



BUNDESVERBAND DER SICHERHEITSWIRTSCHAFT

PRESS RELEASE

Berlin
April 22nd, 2015

Authorized for immediate
publishing

Specimen copy requested

Contact:

Silke Wollmann
Chief communication officer
Spokeswoman

ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN
PRIVATE SECURITY
INDUSTRY (BDSW)
Universitätsstr. 2-3a
10117 Berlin
T. + 49 30 288807 26
Mobil + 49 162 7543914
E. wollmann@bdsw.de

Federal office
Norsk-Data-Straße 3
61352 Bad Homburg
T. +49 6172 948050
F. +49 6172 458580

The new security company in Europe and Germany

Berlin – The European Security Services (CoESS) and the Association of German Private Security Industry (BDSW) present the new model for integrating services and technology in the European security industry through the main elements of a White Paper on *the new security company*, at the 5th European Security Summit in Berlin.

The sophistication of criminal – in particular white-collar - activity, such as cyber-criminality, or industrial espionage has been increasing in Germany and across Europe. One in four companies has been victim of a white-collar crime in the last two years in Germany, with an estimated average cost of over 300,000 €/year. This trend is driving the European security industry to move away from a classical antagonism of "service vs technology", towards a new paradigm where these are merged into a full solution. These challenges together with an economic and legal overview of the European and German market will be discussed at the Summit.

The private security industry has developed significantly over the last two decades, from services providers working exclusively in the private domain, to organisations offering public security and its supporting tasks. Today's security services are a variety of tasks, which mostly are visible, present and well accepted by society and civilians - private security officers can be found in many places, both private and public. The tasks are significantly evolved - from static guards to specifically trained, multi-function and often multilingual service providers. Security nowadays is a high quality, integrated, custom-made, specialized and flexible service with highly professional and trustworthy staff. Security companies have invested heavily in quality with specific selection and recruitment, training, supervision and by improving working conditions and pay. They are committed to provide guidance to buyers of private security services in selecting best value services.

This evolution led to the joint project where CoESS and UNI Europa, with financial support of the European Commission, produced the renewed "Best Value Manual" with a toolkit to objectively evaluate quality vs. just price. The manual is responsive to the needs of society and types of risks and threats. The industry specializes in a number of areas to provide tailor-made services in general guarding as well as maritime and port security, critical infrastructure protection, monitoring and remote surveillance, and cyber-protection.

Today's security context in Europe poses a serious challenge and also offer a number of opportunities to the security industry and its partners, private and public. Increasingly complex, multiple and sophisticated nature and origin of threats, ranging from white-collar crime to violent terrorist attacks require our industry to be highly specialised, offer solutions which integrate human skills and sophisticated technologies, and employ motivated and well trained staff.

Public private partnerships (PPP) are now a reality and the industry provides services to an increasing number of public clients, ranging from governmental agencies, to nuclear plants, airports, public transport stations, and many more. To this extent, the question is not whether we can play a part in public security, but rather to what extent we can support public security in protecting citizens and assets.