

## **Annex A**

### **Factsheet CREST**

#### **Background**

Penetration testing is an important undertaking to assess and improve the Cyber Security posture of organisations. By identifying key and exploiting vulnerabilities, penetration testers are able to make recommendations to harden the security of important ICT systems. Qualified and competent penetration testing professionals and service providers are essential to improve the readiness of ICT systems against increasingly sophisticated cyber threats.

The Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA), the Association of Information Security Professionals (AISP) in Singapore and CREST International have signed a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) to work together to introduce CREST certifications for penetration testing in Singapore. CSA will support AISP, a local body for Information Security professionals, to work with CREST International, a UK-headquartered non-profit organisation, to establish a CREST Singapore Chapter and offer penetration testing certifications. This initiative was developed in collaboration with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the Association of Banks in Singapore (ABS) and the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA).

CREST International has a range of certifications that include Penetration Testing, Incident Response, Malware Analysis and wider Information Security Architecture in the UK. Penetration testing certifications will be introduced first in Singapore, with more certifications potentially being rolled out subsequently.

CREST certifications for penetration testing provide assurance on:

- a. Service providers. This is in the form of validating their policies and procedures; technical security methodologies, reporting and data handling; validating private indemnity and public insurance coverage, employee background checks to ensure that trustworthy and competent employees are used on CREST penetration testing engagements; and

b. Professionals. This is in the form of assessing their technical skills and knowledge, understanding of legal and regulatory frameworks, communication skills and information security knowledge.

The certification will offer transparent and open standards that serve as a competency baseline for practicing professionals and service providers in Singapore. In the UK and Australia, CREST certifications are already the prevailing industry standards for penetration testing and are endorsed by the government. By introducing the certification in Singapore, the aim is to help grow local skills and capabilities and provide assurance for professionals and service providers that perform penetration tests.