

NEWS RELEASE

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Course set to combat data loss

Cranfield University is launching a new course on information assurance as part of a national drive to raise awareness of how to protect information held by public sector organisations. The new MSc in Information Assurance for the Public Sector has been developed with funding from the Cabinet Office and is supported by the national technical authority for Information Assurance, CESG.

The purpose of the MSc is to educate the hybrid-manager who understands the discipline of information assurance as an element of business management. After an initial grounding in information assurance the course offers three paths: business management, resilience or forensic computing. This allows attendees to explore the area appropriate to their career aspirations in greater depth.

The course will focus on educating the next generation of senior managers who can understand and manage information assurance in complex business environments. Lt Gen Sir Edmund Burton (an expert on information security and assurance and author of the MoD report into the lost laptops published in June 2008) has agreed to act as Chair of the External Advisory Panel for the course.

Debi Ashenden, the Course Director, said: "Academics lecturing on this course bring a wealth of experience from both the public and private sector. They have been chosen because they understand the issues of translating the theory of information assurance into practice across a broad spectrum of organisational contexts."

Owen Pengelly, Head of the CSIA within the Cabinet Office said: "Having the right kinds of qualified professionals working on information security and assurance in the public sector is crucial to improving confidence in how we protect the information government handles, whether it is personal data or national security information. The public sector has a unique set of requirements and this new course will help ensure a continuous provision of individuals with the necessary skills to give assurance to government that the information it handles is adequately protected".

Chris Ensor, CESG's Head of Profession for IA, said "there is huge scope to raise standards of professionalism across the IA community, not just in the technical IA area, but wherever IA touches

normal everyday jobs. We welcome this course as an opportunity to help deliver this at senior management levels."

The two year course will start in September and will be taught by Cranfield University at the Defence Academy in Shrivenham, Swindon.

Further information can be found on www.cranfield.ac.uk/students/courses/page21051.jsp

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NOTES TO EDITOR:

Cranfield University is a wholly postgraduate institution with a worldwide reputation for excellence and expertise in aerospace, automotive, defence, engineering, environment and water, health, management and manufacturing. The University is made up of the following Schools: Cranfield Health, School of Management, School of Applied Sciences, School of Engineering, and The Defence College of Management and Technology at Shrivenham. For more information visit www.cranfield.ac.uk

Defence College of Management and Technology:

Cranfield University at Shrivenham operates as academic provider to the Defence College of Management and Technology at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. The partnership allows Cranfield to draw on the skills and real experience of the Navy, Army, Air Force and Civil Service in delivering course programmes. The DCMT is a leading world centre for research in defence and defence-related fields. Research programmes include disaster management, military vehicles, guns, civil engineering, explosives, materials science, mathematical modelling, communications, missile control systems, electrical drives, solar energy, fuel cells, and robotics.

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