



techUK’s Defence SME Forum – Chair/Vice-chair nominees 2024

Chair and vice-chair 2

 Peter Hoinville 2

 Phil Dawson..... 3

 Hamza Huda..... 5

 Dr Andrew Dixon 6

 Paul Vingoe 7

Chair and vice-chair

Peter Hoinville

Job title: Founder and Director of Special Projects

Company: 4Secure Ltd

Nomination for: Chair nomination; Vice-chair nomination

Please write a short biography/Profile

Peter Hoinville - Founder and Director of Special Projects at 4Secure

Peter a cybersecurity expert and entrepreneur, brings over 30 years of IT expertise and more than two decades of experience in Cyber Security and Information Assurance. As 4Secure's Cyber Security Advisor, he specialises in consulting, solution architecture, risk assessment, and security accreditation. His deep knowledge spans highly assured, cloud, and hybrid infrastructures, data protection, and digital privacy. An accomplished trainer, Pete delivers tailored cyber security education, from introductory courses to executive-level briefings, with a focus on threat awareness and bespoke solutions. He has extensive experience applying HMG Security Policies across public sector clients and implementing advanced network defence technologies, including cross-domain data diodes. Pete's practical expertise ensures clients receive world-class solutions and training to mitigate risks and enhance security posture.

Please provide a short paragraph on what you will bring to the Forum and the wider Defence Programme

As a cybersecurity expert with over 30 years in IT and 20 years in Cyber Security and Information Assurance, I bring a wealth of experience and insight to any technical forum or initiative within the UK Defence Programme. My work has spanned consulting, solution architecture, risk assessment, and security accreditation, giving me a deep understanding of highly assured, cloud, and hybrid infrastructures, data protection, and digital privacy. I have extensive hands-on experience applying HMG Security Policies and guidelines across public sector clients, ensuring robust security measures align with national standards. I am also an accomplished trainer, skilled at delivering tailored education on cyber threats, awareness, and mitigation strategies, whether for technical teams or executive boards. This background enables me to bridge technical expertise with strategic decision-making, supporting informed discussions and actionable outcomes. My practical knowledge of network defence technologies, including cross-domain data diodes and other boundary solutions, equips me to address the evolving challenges of securing sensitive systems. I am passionate about sharing insights, fostering collaboration, and developing innovative solutions to protect critical infrastructure and enhance the UK Defence Programme's cybersecurity resilience.

Phil Dawson

Job title: Director

Company: MDS Technologies

Nomination for: Vice-chair nomination; Chair nomination

Please write a short biography/Profile

Career

2006-Present: Director and Investor in MDS Technologies/Assured Digital Technologies (UK Managed Service Provider) and Assured Digital Group (technology investor and incubator)

2016-2024: Founding CEO AUCloud/AUCyber and leader of IPO process (CYB:ASX) to create Australia's leading listed sovereign cloud and cyber security provider

2011-2016: Co-founding CEO Skyscape/UKCloud, UK's leading Government/Defence IaaS provider & fastest growing technology company 2012-15. No involvement post 2016 after founding AUCloud to address Australian market demand

2003-2011: UK and US start-ups across managed cyber security services, mobile networks and data centres.

1996-2002: New Ventures Director GKN, FTSE 50 global engineering business in Defence/Aerospace/Automotive

Representation

2023: Finalist Australian Defence Executive of the Year

2019-2024: Two term Elected Federal Council Member Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA)

2014-2016: Chair techUK Cloud/AI/Mobile Data Council

2013 Co-author UK Data Capability Strategy

2013-2015: Minister of State Invitational Member of UK Economy Council

2013-2015: Elected Member of techUK Board of Directors

Please provide a short paragraph on what you will bring to the Forum and the wider Defence Programme

I will bring deep personal experience within Defence to the Forum, including insights and learnings establishing technology start-ups and leading them through their scale up journey.

Experiences, impacted by barriers to new entrants, from uncertain and wieldy Defence procurement processes, protracted and opaque security vetting and other considerations, which create seemingly un-necessary risk and time that few SMEs can tolerate.

Consequently, most SMEs choose not to supply Defence or even government markets. I also appreciate the underlying rationale for said barriers, which may or may not remain relevant in the context of the risk that they were originally seeking to address.

I have always shared my experience; informally as a coach and mentor and formally through industry wide groups or through submissions to policy developments.

I have represented SMEs on the techUK Main Board, as Chair of techUK Cloud/AI/Mobile/Data council as well as the UK Information Economy Council. Consequently, I appreciate the commitment necessary to undertake Chair/Vice-Chair duties and the ways to encourage others to volunteer their considerable contributions to the cause.

I'm passionate about technologies' potential to address the UK's economic challenges within and beyond the Defence sector and the importance of diversity of engagement (gender, ethnicity, cognitive, etc.) to increase likelihood of success.

Hamza Huda

Job title: Defence Lead

Company: Plexal

Nomination for: Chair nomination; Vice-chair nomination

Please write a short biography/Profile

After over a decade of service in the regular army, with both regular and specialist units, I am now a reservist. On leaving the army, I worked at Palantir focussing on data and AI related defence problems supporting current operations. Now at Plexal as the Defence Lead, I focus on bringing new and novel capabilities to front-line operational units and users. We have curated relationships across academia, for emerging technologies, Defence primes for understanding R&D capabilities and end-user operational units. I have also worked closed with international partners, supporting 3 companies across the NATO DIANA Estonian accelerator to date as well as brining new capabilities to the UK's ISR Spearhead and RAF. Recently, I also helped organise the industry engagement day for Project ASGARD where we hosted the British Army's Information Directorate and hosted a range of companies and SMEs focussing upon increasing the lethality of operators through the use of emerging technology.

