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Global Sourcing Association Warns of Increased Cyberthreat Level as Digital Transformation Sweeps the Industry

John McAfee and Dr David Bray will keynote at the UK Symposium in June

The Global Sourcing Association (GSA) is today calling on the sourcing industry not to overlook the growing threat of cyber-attacks amidst the tsunamic push for digital enablement currently sweeping the industry.

In launching the agenda for its UK flagship event, the GSA acknowledges the increasing role that Digital, m-commerce, IoT, Automation and Big Data is playing in altering the sourcing paradigm, changing the very ways in which the sourcing industry operates. The acceleration towards becoming digitally enabled must not be pursued at the expense of putting in place the proper safeguards against potential cyber threats, however.

Over the last few years the GSA has been committed to providing its members and the wider sourcing industry with the right level of information and education to allow them to make informed decisions about their sourcing strategies in the digital age. This year's multi-event Symposium agenda continues that mission, and also includes some stark messages on cyber threat.

Kerry Hallard, CEO of the GSA UK said, "Once again this year's Symposium focuses on the future of the industry, the technology driving it forward, and the skills and standards of best practice that will help businesses survive and thrive in the future. As we continue towards a digital economy, however, the threat of cyber-attacks is omnipresent and it's our responsibility to ensure our members and the wider industry at large understand the growing threat, as well as the measures that can be taken to protect themselves against cyber-attacks.

It is estimated that over half of businesses in major, developed countries have been hacked, with over 40% experiencing more than one attack in the past 12 months*; the GSA itself was targeted last year by an unsuccessful denial of service attempt. The rising cost of cyber-crime to businesses in terms of financial, brand and reputational damage then, should be incentive enough for organisations to take action - but many are either ill-equipped or ill-informed.

I am delighted to be able to bring both John McAfee and Dr David Bray to our Symposium this year to share their unique and truly exceptional experience with our members. John McAfee is a world-renowned figure in the cyber security industry and can provide a level of insight into this area that very few others can. Dr David Bray holds a treasure chest of knowledge on digital transformation and, having been named by Business Insider as one of the 'Top 24 Americans under 40 who are Changing the World', I've absolutely no doubt his thought leadership and views will prove to be invaluable."



The GSA UK Symposium will take place on 27-28 June in central London, featuring 11 programmes over 2 days focused on the growing digital aspect of the sourcing industry, future skills and location strategies, plus industry wide benchmarking results. Check out www.gsa-uk.com/gsa-symposium-2017 for more details.

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Notes for Editors

*This figure was published in the Hiscox Cyber Readiness Report 2017, available online at www.hiscox.co.uk

About the GSA

The Global Sourcing Association (GSA) is the industry association and professional body for the global sourcing industry, and home of the Global Sourcing Standard. Its overriding objective is the ongoing development and dissemination of the Standard and supporting portfolio of qualifications to improve the benefits from, and positive reputation and therefore size of, the global sourcing industry.

The GSA also serves to share best practice, trends and connections across the globe and to bring the global community together in a wholly interactive manner for the first time. The Global Sourcing Association UK, also known as GSA-UK, was formerly known as the National Outsourcing Association in the UK. Media Enquiries - contact Tom Quigley/ Tel: 020 7292 8689 / Email: TomQ@gsa-uk.com.

Kerry Hallard, President of the Global Sourcing Association and CEO of the GSA UK, is available for interview – please contact Tom Quigley.

About John McAfee

John McAfee is the world-renowned information security pioneer and founder of global computer security software company McAfee, Inc., and now Chairman and CEO of MGT Technologies.

About Dr David Bray

Dr Bray is an Eisenhower Fellow to Taiwan and Australia; Harvard Executive In-Residence; Senior Executive and CIO, Federal Communications Commission. He oversees the FCC's IT Transformation programme and led the transformation of the FCC's legacy IT with more than 207 different systems to award-winning tech. This included rolling-out new cloud-based IT that achieved results in 1/2 the time at 1/6 the cost.

Please direct all enquiries through the GSA in the first instance.