with Transparency International, and other companies in the sector, as a continuation of the dialogue the company already has with other companies, NGOs and Government authorities. BAE Systems is committed to conducting its business to the highest ethical standards and has rigorous internal processes in place to ensure that the company and its employees act strictly within the laws of the UK, the USA and all the other countries in which the company operates. BAE Systems is already engaged in developing and sharing best practice on these issues – nationally and internationally for example through the International Chambers of Commerce.”

## ANNEX

Agusta Westland  
BAE Systems  
Flight Refuelling  
General Dynamics UK  
Lockheed Martin  
Martin-Baker Aircraft Co Ltd  
Park Air Systems  
Rolls Royce International  
Smiths Aerospace  
Smiths Detection  
Thales Air Defence  
Thales UK  
Ultra Electronics  
VT Group

The Defence Industries Council  
The Defence Manufacturers Association

Transparency International (UK)

Defence Exports Services Organisation