Please provide a short paragraph on what you will bring to the Forum and the wider Defence Programme

At Plexal, my role centres on bridging the gap between end-users and SMEs in the defence technology and wider ecosystem. My expertise lies in translating complex technological challenges into actionable solutions. In a recent project focused on AI applications for military decision-making, I demonstrated this skill by drawing parallels between medical imaging technologies and military-grade imagery analysis, highlighting innovative adjacent sector technology transfer opportunities, where we directly supported the UK StratCom ISR Spearhead. I have a comprehensive understanding of SMEs' journeys and their procurement routes into the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and we have strong relationships with Commercial X, jHUB, DASA, DIANA and the Futures Lab as well as other testing facilities such as the Battle Lab. Through our defence-focused programmes and accelerators, we support multiple SMEs in presenting their products to MoD stakeholders, ensuring they develop and scale technologies aligned with national security requirements. A recent example of my approach is the Airbus Space Accelerator, which I led the design of, by leveraging UK Space Command's priority areas. By engaging directly with end-users, I ensured that emerging technologies like hypersonic propulsion and advanced sensing for space domain awareness were directed to those who could most effectively leverage these new capabilities. My goal is to facilitate meaningful connections between innovative SMEs and defence stakeholders, driving technological advancement in critical national security domains.

Dr Andrew Dixon

Job title: Chief Executive Officer

Company: SVGC Group Limited

Nomination for: Vice-chair nomination; Chair nomination

Please write a short biography/Profile

I have been the vice-chair of the the DSSME Forum for the last 3 years following a career in Aerospace, Defence and Security over 30 years including BAE Systems, EADS, the Ministry of Defence, and now CEO of a Technology SME. SVGC was originally founded to provide support to the MoD and associated industry, a service which has now grown to provide systems engineering, data science and digital tools that transform business processes across National Security and wider public sector.

I am passionate about the opportunities for collaboration between all organisations, private and public, combining knowledge and technology solutions and pulling through from academia into solutions. This passion for collaborative working within technology extends further afield than my role at SVGC. I was Chair of the Small Business Forum for the Institute for Collaborative Working for a number of years, am an external examiner for the Cranfield University Battlespace Technology course.

Please provide a short paragraph on what you will bring to the Forum and the wider Defence Programme

I will bring my insight and experience in Defence and Security Acquisition, innovation and strategy over 30 years. Currently leading a team within Defence Digital

As a seasoned leader in the Defence Technology sector, I am excited to offer my extensive experience and industry network to the Forum and the broader Defence Programme. Having served as Vice-Chair of the DSSMEF for the past three years, I have deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing SMEs in this critical industry.

Leading a successful technology business SME, coupled with my experience in large organisations in both the public and private sectors, my background has enabled me to foster strong relationships with key stakeholders, including government officials, industry leaders, and SMEs.

During my time as Vice-Chair, I have been instrumental in driving SME engagement, new approaches to collaborative working and challenging conventional thinking within larger organizations. Using my experience in working with diverse stakeholders, I have helped to bridge the gap between SMEs and larger entities, fostering trust and collaboration and this is needed more now than ever.

My passion for an effective national defence programme, collaborative working, academia and my dedication to supporting the growth of SMEs will drive my focus.

Paul Vingoe

Job title: Co-Founder

Company: VinDo Technology

Nomination for: Chair nomination; Vice-chair nomination

Please write a short biography/Profile

Paul Vingoe is the Founder of a successful veteran-owned business, comprised of former defence and government professionals. Under his leadership, the company has become a respected partner to international technology firms seeking to make an impact in the UK defence sector.

A Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the IET, Paul is a seasoned defence and national security professional with experience spanning 21 years as a Signals Officer and 20 years leading engineering functions in the DefenceTech community. He has a unique perspective as a user, procurer and supplier for defence and intelligence organisations.

Paul is now a trusted advisor to US and EU DefenceTech startups, specialising in business development, customer success, and strategic guidance, helping them navigate the complexities of the UK defence market. His work has consistently focused on aligning cutting-edge technology solutions with the evolving needs of the UK Ministry of Defence and other national security stakeholders.

Please provide a short paragraph on what you will bring to the Forum and the wider Defence Programme

Paul Vingoe brings a unique blend of military leadership and commercial expertise to the Tech UK Defence Board SME Forum. With four decades of experience working within the private sector, Army and wider government, Paul has an in-depth understanding of both the operational and strategic needs of the UK defence user.

As Co-Founder and Managing Director of a veteran-owned consultancy, Paul has a proven track record of helping tech startups successfully navigate the UK defence market. By matching cutting-edge technologies to the needs of the Ministry of Defence and other key stakeholders, he ensures that innovative solutions meet real-world requirements. With both strategic and technical understanding and experience, he is able to coach and mentor peers and fellow technologists looking to operate within the Defence ecosystem.

Paul's leadership is rooted in a collaborative approach that champions the interests of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). He is passionate about ensuring SMEs have a strong, credible voice within the defence community, and he understands the challenges they face when engaging with large-scale procurement processes. Paul will advocate for the SME community, fostering greater engagement with decision-makers and promoting the role of smaller companies in driving the future of UK defence innovation. His vision is to create a thriving ecosystem where SMEs can play a central role in delivering technological advantage.