



ST GEORGE'S HOUSE

# AI & Defence: Ensuring Security and Stability

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> October – Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Participant Biographies





### **Mr Andrew Bailey**

Andrew is passionate about improving productivity by harmonising people, process and technology. His career spans Defence, Formula One, and FinTech/AI. With senior roles at Babcock, QinetiQ, McLaren Racing, Schroders and G Research. He is a Chartered Engineer, holds the CFA's IMC, is a Leadership Fellow at SGH and an accredited Executive Coach. He is CEO of Rathbone Results.



### **Ms Grace Bailey**

Grace is an interviewer and journalist who founded San Clemente and its successful podcasts series in Arts, Food & Tech. Her work includes discussions with award-winning creatives, entrepreneurs and academics to share diverse ideas of success with a Gen Z audience. She recently graduated with her MA in Classics from UCL.



### **Mr Ian Bell**

Ian has over 20 years' experience in the defence sector, Ian has an extensive track record in transforming and developing businesses. Ian joined Newcastle based Pearson Engineering in 2024 as Group CEO to lead the next phase in growth for the company. This role sees him leading the expansion into new markets and diversification through the development of new technologies and market leading manufacturing capabilities.

His success in developing and implementing change strategies to align with business objectives for business growth, integration, restructuring, business development and strategy is key to the development and delivery of Pearson Engineering's Strategic Plan and the overall Group strategy.

He has held leadership and consulting roles as both an Executive and a Non-Executive Director, within the global defence domain where he regularly engaged with the corporate world, Private Equity and government agencies, especially with businesses entering the European, Middle East and Asia Pacific regions reinforcing the Board's depth of customer understanding.

Ian's career began in the military when he was commissioned into the Royal Air Force and served several operational tours as a helicopter pilot, instructor and examiner, across the world including an exchange tour with the United States Air Force flying the MH60G Blackhawk. Ian held several key staff appointments within the MoD including Research and Development, Procurement and Human Resources. He commanded both an operational squadron and an air base before retiring from the Royal Air Force after 26 years.

He later joined CAE, a training and simulation company based in Montreal as their Managing Director of the Medium Support Helicopter Training Facility at Royal Air Force Benson. Taking on increasingly more responsibility as the Managing Director CAE (UK) plc, leading CAE's Defence Land business within Europe. As Vice President of CAE Europe, he founded CAE's defence business in the Middle East and spent three years running the entire CAE defence portfolio across the Middle East and Asia Pacific based in Abu Dhabi UAE and Sydney Australia. Here he led CAE's expansion into the defence naval arena. Ian's career culminated at CAE as the Senior Vice President Global Strategy and Business Development Defence based in Washington DC.

Ian has been both a Board Member and Chairman of several international Joint Ventures, where he has been a strategic leader, mentor and business transformational lead.



### **Mr Jim Boehm**

Jim is Chief Digital Risk Officer for McKinsey & Company based in London, U.K. He leads cybersecurity, tech resilience, Responsible AI, and data risk. Jim's remit spans both internal and client-facing work.

Previously, Jim was a client-facing Expert Partner and led McKinsey's EMEA Cybersecurity and Digital Risk practice, as well as McKinsey's efforts in Australia. Before the EMEA/AUS leadership role, Jim led the Cybersecurity and Digital Risk practice in Latin America and helped build and co-lead the North American practice.

Prior to McKinsey, Jim was a U.S. military officer (aviation and intelligence), and a National Security Project Manager (computer network operations and cyberanalysis systems).

Jim earned a BS in history (Honors) from the U.S. Naval Academy and an MBA from the Wharton School. He lives in London with his wife, Julia, and two children (12 and 9).



### **Mr John Boynton**

John is Chairman of Nebius Group (NASDAQ: NBIS), an Amsterdam-based company that builds vertically integrated, large scale AI infrastructure to accelerate AI innovation globally and at scale.

Through his private investment firm, Firehouse Capital, Inc., he actively backs early-stage technology and data-focused companies, with a particular interest in the sports and sports tech sectors. Most recently, he co-founded and serves as Chairman of LITIX, Inc., a vertical SaaS company that leverages AI to serve public sector organizations. He holds a BA from Harvard College.



