

## NEWS &amp; VIEWS

# Top defence show in London debates ethics issues

The Defence Systems & Equipment International Exhibition, (DSEi 2009) was held at ExCeL, London, from September 8 to 11, providing a unique platform to view the latest systems and equipment from the world's defense and security industry. The exhibition has been getting bigger and better with every edition and this year drew more than 1350 companies from 40 countries over four business-packed days.

As part of the exhibition's seminar program, the DSEi debated ethics issues that concern security and defence. On the second day of the exhibition, 'Promoting ethical business practice within the aerospace, defence and security sectors' came up as a topic of discussion mooted by the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC).

These UK companies have taken the initiative to promote ethical business practices, especially effective ways to tackle anti-corruption. They are working with the Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD), which has encouraged every national trade association to sign up to its Common Industry Standards (CIS) for anti-corruption.

The DSEi conferences and seminars bring together senior international trade and military experts from across the entire supply chain in an optimal business environment. In 2007, the DSEi attracted over 26,000 visitors including top level international delegations, military experts, UK ministers and senior defense personnel, international defense press and prequalified defense trade officials.

The 2009 Seminar Programme at DSEi enabled both visitors and exhibitors to gain knowledge from leading case studies and seek solutions for company and industry specific challenges. Such seminars on ethics would do well to suggest guidelines on defense deals so that arms trades the world over will be above board.

**KSR**

## *Of the world, of India...*

*"In that blissful silence the Mahatma spoke, 'Friends, the divine message we are hearing is the message of creation. Since we all belong to planet earth, we may give a message to mankind, how people of different races, religions and languages can live peacefully and prosperously together.' .....*

*It was Einstein's turn. 'I would like to recall my friend Werner Heisenberg's view, "You know, in the West we have built a large, beautiful ship. It has all the comforts in it but one thing is missing: it has no compass and does not know where to go. Men like Tagore and Gandhi and their spiritual forbears found the compass. Why can this compass not be put in the human ship so that both can realize their purpose." –*

*The Dream and the Message  
- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam from his book "Ignited minds"*