

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Secura collaborates with Republic Polytechnic and the University of Glasgow to start cybersecurity research and development laboratory**

- *This collaboration aims to create a unique ecosystem of academia, cybersecurity technology partners and cybersecurity practitioners to explore and support Singapore's new cybersecurity strategy and operations in alignment with its Smart Nation objective*
- *Headed by distinguished advisors including Professor Christopher Johnson, Dr Keoh Sye-Loong and Mr Boo Chong Han, topics of focus include cybersecurity for Internet of Things, Data Analytics and Industry 4.0*

**SINGAPORE, 21 October 2016** – Secura Group Limited (新保安集团有限公司) (“**Secura**” or the “**Company**” and together with its subsidiaries, the “**Group**”), one of the leading providers of security products, services and solutions in Singapore, today signed a memorandum of understanding (“**MOU**”) with Republic Polytechnic (“**RP**”), the University of Glasgow (“**UofG**”) and the University of Glasgow Singapore (“**UGS**”) to establish a joint laboratory within RP’s campus for the exploration of training, development activities and research collaboration in the field of cybersecurity (“**Collaboration**”).

The Collaboration aims to develop Secura’s in-house innovation capabilities in cybersecurity and to create a unique ecosystem of talents, knowledge and resources in which students from RP’s School of Infocomm as well as computing science and engineering students from UGS will work on cybersecurity capstone projects and conduct research which are aligned with Singapore’s Smart Nation objective.

The Collaboration will focus on topics such as cybersecurity for Internet-of-Things (“**IoT**”), data analytics and Industry 4.0, also known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which deals with how manufacturing will be revolutionised by the integration of physical processes, robotics, computing and networking.

The leading technology vendors such as Huawei International, Skybox Security, Rapid7, WatchGuard Technologies Singapore, Netscout Systems and M1 as connectivity partner are supporting sponsor partners of the research and development (“**R&D**”) laboratory. The estimated aggregate investment in the R&D laboratory for the next 3 years is S\$10 million.

The Collaboration is headed by a distinguished panel of advisors as follows:

- Professor Christopher Johnson, Head of the School of Computing Science at UofG, currently co-chairman of the scientific advisory board for the €2 billion Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research programme, and an expert in safety and cybersecurity for safety-critical system;
- Dr Keoh Sye-Loong, Assistant Professor at UGS, currently the lead investigator of a research project on cyber security for Smart Grid in Singapore, and an expert in IoT security;
- Mr Boo Chong-Han, Director, School of Infocomm, RP; and
- Mr Paul Lim, Chief Executive Officer of Secura, the only integrated one-stop security solutions provider listed on the SGX.

Commenting on the Collaboration, **Mr. Paul Lim (林春伟), Chief Executive Officer of Secura** said, “As Singapore evolves to become a Smart Nation where technology and digital connectivity will transform our economy, cybersecurity has been earmarked by the government as integral to this drive. The recent launch of the new Singapore Cybersecurity Strategy<sup>1</sup> will kick-start the engine for significant advances in this field. Currently, Singapore faces a severe shortage of cybersecurity talent and expertise, and we hope that this Collaboration will be an incubator to grow the cybersecurity ecosystem and create unique cybersecurity products and solutions for tomorrow’s market.

This Collaboration is also an opportunity for Secura to work with some of the best minds in academic research such as Republic Polytechnic and the University of Glasgow to enhance our expertise and develop our own house brand of cybersecurity products and solutions.”

The MOU signing follows closely on the back of the recent announcement of the new Singapore Cybersecurity Strategy by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the inaugural Singapore International Cyber Week from 10 to 12 October 2016. Key highlights of the new strategy include the introduction of a new Cybersecurity Act as the first complete form of cybersecurity legislation in Singapore; the increase in cybersecurity spending to 8% of the government’s information and communications technology budget from 5% previously; as well as the development of a cybersecurity ecosystem comprising a skilled workforce, technologically-advanced companies and strong research collaborations.

