

UK-Japan Defence and Technology Symposium

4th, November 2026, at Japan House London, 101-111 Kensington High Street, London W8 5SA

Hosted by the Institute of Directors Japan Business Group and supported by Japan House London and the Embassy of Japan

Sponsors: Silicon Sensing Systems Limited (A Collins Aviation and the Sumitomo Group JV), ITO EN, Sake Samurai Association

Programme Agenda

Prelude

2:00 pm

Arrival / Registration

2:15 pm

Doors Open

Programme

2:30 pm (5mins)

Opening Address: Dr Indranil Nath, Chair, IoD Japan Business Group, Fellow, Institute of Directors

2:40 pm (5mins)

Welcome Address: Sam Thorne, Director General and CEO, Japan House London

2:50 pm (10mins)

Keynote Address: Rt Hon Luke Pollard MP, Minister of State for Defence Readiness and Industry, MoD*

3:05 pm (10mins)

Keynote Address: His Excellency Hiroshi Suzuki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the UK, Embassy of Japan in the UK

3:20 pm (10mins)

Keynote Address: Silicon Sensing Anglo-Japan partners for 27 years, David Sommerville, Director, Silicon Sensing Systems Limited.

3:35 pm (40mins)

Panel Discussion: Creating the National Defence Technology Corridor: Integrating Emerging Defence Technologies, Digital Engineering, and Dual-Use Manufacturing for UK-Japan Security Cooperation.

Panel Speakers:

Professor Michael J de Henshaw, Professor of Systems Engineering, Loughborough University

Andrew Barr, Head of Maritime, TEKEVER Defence.

Andrew Wells, Head of Inward Investment & Inclusive Economy, Swindon Borough Council

Moderator: Professor Rajkumar Roy, Dean, Wolfson School of Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering and Academic Lead for Defence and Security Sectoral Group

4:20 pm (40mins)

Panel Discussion: SMEs and the Global Combat Air Programme: Opening the Supply Chain for Next Generation Defence Innovation

Panel Speakers:

Chris Weir, Chief Technology Officer, Midlands Aerospace Alliance

Kate Robertson, Chief Digital Officer, Edgewing Systems Ltd.

Kazuhiro Mizuta, Managing Director and COO/CTO of AeroEdge Co., Ltd.

Maurizio Fornaiolo, Chief Procurement Officer, Edgewing Systems Limited

Moderator: Viscount Hugh Trenchard, House of Lords

5:05 pm (15mins)

Break

5:20 pm (10 mins)

Keynote Address: Duncan Farrow-Smith, Partner, UK's Chief Strategy Officer and Defence Lead, Deloitte LLP UK

5:35 pm (40mins)

Panel Discussion: Bridging SMEs into Defence Procurement: From Skilling, Research Insights to Industry Action.

Panel Speakers:

George Woollard, Campaign Director, Light Vehicles, Land Sector, Babcock International Group

Prof Simon Harward, Chief Technology Officer (UK), Leonardo

Chris Saxby, CDir, Vice Chairman of City of Plymouth College*

Moderator: Andrew Main, IoD Japan Ambassador

6:20 pm (40mins)

Panel Discussion: Financing Dual-Use Defence Innovation: Innovation Fund Opportunities for SMEs and UK-Japan Collaboration

Panel Speakers:

Julie Marionneau, Director of International Relations, ADS.

Rob Shaw, Director of Defence & Security, Innovate UK*

Adam Painter, Commercial & Adoption Manager (Investments), NATO DIANA*

Moderator: Tomosaku Sohara, General Partner, NordicNinja VC

7:00 pm (5mins)

Closing Remarks: John Browett, Chair of the Board of Directors, Institute of Directors

7:05 pm (5mins)

Discovering the Sake Served today: Rie Yoshitake, UK Representative, Sake Samurai Association

7:10 pm – 9:00 pm

Networking (Sushi/Sake/drinks) - Close

* Subject to confirmation