

## Roger Howsley

Dr Roger Howsley is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS) based in Vienna Austria, a professional institute for nuclear security practitioners formed to exchange best management practices and promote professional development through the WINS Academy. WINS currently has over 2000 members in over 100 countries.



## Abstract

### Demonstrable Competence in Support of Nuclear Security Implementation

At the March 2014 Nuclear Security Summit, 58 world leaders convened in the Netherlands to demonstrate their commitment to improving nuclear security and its governance. Through the discussions, all participating States agreed to a final *Communiqué* to support activities that will prevent nuclear material from falling into the hands of terrorists. Furthermore, 35 States signed an agreement on *Strengthening Nuclear Security Implementation*<sup>1</sup> that contains commitments to explicitly subscribe to the essential elements of the nuclear security regime. The agreement contains four essential commitments:

1. Subscribe to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) nuclear security “fundamentals”.
2. Embed IAEA guidance into national rules and regulations.
3. Conduct self-assessments and host peer reviews.
4. Ensure that management and personnel with accountability for nuclear security are demonstrably competent.

All of these commitments are very important but the fourth commitment relating to “demonstrable competence” is more difficult to quantify and deliver.

Professional certification through accredited competence testing to *demonstrate competence* is the norm in nearly all professions, be it medicine, engineering, information technology, risk management, or a host of other professional endeavours. No-one would consider attending an appointment with an accountant, or trusting their computer network to an information technology specialist, unless they were confident that the person was both academically qualified and professionally certified. It is therefore surprising to discover that the same framework and availability of training does not seem to be at all common for security professionals and others with *senior* managerial or regulatory responsibilities relating to security (certified training for armed guards is common practice). One of the major challenges in this regard is that no internationally-recognised criteria have been developed for the training and certification of personnel with security accountabilities.

In an effort to make “demonstrable progress” in relation to security competence and certification, the World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS) has launched a suite of certified materials aimed at different professional disciplines, all of which have accountabilities for the security of nuclear and other radioactive material. This programme is called the WINS Academy<sup>2</sup> and offers structured courses for numerous stakeholders ranging from Executive Managers, to off-site Incident Responders, to the Regulator. It was first announced in principle at the Seoul Nuclear Industry Summit (NIS) in 2012, and WINS launched the first Academy certification programmes online coincident with the 2014 NIS in Amsterdam. The Academy programme sets out security as a strategic, operational activi-

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<sup>1</sup> Nuclear Security Summit 2014, Strengthening Nuclear Security Implementation (2014),

[https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/downloads/strengthening\\_nuclear\\_security\\_implementation.pdf](https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/downloads/strengthening_nuclear_security_implementation.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> More information about the WINS Academy Nuclear Security Management Certification Programme can be accessed at [www.wins.org/academy](http://www.wins.org/academy).

ty to be implemented across the organisation and as a fundamental aspect of risk management and corporate reputation.

In other industries (including nuclear safety), leading performance indicators are measured through training and certification to ensure that practitioners can demonstrate competence. These certification frameworks and trainings approach security as a business: ergo Security Managers become business managers, leading to more operationally effective and financially efficient security operations. All international nuclear security efforts must lead to sustainable changes and improvements for the effort and expenditure to be worthwhile: **in advance of the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit, all States should be encouraged to subscribe to the *Strengthening Nuclear Security Implementation Joint Statement*<sup>3</sup>, and to support efforts to drive forward national requirements** for the certification of managers and practitioners with accountabilities for nuclear security.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs//infcirc869.pdf>