

**South East England Development Agency awards iGRC Consortium additional
funding for SMEs' involvement in
Information Infrastructure Protection R&D Programme**

April 2010

The UK's South East England Development Agency has awarded the iGRC Consortium additional enabling funding for specialist Information Infrastructure Protection sensor companies wanting to support the programme.

The aim of the SEEDA funding is to create a 'critical mass' of integrated capability geographically clustered in the SEEDA region which is able to offer solutions that can be rapidly deployed in as wide a range of customer environments as possible, thereby underpinning the new standard and speeding market access for the companies involved.

The novelty of the iGRC Consortium's programme involves developing an open standard and interface for an already highly developed governance, risk and compliance platform - Proteus Enterprise. The addition of complementary network sensor technologies from these additional companies will enable the standard and interface to be shaped from the widest possible community of providers, thereby producing sustainable, integrated capability for the management of the complexity, risk and resilience of secure information infrastructure.

'Sensors' in the context of the iGRC Consortium means any hardware or software system that can detect and report electronically a change of status, a possible incident or new risk or threat. Examples range from Intrusion Detection / Prevention, network traffic analysers, access control systems, authentication systems, malware detectors to Data Centre environmental control or intelligent video recognitions systems.

Assuria Managing Director, Nick Connor said of the additional SEEDA funding "This additional funding will enable the iGRC Consortium to engage with many UK sensor SMEs and will help the consortium achieve its goal of having the widest possible sensor coverage thus creating a unique agile and dynamic GRC solution."

Colin Robbins, Nexor CTO, commented "this extra funding clearly recognises and endorses the contribution to innovation that SMEs can make. Being part of a rich collaboration of industry and academia also helps SMEs like Nexor to undertake R&D in a wider and more relevant context."

The iGRC Consortium bids for Technology Strategy Board and SEEDA R&D funding were developed with the active support of SITC through its GRC Special Interest Group.

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The iGRC Consortium is led by Information Governance Limited and includes HP Enterprise Services (previously EDS), Assuria and Nexor, and the Universities of Cranfield, Loughborough and London (Birkbeck College). The project will develop and demonstrate the integration of Information Governance's Proteus Enterprise™ GRC management product with Assuria, Nexor and other network sensor technologies via an innovative XML based standard.

The programme brings together already highly developed GRC and related technologies into one sustainable integrated, dynamic governance, risk and compliance platform for network security information infrastructure protection.

The Consortium considered a dynamic and integrated approach to governance, risk and compliance practices in information infrastructure management, process and technology necessary because of:

- the speed and frequency of new regulatory requirements
- a need to enhance, enforce and reinforce codes of conduct
- complex operations having limited ability for consolidated reporting
- manual processes needing to be automated to avoid non-compliance
- knowledge gaps in agile risk and compliance operations
- board-level reporting lagging operational events and detail

The iGRC Consortium project manager, Mike Popham said "To be able to involve extra SMEs at this stage will give the consortium a boost and ensure that we sustain a consistently high level of security in complex ICT infrastructure, processes and management must all operate within a single governance, risk and compliance control framework able to adapt swiftly to current and anticipated threats and vulnerabilities. 'Agile adaptability' is our watch phrase."

More information can be obtained from **Mike Popham** mike.popham@infogov.co.uk

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Notes for Editors

About the iGRC Consortium

About Assuria

Assuria provides IT security assurance, compliance and log management solutions to organisations in more than 50 countries worldwide. Assuria solutions help to implement and monitor compliance with international IT security standards and assist with implementation of IT security 'good practice' by optimising security configurations of business systems and monitoring systems for unauthorised changes and suspicious events. Protection is also provided by the automatic collection and storage of system event logs with real time alerting and comprehensive analysis and reporting. Retention of original logs enables future investigations, a mandatory requirement of most Information Security standards.

For more information, visit us at www.assuria.com.