### **Ms Grace Cassy**

Grace is co-founder of CyLon Ventures, a Board member at 1011 Ventures, and recognised by Fortune Magazine as a Top 13 security investor globally. She was appointed by the UK Defence Secretary as an external reviewer on the UK's 2025 Strategic Defence Review. She is an Associate Fellow at Chatham House, and a Council Member of the European Council on Foreign Relations. Earlier in her career, she spent 10 years in the UK Diplomatic Service. Between 2004-06, she was a foreign policy adviser to PM Tony Blair in 10 Downing Street.



### **Professor Ajay Chakravarthy**

Ajay is the Head of Artificial Intelligence at Thales UK and a Visiting Professor at the University of Sheffield, where he earned both his Masters and PhD in Computer Science. A Fellow of the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), Ajay brings over two decades of experience in Artificial Intelligence, spanning academic, governmental, and industry settings. He has held a range of distinguished roles across the public sector, including serving as Chief Scientific and Technology Officer (CSTO) for Counter Terrorism Policing and as Chief Scientist of the Artificial Intelligence Lab at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl). Ajay also served as a Senior Civil Servant at the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (BDUK), where he was Director of Digital, Data and Technology.



### **Mr Chris Daniels**

Chris is Royal Society Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Oxford University Mathematics Institute, and is commencing a UK Government (EPSRC) funded 2-year academic project on AI in Wargaming. He is on the advisory group of the UK National Academy of Mathematics and is a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications.

His main commercial role is with a drone business, Flare Bright Ltd which uses AI to train drones to fly in GNSS denied environments.

He gained a mathematics degree from Oxford University before a 5-year Short Service Commission with The Parachute Regiment. He subsequently studied an MBA at IESE Business School in Barcelona.



### **Miss Hushpreet Dhaliwal**

Hushpreet is Co-Director of the Defence and National Security Grand Challenge at the Alan Turing Institute, where she has established R&D initiatives with the likes of the U.S. Department of Defence and the Gates Foundation. Formerly, she led an education start-up to improve the pipeline of early career entrepreneurship and was later selected by Lord Young (the then Prime Minister's Enterprise Adviser) to implement his entrepreneurship policies. To support science-based entrepreneurship, she has worked across sectors to drive more innovation from UK academia, and has undertaken roles at Deep Science Ventures, UCL and the University of Cambridge.



### **Dr Rich Drake**

Rich is currently the General Manager of Anduril Industries UK, a defence technology business specialising in robotics and AI. Prior to Anduril, Rich served as Chief Technology Officer at Babcock International Group.

Rich holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's Degree in Engineering Design. He is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School and the recipient of the Royal Academy of Engineering Medal for Pandemic Service.



### **Ms Siân Evans**

Siân works for the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. Much of her career has focused on the Middle East and Defence & Security related issues. She currently leads the Emerging and Disruptive Technology Team in Security Policy Department.



### **Dr Kathleen Fisher**

Kathleen is the founding director of RAND's AI and Cybersecurity Initiative, which uses a combination of AI and formal methods to reduce exposure to cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Previously, as Director of DARPA's Information Innovation Office, she set the strategy for programs in AI, cybersecurity, and resilient systems. While at DARPA, she oversaw the AI Cyber Challenge (AixCC), which demonstrated that AI systems can autonomously find and fix software vulnerabilities at speed and scale. Kathleen is a Fellow of the ACM, AAAS, and the Hertz Foundation.



### **Mr Andy Fraser**

Andy was appointed Managing Director of Saab UK in June 2024. He is responsible for all Saab business in the UK – a growing part of Saab now over 600 people strong. He comes with a strong leadership profile in the UK defence industry with prior roles at Babcock, where he was most recently Effectors Managing Director and he also previously held roles at GE Aviation.

Before entering industry, Andy was an officer in the British Army. He commissioned into the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 2005. Andy subsequently commanded and trained soldiers across a variety of roles, rising to the rank of Major and working in Army Headquarters on strategic topics after completing three operational tours of Afghanistan.

