

## Press Release: Defence Exports 2026 - Global Compliance, Strategy, and Cooperation

LONDON, UK | 28 - 30 September, 2026



Returning to London in September 2026, the Defence Exports Conference marks two decades at the forefront of defence trade compliance and export controls. This milestone edition promises to be the most impactful yet, bringing together senior decision-makers from across the global defence and trade ecosystem.

Leading the 2026 programme is returning speaker **Robert Hart (U.S. Department of State)**, delivering a DDTC update with essential insights into navigating rapidly evolving U.S. export controls. We also reintroduce AUKUS-focused content after a two-year break, with **Aidan Fisher (Export Controls Australia Group)** exploring Australia's export control reforms, alignment with the U.S. system, and the opportunities and challenges ahead for industry. Completing this policy outlook, **Alex White (UK Department for Business and Trade)** will provide an update on UK Open General Export Licences (OGELs), covering recent developments, practical implications for exporters, and what's next for UK export licensing.

We are delighted to welcome **Mayer Brown** as a new Gold Sponsor for this 20th anniversary edition, alongside returning Gold Sponsor **Steptoe**, whose continued support reflects their long-standing leadership in international trade compliance. We are also pleased to confirm **Pillsbury** as a returning Silver Sponsor, further strengthening this year's programme.

Download the 2026 Brochure:

[https://www.smgconferences.com/defence/uk/conference/defence-exports?utm\\_source=EGADD&utm\\_medium=MP&utm\\_campaign=PR-Home&utm\\_id=D-454](https://www.smgconferences.com/defence/uk/conference/defence-exports?utm_source=EGADD&utm_medium=MP&utm_campaign=PR-Home&utm_id=D-454)



\*Steptoe & Pillsbury are returning for Defence Exports 2026

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## What's new for Defence Exports 2026?

- **The Evolution of the Role of an International Trade Compliance Specialist**  
*Sylvia Coburg, Regional Trade Controls Leader – UK, Europe and Israel Regions, Global Trade Controls, BUKL (A subsidiary of The Boeing Company)*  
Explores how accelerating technological change and geopolitical disruption are reshaping the trade compliance function, requiring practitioners to move beyond transactional controls towards strategic business advisory, broader cross-functional awareness, and faster, more targeted training to sustain compliance, trust, and organisational resilience.
- **The Compliance Squeeze: Export Controls When You Don't Own the End-Use**  
*Vegar Haug Slåttum, Group Compliance Manager – Aerospace & Defence, NCAB Group*  
Examines the unique compliance pressures faced by lower-tier defence suppliers, focusing on information asymmetry, limited visibility of end-use and end-users, and the practical challenges of interpreting concepts such as “specially designed” while maintaining defensible export control decisions.
- **Bilateral Naval Programmes: Navigating Export Controls Across FMS and Direct Commercial Sales**  
*Rosa Bernhart, Head of Export Control Department & ECO, RAM-System GmbH*  
Delivers a practical case-based examination of export control management within bilateral naval programmes, comparing U.S. and German licensing frameworks, programme governance structures, and the coordination required to enable compliant Foreign Military Sales and Direct Commercial Sales across transatlantic supply chains.

View the latest agenda:

[https://www.smgconferences.com/defence/uk/conference/defence-exports?utm\\_source=EGADD&utm\\_medium=MP&utm\\_campaign=PR-Newfor26&utm\\_id=D-454#tab\\_programme](https://www.smgconferences.com/defence/uk/conference/defence-exports?utm_source=EGADD&utm_medium=MP&utm_campaign=PR-Newfor26&utm_id=D-454#tab_programme)



*\*A preview of our new speakers for 2026*

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## **2026 Focus Day: Navigating Defence Exports in a Fragmented Geopolitical Landscape**

In recent months, escalating geopolitical tensions and renewed conflict in the Middle East have caused significant disruption across global supply chains, energy corridors, and strategically sensitive trade routes. The effective closure and militarisation of key maritime chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz have highlighted how quickly regional instability can cascade into global economic, security, and regulatory shockwaves, placing defence and dual-use exporters under unprecedented strategic and regulatory pressure.

Taking place on 28 September in London, the Focus Day examines how organisations can navigate overlapping jurisdictions, manage contractual and regulatory risk, and align control frameworks with commercial and security priorities, equipping attendees with practical insight to operate effectively amid sustained volatility and an increasingly fragmented global environment.

