



Confederation of Indian Industry

FORUM ON HIGH-TECH DEFENCE INNOVATION

Friday, 16 December 2011, IDSA, New Delhi

Suggested Vote of Thanks

for

**Mr Gurpal Singh, Deputy Director General & Head (Defence/
Aerospace/ Security), Confederation of Indian Industry**

- Lt. Gen Prakash Menon, Military Advisor, NSCS & Chairman, Task Force on National Security
- Mr. Vivek Rae, Additional Secretary, MOD & DG Acquisitions
- Shri Ravindra Gupta, Chairman, National Task Force on Self Reliance in Defence Production

Ladies and Gentleman,

Defence is a capital intensive and technology driven sector. Understandably, scientific and technological innovation is the foundation of a robust defence manufacturing base. Therefore, India needs a highly focused, well coordinated and an integrated **strategy on high-tech defence innovation** to create a viable national innovation ecosystem. There is a need to look beyond the scope of the conventional approach.

On behalf of CII and IDSA, I would take the opportunity to propose the vote of thanks at the end of today's important forum. At the very outset, I take the opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Lt. Gen Prakash

Menon, Military Advisor, NSCS for gracing this occasion with his presence and delivering a very insightful opening remarks in the inaugural session and chairing rest of the sessions . We are also extremely grateful to Mr. Vivek Rae, Additional Secretary, MOD & DG Acquisitions for joining us today and sharing his perspective on MOD's role in reforming and energizing Indian Defence industry with us in this audience. I am confident that his visionary leadership will facilitate timely evolution of an **innovation - friendly defence policy** framework and enable the Indian defence players to contribute their best to place India at the forefront of global defence manufacturing industry. We thank you very much for sparing his valuable time.

I would also like to thank Mr Ravindra Gupta, Chairman, National Task Force on Self Reliance in Defence Production and Mr Sisodia, Former DG-IDSAs for being here with us for this forum and sharing their thoughts.

I also wish to thank Admiral V S Choudhri, Mr Devendra Chaudhry and Mr. Gaurav Dave for sharing their thoughts on the subject. I extend my thanks to Prof Tai Ming Cheung and Mr David Graham for their active participation through video conferencing.

My special thanks also go to all the esteemed speakers from the industry and academia who, despite their busy schedules could join us

today to share their expert perspectives on different aspects of today's topic. Thank you very much to all of them.

I would also take this opportunity to thank the audience for their active participation through their constructive comments and candid views.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It has been observed that Innovation is an object of change and technological progress. I strongly support this view and would urge all the stake holders to keep it in mind while framing policies and strategies at all level – micro as well as macro level.

Scientific and technological innovations cannot be flow automatically in vacuum. We need to work together to frame a suitable roadmap/strategy on the basis of our national security aspirations and accordingly take concrete steps to instil the factor of innovation at every level – from policy to production to induction to maintenance - for attaining a positive multiplier effect of each investment to attain self reliance in defence sector .

We must accept the fact that in a hugely populated nation like India, the opportunity cost of defence spending is very high. It makes the **role of innovation** very crucial in **minimizing** the cost and **maximizing** positive economic externalities, especially in terms of optimal use of scare

resources and talents, high returns of investment, timely & efficient project management, rapid defence industrial growth, creation of employment, enhancement of defence capabilities, and faster integration of Indian defence industry with the global defence supply chain etc.

I would also like to emphasize here about the Indian MSMEs which are globally known as the repository of innovation. I feel that any mission on innovation will remain incomplete without the participation of MSMEs. Therefore, we must incentivise their participation and accordingly integrate these dynamic players into the defence production chain to optimally use our national innovative talents.

Involvement of private industry in strategic sectors is a necessity. The achievements in the space and nuclear sectors could not have been possible without the involvement of the private sector.

To conclude, I would take the opportunity to thank Ms Smita Purshottam and her team for making this extremely important event a possibility. This is CII-IDSA second event in the last three years. The CII-IDSA event in January 2009 was also a path-breaking event. We would wish to further strengthen this partnership and would wish to have a continued engagement with IDSA. Together, we can make a difference.

I am quite hopeful that today's deliberations and recommendations would help us in framing suitably refined and properly integrated strategy to achieve the goals of creating high tech defence manufacturing base in India.

Thank you!!!