Andy is a Chartered Engineer and holds a MSc in Battlespace Technologies and a BEng in Command and Control Systems and Operations from Cranfield University. He has also attended the Joint Services Command and Staff College.

In his spare time, Andy is a STEM Ambassador, encouraging young people to consider careers in these subjects. He enjoys playing golf and spending time with his family.



### **Mr Daniel Freeman**

Daniel is General Partner at Dorilton Ventures, an investment firm focused on early-stage companies in IT infrastructure, data science, and cyber security. Daniel has more than 20 years' experience investing across a range of geographies and asset classes at firms including Lehman Brothers, Deutsche Bank, and Eton Park Capital Management. Daniel holds an AB in East Asian Studies from Princeton, was a Fellow at the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing University Centre for Chinese and American Studies, and received an MBA from the Harvard Business School.



### **Professor Peter Grindrod**

Pete is a British mathematician working in R&D for AI and analytics. He was a founding trustee of the Alan Turing Institute and is a former member of MOD's DSAC. He has spent parts of his career in academia (most recently 12 years in the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford) and in commercial companies. He has founded a number of successfully data science, analytics, and AI companies. His recent work is on neuromorphic AI and cognitive and conscious reasoning, and in developing hybrid AI methods to deal with high stakes decisions required in circumstances that have never before been experienced, termed "unseen" (for which there is no case-data available). He has recently founded a start-up company, Astut Ltd, to work on such Hybrid AI problems and methods, which is engaged in a number of sectors (dual use): Defence and public sector agencies, including MOD, responding to both short-term and strategic unseen challenges; Strategic consulting companies with corporate practices; Financial market, risk, investment actors ; Large-scale B2C operators (both offline and online) making disruptive changes or pivots; National engineering programmes delivering facilities that have never existed before (such as in fusion energy). Pete is a former council member of EPSRC and BBSRC, and he has written on the lack of risk taking and innovation within public and venture AI R&D programmes (in both defence and civil sectors), and on the responsible use of AI and citizen data.



### **Mr Bryce Goodman**

Bryce is an independent strategic consultant specializing in artificial intelligence and leadership. In this capacity, he serves as Chief Strategist for AI and Senior Technical Advisor for Europe at the U.S. Department of Defense's Innovation Unit, where he has lead \$2.2B in technology programs spanning supply-chain optimization (saving \$100M annually), humanitarian response systems deployed in 50+ countries, and strategic reasoning tools for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He co-authored the Pentagon's Responsible AI Guidelines, and his research on algorithmic accountability has been cited over 3,000 times.

Beyond defense, Bryce has advised initiatives ranging from decoding whale communication to restoring ecosystems with synthetic biology, and worked with organizations including Google DeepMind, CIA, Cabinet Office, KKR, NASA, NATO, the World Bank, and the United Nations. He holds degrees in Politics, Philosophy & Economics and in Data Science & Philosophy from Oxford University, where he was a Clarendon Scholar. A frequent speaker, he has delivered more than 80 keynotes to government, corporate, and academic audiences worldwide.



### **Mr Michael Gunadi**

Michael is a commercial leader with 15 years' experience working in programmatic and distributed technologies. He oversees Hadean's strategic partnerships with government and industry and growth in the UK and Europe. Previously, Michael ran the company's media and enterprise business where Hadean's core technology and distributed spatial simulations were validated and battle-tested. Before Hadean, Michael worked in B2B and B2C consumer technology organisations including IPG Mediabrands and the Omnicom Group.



### **Mr Andrew Hall**

Divisional director and senior client relationship leader for large and complex risk. Andrew maximises Howden's corporate risk, analytics and insurance broking capabilities to provide optimal risk mitigation solutions for global clients, whilst creating resilience around the major risk headings including geopolitics, climate, cyber, emerging technology and supply chains. Former senior officer in UK Defence with 32 years of front-line service, deployed on multiple operations. Previous senior staff appointments in the UK MOD and experienced across international structures, MOD committees for through life equipment capability, crisis response and physical and personnel security. A military Reserve and with a KCL Master's in Defence Studies, graduate of the UK Defence Academy senior course in higher command and strategic leadership and with a CMI Diploma in Strategic Direction and Leadership.