About Birkbeck, University of London

Renowned for its world class research, Birkbeck is a vibrant centre of academic excellence, where over 90% of Birkbeck academics are research active. The goal of the College's research strategy is to sustain and enhance its standing as a leading national and international research institution. This goal includes the achievement of excellence in research and scholarship in all College disciplines; the development of research concentrations in areas of strength; and that research should inform the College's teaching. In 2006 the College was awarded a prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize for excellence in higher education research.

For more information about Birkbeck's research strategy please consult <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/research/strategy/>.

About CPNI

CPNI provides integrated security advice (combining information, personnel and physical) to the businesses and organisations which make up the national infrastructure. Through the delivery of this advice, we protect national security by helping to reduce the vulnerability of the national infrastructure to terrorism and other threats.

Advisers working for CPNI cover the full range of security disciplines and are highly experienced in providing advice to national infrastructure organisations. CPNI is an interdepartmental organisation, with resources from industry, academia and a number of government departments and agencies. These include the Security Service, CESG (the UK's national technical authority for information assurance) and other government departments responsible for national infrastructure sectors.

More information about CPNI is at: www.cpni.gov.uk

About Cranfield University

Cranfield Defence and Security (CDS) is one of the five schools of Cranfield University and is based at the Shrivenham site of the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. CDS is made up of three academic departments of which the Department of Informatics and Sensors specialises in research and research-led education and training in defence and security-related disciplines focussing on information collection, management and exploitation. The Centre for Forensic Computing and Security within the department is a leading research centre examining topics such as network intrusion detection, network-centric warfare and the retrieval of digital evidence from electronic devices. More information about Cranfield University is at: www.cranfield.ac.uk.

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About HP

HP creates new possibilities for technology to have a meaningful impact on people, businesses, governments and society. The world's largest technology company, HP brings together a portfolio that spans printing, personal computing, software, services and IT infrastructure to solve customer problems. More information about HP (NYSE: HPQ) is available at: www.hp.com.

About Information Governance Limited

InfoGov is a specialist governance risk and compliance software development company. Our principal product is Proteus Enterprise, the full enterprise wide, multi-standard, web based compliance and risk management framework. Proteus® software has a history dating back to 1995 when the BSI (British Standards Institution) first adopted our software as the preferred tool to automate the BS7799 Code of Practice for Information Security Management.

For further details see: www.infogov.co.uk.

About Loughborough University

Loughborough is one of the country's leading universities. It was awarded the coveted Sunday Times University of the Year 2008-09 title and has received six Queen's Anniversary Prizes, in recognition of its research and innovation. The University has one of the largest engineering faculties in the UK and is also renowned for its strong links with industry. The Engineering Systems of Systems Group, led by Professor Michael Henshaw, is delighted to be part of the iGRC programme, bringing their expertise in supply chain analysis to the consortium. For further details see: www.lboro.ac.uk.

About Nexor

Nexor is a leading provider of information assurance solutions to defence and government agencies. Founded in 1990, Nexor connects, transforms and protects sensitive information to ensure trusted access and secure interoperability. Nexor's comprehensive portfolio of technology and services is readily tailored to provide a value for money contribution to information assurance programmes. More information about Nexor is available at www.nexor.com.

About SEEDA, the South East England Development Agency

SEEDA is the Government-funded agency responsible for the sustainable economic development of the South East of England – the driving force of the UK's economy. Through supporting businesses, encouraging innovation, developing skills and engaging with public and private partners, we aim to create a successful, sustainable future for the region. SEEDA's support helped deliver the following over the period 2005-2008:

- 17,500 jobs created or safeguarded
- 32,500 people helped to get work
- 10,000 businesses created or attracted to region
- 137,500 businesses assisted
- £638m investment, 45% levered from private sector
- 200ha Brownfield land remediated
- 148,500 people assisted in skills development

For further details see: www.seeda.co.uk.

About SITC

SITC is a not-for-profit membership organisation dedicated to supporting the development of innovative and technologically sophisticated security solutions, backed by the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA). For further details see: www.securityintech.com.

About the Technology Strategy Board

The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the Government. Its role is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve quality of life. It is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). For more information please visit www.innovateuk.org.