

# Global AI experts to present at Dstl's virtual AI Fest

Microsoft's President Brad Smith and Eric Schmidt, the former Chief Executive of Google and Chairman of the US National Security Commission on AI, are among some of the top key note speakers at this year's [AI Fest](#).

Dstl – the science inside UK defence and security – is playing a critical role in helping UK defence understand how it can responsibly and ethically adopt AI.

Dstl provides a world-class capability in applying artificial intelligence, machine learning and data science to defence and security challenges and AI Fest will bring the AI community together from all over the world to discuss the topic of 'trustworthy AI'.

Professor Steven Meers, the Head of Dstl's AI Lab, said:

Responsibly harnessing AI is a key challenge for our generation and AI Fest is a great opportunity to bring the UK and our international partners together to share ideas and approaches that will help ensure AI systems are safe, reliable and trustworthy.

Last year we had a fantastic event where we had over 1700 people attending and an amazing line up of speakers from all over the world. This year will build upon that success and will enable attendees to hear from some of the world's leading thinkers and leave inspired by new ideas, practical insights and lessons they can apply in their day to day work.

Over 2 days attendees will be able to engage in nearly 100 talks, pose questions to speakers and listen to panel discussions between AI Experts.

Other keynote speakers include Lawrence Lee, MOD's 2nd Permanent Undersecretary, General Patrick Sanders, Commander Strategic Command, Lt General Groen, Director of the US Joint AI Centre, and Caroline Bellamy, MOD's Chief Data Officer.

It is Dstl's mission to de-mystify the area of AI by helping MOD understand how it can responsibly and ethically adopt AI in order to deter and de-escalate conflict, save lives and reduce harm.

This is the fourth AI Fest which aims to bring together the AI community across government, industry, academia and international partners, where world-leading experts share their experiences including the challenges of military adoption of AI, and we discuss how to build an effective and responsible AI capability.

AI Fest is open to government officials, academics and industry partners who are working in the Defence industry.

Find out more about [AI and Dstl's work](#) and read our series of [Biscuit Books](#), easily-digested guides to the latest thinking and developments in artificial intelligence, data science and machine learning.