### **Mr Paul Hollingshead**

Paul is Manager of the UK and Europe at Saronic Technologies, where he spearheads the development and execution of Saronic's regional go-to-market strategy across product lines and portfolios.

Paul brings a wealth of experience to Saronic, having delivered multi-year market entry and expansion strategies in both international government and commercial sectors. He joined Saronic from S2 Global where he was Vice President of International Strategic Partnerships, responsible for large scale border security projects. Prior to that, Paul was the Head of EMEA at Anduril and the company's first international employee. During this time with Anduril, he won business emanating from the London office and grew the team.

A British Army veteran, Paul served as a Gurkha officer, with operational experience in Afghanistan and Bosnia and holds a BSc (Hons) in International Business and Modern Languages.



### **Ms Anja Kaspersen**

Anja is Director for Global Markets Development at IEEE, the world's largest technical professional organisation, where she works on critical technologies, AI governance, and socio-technical standards for critical and frontier technologies. She is also Executive in Residence at New York University's Stern School of Business and Special Advisor on digital technologies, equity, peace, and democracy at the Kofi Annan Foundation.

She previously served as Director of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva and Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, and held senior roles in peacekeeping, development, and humanitarian affairs. She led technology and strategic engagement portfolios at the International Committee of the Red Cross, was Senior Director for Geopolitics and International Security at the World Economic Forum, and a Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, where she co-founded the Artificial Intelligence and Equality Initiative.

A long-serving Norwegian diplomat, she brings extensive experience in international and national security matters, multilateral diplomacy, and technology governance. She is a published author, podcast host, and frequent speaker on the security, geopolitical, ethical, and societal implications of emerging technologies and on the issues arising at the science-policy interface.



### **Squadron Leader Lauren Kerslake**

Lauren Kerslake is Chief of Staff at the Defence Artificial Intelligence Centre. Employed by the RAF in the Cyberspace Profession, with an MSc in Artificial Intelligence and a BEng in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. She has led programmes across digital transformation, remote communication, operational enablement, and strategic delivery. Her work has spanned application development, secure remote operations, capability exploitation, innovation, and strategic planning - including in the office of an RAF 3\*. Outside of work, she enjoys travelling, cooking, music, and has represented the RAF in skiing disciplines. She lives in Buckinghamshire with her two Spaniels, Taya and Pinot.



### **Professor Helen Margetts**

Helen is Professor of Society and the Internet in the Oxford Internet Institute, a multi-disciplinary department of the University of Oxford of which she was Director from 2011 to 2018. She is Senior Advisor and Visiting Professor at LSE's Data Science Institute. From 2018 to 2025, she founded and directed the Public Policy Programme at the Alan Turing Institute for Data Science and AI, which gained national and international recognition for its pioneering work on AI and government. Public service appointments include the Home Office Scientific Advisory Council (HOSAC, from 2019) and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA, from 2025).



### **Dr Keegan McBride**

Keegan is the senior policy adviser in emerging technology and geopolitics at the Tony Blair Institute. He is also an Adjunct Senior Fellow in National Security and Technology at the Centre for New American Security and a Senior Fellow at the Foundation for American Innovation. He has significant experience advising key decision makers on the topics of digitalisation, national security, and geopolitics. Previously, Keegan was a lecturer in AI, government, and Policy at the University of Oxford. He received his MSc and PhD from the Tallinn University of Technology in Tallinn, Estonia.



### **Professor John McDermid**

John became Professor of Software Engineering at the University of York in 1987 and Lloyd's Register Foundation Chair of Safety in 2024. His research covers a broad range of issues in systems, software and safety engineering. He became Director of the Lloyd's Register Foundation funded Assuring Autonomy International Programme in January 2018 and its successor the Centre for Assuring Autonomy in 2024, focusing on safety of robotics and autonomous systems. He has acted as an advisor to government and industry, including FiveAI, the UK Ministry of Defence and Rolls-Royce, and he was a non-executive director of the UK Health and Safety Executive from 2019 to 2024. He has been actively involved in standards development, including work on safety and software standards for civilian and defence applications; he currently chairs a British Standards Institution advisory board on standards for connected autonomous vehicles. He is author or editor of six books and has published almost 500 papers. He became a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2002 and was awarded an OBE in 2010.



