

CESG Listed Advisor Scheme



Introduction

CLAS, the CESG Listed Advisor Scheme, is a small community of high-quality Private Sector Consultants approved by CESG to provide Information Assurance (IA) advice to Government departments and other organisations that provide vital services to the United Kingdom.

CLAS was introduced to satisfy the growing public sector demand for well informed IA advice and guidance. This demand comes from an increasing awareness of the threats to information systems and of the high expectations of the public that data is appropriately protected. Particular factors driving demand are:

- The increasing sophistication of cyber attack;
- Greater use of on-line public services;
- Wider use of shared services and the consequent need for compliance with codes of connection.

CLAS Consultants are all, as a minimum, Security Check (SC) cleared, which means HMG approval to access protectively

marked information up to, and including, SECRET. Many CLAS Consultants, because of previous employments or roles, have held or continue to hold Developed Vetting (DV), further enabling their access to TOP SECRET information.

Benefits of Choosing a CLAS Consultant

By choosing a CLAS consultant to assist with your program you are choosing an Information Security subject matter expert with a career history of integrity, which is endorsed by the level of Government Security Clearance they hold; and proven knowledge-sharing skills, which is based on traceable evidence of previous government work undertaken. In application for CLAS, the Consultant must document this evidence, which will be reviewed and verified by the CLAS accreditation panel.

CLAS Roles and Levels

Recently, CESG have been working with three of the UK's major professional Information Security Certification Bodies (CB) to perform a more granular categorisation of each new CLAS applicant's skill sets (roles) (and will encompass all existing CLAS members before the end of 2013). This new approach is carried out by pre-qualification as a CESG Certified Professional (CCP), via one of the CESG approved CBs, before CLAS membership may be sought. The six roles define the consultant's area of expertise, which are also further classified by

their level of expertise within one or more of those areas. The approach allows departments to select the most appropriately qualified CLAS Consultant for the task to be undertaken.

The CCP Roles are as follows:

- Security Information Risk Advisor (SIRA) – Employed for the provision of business driven advice on the management of security and information risk consistent with HMG IA policy, standards and guidance. A CLAS Consultant with this skill set is likely to have all-round Information Security (Infosec) awareness and often termed a Security Assurance Coordinator (SAC).
- IA Auditor – Employed to assess compliance with security objectives, policies, standards and processes.
- IA Architect – Employed to drive beneficial security change into the business through the development or review of technical security architectures so that they:
 - fit business requirements for security;
 - mitigate the risks and conform to the relevant security policies;
 - balance information risk against cost of countermeasures.
- IT Security Officer (ITSO) / Information Security System Manager/ Information Security System Officer – Employed to provide a level of governance, management and control of IT security.
- Accreditor – Employed to act as an impartial assessor of the risks that an information system may be exposed to in the course of meeting the business

requirement and to formally accredit that system on behalf of the Board of Directors.

- Communications Security Officer (ComSO) – Employed to manage cryptographic systems as detailed in HMG IA Standard No 4 and relevant product specific security procedures.

The three levels of competency, in ascending seniority order, are; Practitioner, Senior and Lead.

Each Consultant will have at least one specialty and may qualify for varying competency levels in multiple roles; for example a Lead SIRA may also be a Senior Accreditor and a Practitioner ComSO, etc.

Regency IT Consulting CLAS Consultancy

Regency IT Consulting (Regency ITC) is led by one of the UK's most experienced and capable Information Security practitioners, augmented by one of the largest teams of CLAS registered consultants in the UK.

Regency ITC's provision of CLAS consultancy spans the whole range from Central Government Departments, such as the Cabinet Office, Home Office, Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Ministry of Defence (MoD), through to Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPB); we have, for example, carried out work for the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS), Office of National Statistics (ONS), the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and Crossrail.

Regency ITC's CLAS Consultants are increasingly involved in advising customers who are thinking of signing up to pan-Government systems and frameworks, such as public sector FLEX or the new Public Service Network (PSN).

Our People

Regency ITC is one of the largest independent employers of CLAS Consultants. All our Consultants have at least the mandatory SC security clearance, whilst several are DV cleared. The team comprises eight CLAS Consultants together with two Consultant Accreditors; all are highly experienced IA professionals, each of whom has built their reputation over many years of experience within their specialist areas.

As with all our staff recruitment, Regency ITC takes on only the very best CLAS Consultants and security specialists, following a rigorous selection procedure. As well as in-depth knowledge of the IA world, we expect our CLAS people to have excellent customer-facing skills.

Regency ITC encourages a culture of information sharing, so when you retain the services of a Regency ITC CLAS Consultant, you also benefit from the knowledge and experience of his/her CLAS colleagues within the company. The performance of our CLAS Consultants is continuously monitored, largely based on customer feedback.

All of our Consultants are encouraged to attend external training courses to obtain further IA qualifications. Regency ITC also holds regular training workshops to ensure that our CLAS Consultants remain fully up to date with the latest developments in HMG IA Policy.

