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:** Yuuichiro Nakajima, Chair of 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:** H.E. Masaki Ikegami, Deputy Head of Mission, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Japan to the UK.
3:20 pm (10mins)	**Keynote Address:** Silicon Sensing Anglo-Japan partners for 27 years **Speaker:** 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 Scott McClelland, Corporate Director, 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 Harwood, Chief Technology Officer (UK), Leonardo Duncan Farrow-Smith, Partner, UK's Chief Strategy Officer and Defence Lead, Deloitte LLP UK **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. Rt Hon David Taylor, MP, Trade Envoy to Japan, Department of Business, Science, Innovation and Trade, Gov.UK Rachel Kempsell, Deputy Director, Technology Venture Unit, Dept for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade, Gov.UK **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