### **Dr Jakob Mökander**

Jakob is the Director of Science and Technology Policy at the Tony Blair Institute (TBI) and a research fellow at Yale Digital Ethics Center. Jakob is an expert in AI governance and innovation, with extensive experience across industry, government and academia. He has previously held roles at McKinsey & Co, the Swedish Trade and Invest Council, and the Princeton Center for Information Technology Policy. Academically, Jakob holds a DPhil in Information, Communication and the Social Sciences from the University of Oxford and an MSc in Industrial Engineering and Management from Linköping University.



### **Professor Barry O'Sullivan**

Barry is a full professor working on artificial intelligence at the School of Computer Science & IT at University College Cork (Ireland) and a visiting professor at Northwestern (Illinois, USA). He contributes to several global Track II diplomacy efforts related to geopolitical aspects of AI. He is founding director of the Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics at UCC and the SFI Centre for Research Training in AI. He is founding Editor-in-Chief of ACM AI Letters. He served as Vice Chair of the European Commission's High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence which formulated the EU's ethical approach to AI. He currently represents the European Union at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence. Professor O'Sullivan is a Fellow and a past President of the European Artificial Intelligence Association. He is also a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) and a Fellow of the Asia-Pacific AI Association. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy and holds a number of ministerial appointments, such as Chair of the National Research Ethics Committee for Medical Devices and member of the Irish Government's AI Advisory Council. He conducts his diplomacy work in collaboration with INHR (Geneva, Brussels, Washington DC), the Center for New American Security (Washington DC), and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.



### **Mr Nicholas Oborn**

Nicholas is the Assistant Head of the Defence AI & Autonomy Unit (DAU) and strategy lead for Defence AI, responsible for aligning senior MOD stakeholders around a coherent and future-focused AI-Strategy, and managing Defence contributions to wider cross-Whitehall AI strategies such as the DSIT AI Opportunities Action Plan. Prior to his work in Defence AI, Nicholas has worked extensively across Whitehall and Parliament, focusing on senior machinery of Government facing roles. His tenure in the Economic and Domestic Affairs Secretariat (EDS) within the Cabinet Office included pivotal work on Afghanistan and Ukraine, shaping the UK Governments strategic response and managing interdepartmental co-ordination.



### **Sir David Omand**

David is Visiting Professor in War Studies, King's College London. He was the first UK Security and Intelligence Coordinator in the Cabinet Office, Permanent Secretary of the Home Office, Director of GCHQ (the UK digital intelligence and cybersecurity agency) and Deputy Under Secretary of State for Policy in the UK Ministry of Defence. He served for over 7 years on the Joint Intelligence Committee. His writings include *Securing the State* (Hurst, 2010), *Principled Spying* (with Professor Mark Phythian, OUP, 2018), *How Spies Think* (Penguin, 2020) and *How to Survive a Crisis* (Penguin 2023).



## **Lieutenant General Sir Nicholas Pope**

During a forty year military career, Nick witnessed how the Army and Defence accommodated change both in peace and on operations. He saw service in Bosnia and Afghanistan and held staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence at every rank from Major to Major General, where his focus was on the higher management of defence.

As Deputy Chief of the General Staff he was the Army's Principal Personnel Officer, and also led on strategic planning and programming, performance management and international relations. He was the Army Champion for safety, diversity and inclusion, and for the LGBT+ community.

In the latter stages of his service, Nick was Master of Signals, Colonel Commandant of the Brigade of Gurkhas and Chair of the Gurkha Welfare Trust. He is currently Chairman of Godolphin School in Salisbury and a Board level strategic advisor. He remains an avid gardener and a keen canoeist, paddling with enthusiasm but no real technique.