In addition to our permanent staff, Regency ITC has a list of trusted associates who undertake CLAS work on our behalf. These associates usually have a long history with Regency ITC having either come to our attention when working on client sites and being identified as a potential associate of the right caliber, or former civil servants/military personnel who have been known to us and who we have sponsored for CLAS when they have retired from public service. All associates are regularly reviewed and are required to maintain the same exacting standards that we demand from our permanent staff.

CLAS Consultancy and Accreditation

When it comes to accreditation, Regency ITC believes strongly that our CLAS Consultants should work hand-in-hand with the designated Accreditor for the system wherever possible. We employ Infosec Training Paths and Competencies (ITPC)/CCP-certified Accreditors who can not only support a client's accreditation function but can accredit systems in their own right.

Accreditation is a defined process that provides the business with assurance that all the risks associated with its information system are both understood and managed in such a way as to enable the system to operate safely throughout its lifecycle.

A typical approach is for Regency ITC to provide a CLAS Consultant to support Risk Management and Accreditation Documentation Sets (RMADS) development, together with a member of our Accreditation Services team (perhaps on a part-time basis) to advise on the wider

aspects of accreditation and system governance.

CLAS Capabilities & Deliverables

Regency ITC's Consultants follow the standards contained within the SPF and the requirements for certification against the ISO/IEC 27001:2005 standard. This means that we can fully meet the requirements for accrediting Government and Public Sector information systems and also ensure that Private Sector Information Security Management Systems (ISMSs) are fit for purpose. We are also able to act as 'customer friend' by providing an independent review of IA proposals and security designs that are being put forward by your IT business partners.

Our full range of CLAS-related services includes:

- Information Assurance, Accreditation and Security Strategy/Policy;
- Identifying and documenting Risk Appetite and Tolerance;
- Tailored 'In-House' Threat Assessment;
- ISO27000/BS7799 Gap Analysis Scoping, Training & Audit;
- ISMS scoping, implementation and improvement;
- IA Maturity Model (IAMM) assessment and audit;
- Policy and procedure development (SyOPs, AUP, etc.);
- Policy implementation, governance & compliance audits;
- Risk Assessment - HMG IS1&2, CRAMM, CITICUS One;
- PSN/CJX/DII, etc, CoCo preparation;

- Preparation and review of Privacy & Business Impact Assessments (PIA/BIAs);
- Physical and Environmental Security audits;
- System hardening and lockdown (e.g. using CESG GAP);
- Firewall design and implementation;
- Business Continuity Management (BCM) / Disaster Recovery (DR) strategies;
- Forensic Readiness strategies and testing;
- IT Health Check (Penetration Testing) scoping and management;
- Advice on cryptographic standards and deployment;
- Industrial Control System security and monitoring (SCADA);
- IA training packages tailored to your requirements.

RMADS Development

Regency ITC has developed a set of templates that span the RMADS requirement and can speed up the production of the necessary documents. These templates are regularly updated to reflect significant changes in HMG policy. That said Regency ITC certainly does not regard the production of an RMADS as a simple 'handle-turning' exercise. Our CLAS Consultants will work closely with your staff to ensure that the RMADS is tailored precisely to the needs of your system and fully reflects the environment in which it operates. We do not recommend imposing controls unless they are really necessary and our Consultants always look for the most cost-effective way of achieving a secure, 'accreditable' system.

Consultant Accreditors

To balance the processes achieved by our (or any other CLAS Consultant), and scrutinize on behalf of the Risk Owners, Regency ITC Consultant Accreditors deliver an independent review of all of the processes mentioned above.

Regency ITC Consultancy Resources

Regency ITC has a substantial resource pool, with a wide range of skills that allows us to add value through flexibility and understanding, whilst ensuring that our senior team is closely involved with every assignment.

Our consulting experience is wide-ranging, but we concentrate particular expertise in certain core services.

Regency ITC's consultancy services are delivered using a business model based on our resource pool of permanent consulting staff and our network of freelance specialist Associate Consultants.

We retain a core of full-time Consultants at senior level who manage our assignments and carry out the majority of the work themselves across these areas. Where additional resources are necessary, or where particular specialisations are required, we call on our wide network of experienced independent Associate Consultants and associate companies with whom we work. We maintain these resource records on our database, thereby allowing us to quickly and accurately identify appropriate resources and establish their availability.

Our associates are experienced Consultants who are used to

working with Regency ITC, many of them on long-term full-time projects. They are vetted and accredited through our quality management system, and are familiar with Regency ITC approaches, systems and processes. Regency ITC maintains responsibility and accountability for the work that is undertaken.

We manage our capability carefully and we have a reputation for providing the right skills at the right time. We also ensure that our people have skills that can be used in a range of settings.

We actively ensure that our Consultants and associate consultants have the opportunities to share best practice and are kept informed of changes across the public sector.

Regency ITC has a specific Associate Consultants' contract to cover work Associate Consultants undertake for us, and a Code of Practice to which they commit. This model, coupled with the dedication of our in-house resourcing system has proved highly successful.