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CIVSEC 2018 – RISE OF THE CITIES

he CIVSEC 2018 Congress is Australia's first major conference and industry exposition to address the full spectrum of national security threats. These are not military threats: rather, they range from natural disasters through organised crime to acts of terrorism by non-state players who take the low road, through a vulnerable civilian population, towards their goals.

Reflecting the challenges facing emergency first responders and law enforcement officials and policymakers across the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, the theme for CIVSEC 2018 is "The Rise of the Cities". A majority

of the world's mega-metropolises of 10 million inhabitants or more are situated in our region. Whether it's a tsunami, a terrorist attack on a vital transport node such as an airport or downtown railway station, or a cyber attack on the banking or airline reservations system, this concentration of humanity magnifies and compounds risks, difficulties and dangers.

Held over three days, from 1 to 3 May at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre (MECC), CIVSEC 2018 consists of a major industry trade show, which will be free to attend for all registered Trade Visitors.

Most of those Trade visitors will be attracted by

The three-day program covers everything from counter-terrorism to emergency management the innovative three-day conference program whose multiple streams will address: Cyber Security; Major Event Security; Policing; Counter-Terrorism; Disaster Relief and Emergency Management; Search and Rescue; Border Protection; Critical Infrastructure Protection; and Science & Technology (S&T) in the service of National Security.

Highlights of the program include the holding of the Australia-New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency's (ANZPAA) Policing Conference (on behalf of the police commissioner's of Australia and New Zealand) in parallel with CIVSEC.

In addition, a National Security S&T Conference will be presented by the Australian Government's Defence Science and Technology Group, which is Australia's S&T authority on all aspects of national security and defence with an international panel of eminent S&T speakers and a regional Indo-Asia-Pacific focus.

CIVSEC 2018's three-day conference program accommodates the needs of time-poor industry and agency officials by holding the main Keynote presentations and panel discussions on Day 2, Tuesday 2 May, and clustering like-minded themes on Day 1 and Day 3. This way attendees can choose to attend Days 1 and 2, or Days 2 and 3 – or if they're able, attend all three days of the Congress.

CIVSEC was held for the first time, as a twoday conference supported by a small trade show, in

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Melbourne in 2016. It was a major success, deriving momentum from the participation and endorsement of key individuals and organisations, including the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), Australian Association for Unmanned Systems (AAUS), and leaders of these and other organisations such as Emergency Management Australia, the Australian Federal Police, Security Professionals Australasia

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(SPA), and Curtin University, which coordinated the inaugural Border 21 Conference at CIVSEC.

This year, we shall see an expanded program of conferences, seminars and briefings - stand by for the initial program!

We look forward to seeing you in Melbourne in May 2018 - bring an open mind and a willingness to share your expertise and insight at what will be one of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region's key forums addressing the sovereignty of nations and the protection of populations •