As the Chair of Cobseo – The Confederation of Service Charities, he acts as the voice of the Service Charitable Sector within Government and the Private Sector and is charged with encouraging cooperation and collaboration across the Service Charitable Sector to enhance the support given to the Armed Forces Community. He chairs the Confederation's Executive Committee and is a member of a number of cross Government committees including the Covenant Reference Group and the MOD Service Charities Partnership Board. He meets regularly with Ministers and is widely consulted by the MOD.



## **Major Tony Reeves**

With over three decades of distinguished experience within the defence and national security sectors, Tony serves as a Partner at Deloitte, where he leads the UK & NATO Digital Defence Practice and holds the position of Strategic Lead for AI in Defence globally. In these capacities, he advises clients on achieving decisive advantages over adversaries and rivals through the strategic adoption of innovative thinking, disruptive technologies, and ethical applications of artificial intelligence across diverse military domains.

A frequent presenter to government and industry audiences on the evolving character of warfare, Tony's current intellectual focus encompasses the emergent threats posed by AI and Quantum Computing, the cultivation of a growth mindset to facilitate public sector transformation, the strategic utilisation of information value for enhanced governmental decision-making, and the present, singular opportunity to harmonise UK National Intelligence, Defence, and Foreign Office strategies around shared digital transformation principles.

Tony's extensive and varied background includes service as a British Army Officer, a government advisor, and a business leader. His operational experience spans deployments in Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, and Northern Ireland, alongside significant contributions to the military adoption of innovative technologies and working methodologies in Afghanistan, Iraq, and across the African continent. His professional achievements include the delivery of digital battlefield programmes, leadership of future military technology initiatives, and a tenure at Microsoft, where he facilitated the integration of mixed reality technologies for military applications. A committed advocate for prioritising a shift in mindset over mere technological implementation, Tony champions this approach as crucial for achieving effective digital transformation and sustained military advantage.



**Mr Tom Scott**

Tom spent 15 years as an Army Officer, focussed on operational technology R&D he was responsible for developing the Army's human machine teaming strategy and scaled the uncrewed systems development programme. Tom has since left the military and is now a Principal Data Scientist with Origami Labs, a Defence and Security R&D company, focussed on building operationally appropriate AI. Tom is a PhD researcher in neurosymbolic AI and is highly motivated by ensuring the next generation of AI is trustworthy and explainable.



**Mr Priyesh Shah**

Priyesh is a Data & AI transformation leader with 14 years' experience delivering multi-million-dollar programmes across the UK, US and Europe. A certified Data Strategy SME from UC Berkeley, he has helped some of the world's most recognised organisations — including Volvo, Novartis, Rolls Royce, Tesco, Sky and JD Sports — to solve their most complex and ambitious data challenges, from modernising legacy infrastructures to embedding AI in everyday decision-making.

Known as a data evangelist with a human-centric approach, Priyesh specialises in combining strategy, insights and culture to drive successful adoption of data and AI. His work goes beyond technology, focusing on data culture, literacy and change management to ensure lasting impact — for example, enabling a \$500m business to achieve 30% cost savings in just six months through data-driven optimisation.

He is also the creator of proprietary frameworks — including the KPI Management Model, Data Governance Framework and Data Culture Canvas — that have been adopted by organisations like Tesco, GSK and Haleon.

By blending strategic advisory with deep expertise in Data & AI, Priyesh accelerates the journey for businesses to become truly data-driven and AI-enabled.



**Mr Maury Shenk**

Maury is an experienced entrepreneur, dealmaker, director and legal advisor, with expertise in artificial intelligence, technology, education and green business. Among other roles, he is Non-executive Director of Anduril UK, Advisor (and former London managing partner) of global law firm Steptoe, Company Secretary of PeopleCert, and Founder & CEO of LearnerShape. Maury is involved in a wide range of AI projects and investments, and is a co-organizer of the St George's House consultation series on AI. His work is international, and he speaks multiple languages. In his spare time, he plays guitar, practices yoga and sails competitively in a Laser.



