




FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EXPORT CONTROLS

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**Government-to government, regional,
and multilateral information sharing
on end-users of concern and front
companies.**



Introduction

∞ Technological advancement and globalisation



∞ Greater opportunities for proliferators



∞ Need for the export control systems to evolve

Information Sharing

Why?

- ⌚ Knowledge of end-users of concern and front companies is very important
- ⌚ Few countries have an information database as wide as their industry's client base

But

- ⌚ It is a sensitive area and there are limits to its operations

Regional and multilateral info sharing

In regime meetings

Advantages

- ∞ Countries can share their individual knowledge and expertise
- ∞ Enforcement experts meetings allow discussion of the mechanics of illegal procurement

Disadvantages

- ∞ Rules on use of intelligence material may constrain sharing of sensitive information on end users/front companies, given the large audiences involved



Denial notifications

Advantages

- ⌚ Allow information on goods denied to a certain end-user to be shared, raising the standard of export control decisions

Caveat

- ⌚ Most effective where a 'no undercut' policy operates



Bilateral Information Sharing

- ∞ Preferred method for exchanging information of a sensitive nature
- ∞ Particularly for case specific export issues involving two nations when a mutual interest is at stake
- ∞ Flexible, and can be adapted

Impediments to Information Sharing

Legal Considerations

- ⌚ Potential conflict between increased provisions for information sharing in the regimes, and national privacy and information legislation
- ⌚ Legal status of shared secure databases of end-users of concern and front companies in licensing process



State-specific considerations

- ∞ Perceived Commercial and Policy downsides of sharing**
- ∞ Some States would benefit from information sharing but are 'outside' the regimes**



Co-operation considerations

Information has a value, so;

- ⌚ A country with information on a transaction with proliferation concerns will have questions over the supply of that information
- ⌚ Does the country have the necessary legislation
- ⌚ If the information leads to the confiscation of a consignment, will the country that supplied the information be given access to the consignment and involved in the consequences of the seizure?

Conclusion - Ways forward

- ∞ The key to obtaining, sharing and using information effectively is the will and ability to use it properly for practical benefit
- ∞ The UK has helped extensively with providing information and expert advice. When action is taken as a result, the benefit goes beyond export controls into the wider relationship between countries
- ∞ UK looks forward to responding to similar requests in the future