Explore the full Focus Day agenda:

[https://www.smgconferences.com/defence/uk/conference/defence-exports?utm\\_source=EGADD&utm\\_medium=MP&utm\\_campaign=PR-FD&utm\\_id=D-454#tab\\_programme](https://www.smgconferences.com/defence/uk/conference/defence-exports?utm_source=EGADD&utm_medium=MP&utm_campaign=PR-FD&utm_id=D-454#tab_programme)



*\*Back for 2026: Reid Whitten (Partner, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton), is once again chairing this year's focus day*

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## Looking to connect with the global defence exports community shaping the future of international security collaboration?

Engage with an international audience of senior military, government, and industry leaders driving defence export strategy, partnerships, and procurement opportunities. The Defence Exports Conference consistently attracts one of the sector's most senior and commercially focused audiences. Last year's attendee profile included:

1. **Delegations from 25+ Nations:** Delivering a truly global perspective on defence trade, international cooperation, export controls, and shared security priorities across land, air, maritime, and cyber domains.
2. **33% legal, compliance, technology, supply chain & financial sector representation:** Highlighting the critical role of export controls, regulatory frameworks, financing, and supply chain resilience in enabling successful international defence trade and partnership delivery.
3. **Over 75% senior level attendees:** Providing direct access to export directors, capability planners, procurement leaders, and key decision-makers responsible for shaping defence trade relationships and international programme opportunities.

Previous attendees have included:

- **Previous Industry Attendees:** Airbus, ANDURIL, Aselsan, BAE Systems, Boeing, Collins Aerospace, Diehl Defence GmbH & Co. KG, Embraer, GE Aerospace, General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, GKN Aerospace, Kongsberg Defence &

Aerospace AS, Korea Aerospace Industries, L3 Harris Technologies, Leonardo DRS Inc., Lockheed Martin Corporation, MBDA UK Ltd., MOOG, Nammo AS, Northrop Grumman, Oshkosh Corporation, Patria Oyj, Rolls-Royce, Saab, Safran Helicopter Engines UK, Sierra Nevada Corporation

- **Previous Military/Government/Trade Body Attendees:** ADS Group Limited, Aerospace Industries Association (AIA), Chartered Institute of Export & International Trade, Embassy of Ukraine, European Institute for Export Compliance (EIFEC), European Commission, Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU), Government of Canada, Inspektionen för Strategiska Produkter (ISP), MINDEF, Norwegian Agency for Export Control and Sanctions (DEKSA), U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of State, UK Ministry Of Defence, US Army, Wassenaar Arrangement
- **Previous Legal/Compliance Technology/Supply Chain/ Financial Sector Attendees:** Advokatfirman Florenius & Co, BakerHostetler, DGS Associates, Frazer-Nash Consulting, KPMG, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP. Ploum Lodder Princen, RAND Europe, Sayari, Sheppard Mullin, Steptoe International (UK) LLP, Moodys, DHL Supply Chain Limited, Expeditors International, Moller-Maersk APA/ S, NCAB Group, Greene Tweed Lt, ASML, MIC Datenverarbeitung GmbH, Schunk Xycard Technology B.V.

Read the full previous attendee list:

[https://www.smgconferences.com/defence/uk/conference/defence-exports?utm\\_source=EGADD&utm\\_medium=MP&utm\\_campaign=PR-PAL&utm\\_id=D-454#tab\\_downloads](https://www.smgconferences.com/defence/uk/conference/defence-exports?utm_source=EGADD&utm_medium=MP&utm_campaign=PR-PAL&utm_id=D-454#tab_downloads)

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### Secure Your Place Today

Tickets are selling quickly, with £200 early-bird ticket available until **2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026**. Whether you're a compliance officer, licensing professional, or policy advisor, Defence Exports 2026 is your opportunity to benchmark strategy, engage global partners, and shape the future of defence trade.

Register now: [https://www.smgconferences.com/defence/uk/conference/defence-exports/booknow?utm\\_source=EGADD&utm\\_medium=MP&utm\\_campaign=PR-EB&utm\\_id=D-454](https://www.smgconferences.com/defence/uk/conference/defence-exports/booknow?utm_source=EGADD&utm_medium=MP&utm_campaign=PR-EB&utm_id=D-454)

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We look forward to welcoming you to London in September 2026.

Kind regards,

**The Defence Exports Team**

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