### **Commodore Rachel Singleton**

Rachel joined the Royal Navy in 2002 from the Royal Naval Reserve, following a short career as a software engineer in the telecommunications sector. Her operational experience includes time onboard aircraft carriers ARK ROYAL and ILLUSTRIOUS, two short tours in Afghanistan and a tour as Weapon Engineer Officer of Type 45 destroyer HMS DARING. Her non-operational roles have spanned capability development, IT service management, cyber and Defence Engagement, including a rewarding two years leading on Artificial Intelligence at the British Defence Staff in Washington DC, and a tour as the Head of Digital Development in Navy Headquarters.

Rachel is currently serving as Head of the Defence Artificial Intelligence Centre and is responsible for setting the conditions for the widespread, safe and responsible exploitation of Artificial Intelligence within Defence, leading on the appropriate and informed use of AI, ensuring the enablers are in place such as tooling, platforms, skills, data, and assurance frameworks and sponsoring the delivery of both enterprise and specialist capabilities to address Defence problem sets. Alongside her core role, Rachel is privileged to serve as head of the Weapon Engineering (General Service) discipline within the Royal Navy.

Rachel is a graduate of Birmingham University where she studied Mathematics and Philosophy and has also undertaken an in-Service MSc in Information Systems at Cranfield University, and the Defence Academy's Advanced Command and Staff Course alongside the associated MA in Defence Studies from Kings College London. At home Rachel is outnumbered by her husband and two sons and any spare time is spent reading, making music or hiking.



### **Mr Nicholas Sinnott**

Nicholas is Head of Technology Strategy & Innovation for BAE Systems Digital Intelligence. Nick has significant experience leading: Business & Technical change, advanced technology innovation as well as AI leadership, AI advisory expertise in Government, Defence and other sectors. Nick has 30 years key domain expertise covering C4ISR, AI Operationalisation, AI Ethics, AI Product Management, AI Assurance, AI Governance, AI Strategy and AI Strategic Capability Development.



### **Mr Christopher Taylor**

Christopher Taylor is a seasoned AI/ML research scientist and also an investment professional with over 20 years of industry experience. Holding a PhD in Operational Research (Essex), an MSc in Financial Economics (Oxford), and an MSc in Advanced Computer Science (Liverpool), he blends financial expertise with advanced AI/ML expertise and has had articles published in leading academic journals. He works for Old Peak Group, a specialist investment group, as a Senior Analyst.

Previously at the University of Liverpool, he worked on several AI-related projects in the defence domain, developing novel approaches and algorithms. He also advised the UK Government on aspects of the future AI-driven response to novel pathogens like the one that caused the COVID-19 pandemic.



### **Mr Trevor Thompson**

Trevor is the Managing Director - Global, at Scale AI, an artificial intelligence company building AI infrastructure and applications for the most ambitious artificial intelligence projects in the world. He leads Scale's international portfolio and plays a key role in accelerating the global adoption of AI applications across public and private domains. His work at Scale enables organizations—from advanced research labs to leading enterprises and government agencies—to harness AI responsibly and effectively.

Before joining Scale, Trevor served as President of TerraClear, an applied AI startup revolutionizing agriculture through advanced computer vision and robotic automation. Under his leadership, TerraClear evolved its technology from an early-stage concept into an innovative industry leader. Prior to TerraClear, Trevor served as a Navy SEAL officer, leading teams at the highest levels of Special Operations for more than a decade, deploying across Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific, and the Horn of Africa.

Trevor holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, where he graduated first in his class. He later attended Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship, earning a Master of Philosophy in Economic and Social History. Drawing on his wide-ranging background, Trevor operates at the intersection of technology, policy, and global industry to deliver responsible and transformative AI impact.



### **Mr Mark Trefgarne**

Mark is the co-founder of CX2, a next-generation EW company headquartered in El Segundo and backed by a16z, P72 and 8VC. Previously Mark was co-founder and CEO at LiveRail, the world's largest video ad exchange, which he grew from inception to its \$500M acquisition by Meta. At Meta, Mark was Product Director for AdTech Platforms, helping build their multi-billion off-O&O advertising business. Mark is a graduate of Economics and Business from University College London and lives in Woodside, California.