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<sup>1</sup> Singapore Cyber Security Strategy published by Cyber Security Agency of Singapore, <https://www.csa.gov.sg/~media/csa/documents/publications/singaporecybersecuritystrategy.pdf?la=en>

**Mr Seto Lok Yin, Deputy Principal (Industry Services), RP** said, “This Collaboration will allow our students from the School of Infocomm to be plugged in to the latest developments in cybersecurity and work on projects and research that will support Singapore’s Smart Nation initiative. By working with the best minds in academia and industry, our students will gain real-life industry experience and be equipped with up-to-date skills for the dynamic infocomm sector upon graduation. We are grateful for this Collaboration with Secura and the University of Glasgow.”

UofG, which is among the world’s top 100 universities<sup>2</sup>, has a strong research programme with annual research income of more than £181 million, delivering world-class research. In an independent research exercise for the United Kingdom (“UK”) conducted by the Research Excellence Framework<sup>3</sup> in 2014, the School of Computing Science was rated top in Scotland for research impact, with 68% of its impact judged as world-leading and 32% judged as excellent at an international level. It is ranked sixth in the UK based on a research intensity-weighted grade point average rank order.

**Professor Muffy Calder, Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Science and Engineering, UofG** said: “As cybersecurity is an important pillar of Singapore’s Smart Nation initiative, this Collaboration will enable all parties to co-create a platform to explore training, research and development activities in the area of security and privacy for IoT. With our expertise in cybersecurity for networks and safety-critical systems, the University of Glasgow (both Singapore and Scotland) is committed to play an active part in securing the Singapore’s Smart Nation’s cyber-infrastructure through this collaborative activity.”

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**Issued for and on behalf of Secura Group Limited**

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**ABOUT SECURA GROUP**

Secura Group Limited (新保安集团有限公司) is one of the leading providers of an integrated suite of security products, services and solutions based in Singapore. The Group was formed through a merger of

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<sup>2</sup>[https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2016/world-ranking#/page/0/length/25/sort\\_by/rank\\_label/sort\\_order/asc/cols/rank\\_only](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2016/world-ranking#/page/0/length/25/sort_by/rank_label/sort_order/asc/cols/rank_only)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/computing/aboutus/>

two groups of companies – the Secura group of companies that provides security printing services, and the Soverus group of companies that provides security consultancy and other services.

Through the Secura group of companies, the Group owns one of the largest cheque printing businesses in Singapore. The Group's other security services are undertaken by the Soverus group of companies, which offers security guarding, cybersecurity, homeland security, and other security products and services.

As a security agency with an established track record, the Group has consistently been awarded 'A' Grading (Excellent) by the Police Licensing & Regulatory Department from 2012 to 2016. The Group has a well-diversified customer base comprising more than 550 customers in various industries, including multinational corporations, financial institutions and government agencies.

Secura's substantial shareholders include, among others, Mr Peter Lim, Mr Wee Ee Chao and City Developments Limited.

#### **ABOUT REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC**

The first educational institution in Singapore to leverage the Problem-based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic (RP) has seven schools and one academic centre offering forty-one diplomas in Applied Science, Engineering, Management and Communication, Events and Hospitality, Infocomm, Sports, Health & Leisure, and Technology for the Arts.

Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial learning in an environment that develops problem-solving skills and lifelong learning opportunities. Its holistic and broad-based curriculum prepares students for an active and meaningful role in society as problem solvers, respected professionals and passionate citizens.

Republic Polytechnic strives for excellence by achieving various international and national accreditations, including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001, ISO 22301, Singapore Quality Class, People Developer, Innovation Class, and Service Class.

For more information, visit <http://www.rp.edu.sg>

#### **ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW**

As a top 0.5% university, the University of Glasgow delivers world-class and world-changing research and education with impact. The university is a member of the prestigious Russell Group of leading UK universities with annual research income of more than £181 million.

Recent award success can be found here: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/about/awardsandrankings>

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