

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**BUILDING TRUST IN THE
DIGITAL WORLD, TOGETHER**

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CREST 2025: PREPARING FOR AND EMBRACING THE FUTURE OF CYBER

CREST's ongoing mission is to create a safer digital world by establishing and increasing trust in cybersecurity services.

To achieve this goal, we develop capability, grow capacity, strengthen consistency, and collaborate with our global community of partners, providers and professionals.

In 2025, we applied this approach across a diverse range of strategic activities, encompassing standards development, professional pathways and global engagement.

STATEMENT FROM CREST INTERNATIONAL CHAIR (ROD MARCOS) & CEO (NICK BENSON)

Demand for trusted cyber capabilities continues to increase as cyber risk affects more organisations and sectors, with higher consequences. The concurrent implications of a strained geo-political system and lightning speed developments in frontier technologies makes it both a rewarding and concerning time for the industry.

There is still a shortage of proven, capable cyber service providers able to operate consistently across the varying cyber specialisms and

geographies. The skilled and experienced professionals that work in cyber security are the beating heart of those service providers. However, they are being asked to step-up to this increased demand whilst facing the significant impact of AI on what they do and how they do it.

Understanding how to continually adapt standards and support the community through change is an increasingly critical part of CREST's role. Our not-for-profit model enables long-term investment in the future on behalf of our community, driving standards, quality and capability.

CLOSING ONE CHAPTER AND OPENING THE NEXT

2025 was the final year of a three-year strategy to transform CREST. It focused on strengthening our member value proposition and advancing the role of CREST accreditations through the publication and promotion of the standards that underpin them. The strategy also increased support for cyber organisations to develop as well as ensuring CREST developed the internal systems, processes and governance needed to leverage change at scale.

By 2025, the focus was on completing major transformation projects and driving forwards with a renewed focus on delivering value to our membership. Our flagship development to support both members and their prospective customers was the new CREST Marketplace, showcasing the depth and variety of talent across our network. With most of the work completed in 2025 and launched in the first quarter of 2026, the Marketplace is the professional and intuitive service that our members deserve and will continue to be enhanced as feedback is received.

It was also a significant milestone for us to return value back to the membership in the form of free

CREST exam vouchers, enabling existing members to benefit from the successful growth in 2025.

Our mission is as much about supporting the industry as it is measuring it against our standards. Following the successful piloting of the CREST Pathway to Accreditation (Pathway) within CREST Cyber Accelerated Maturity Programme (CAMP) in 2024, the Pathway was launched globally in 2025, bringing maturing organisations into the CREST eco-system and through the newly published standards, helping them to professionalise faster.

There are many more stories of success and progress in 2025 throughout this Annual Report which we encourage you to explore. Our members are experiencing stronger support, greater recognition and enhanced value. Buyers of cyber services can understand and find the capability they need more easily. Regulators have a faster, more harmonised route to setting standards within their countries.

The world of cyber is going through undoubtedly the biggest change since its creation. AI is disrupting the technical, commercial and operating models of the membership as they adapt their services and internal resourcing models at an unprecedented speed.

NAVIGATING A CLEAR PATH THROUGH THE TURBULENCE

The CREST International Council engaged extensively through 2025 to develop a new three year strategy for 2026 to 2028. This is centred on leveraging the strong position CREST finds itself in following the three year transformation and growth of the previous strategic period.

This strategy is ambitious on behalf of CREST's members, driving the adoption of standards internationally, increasing member value further and helping to build the professional workforce of the future. It is necessarily goal-based and flexible, acknowledging that the impact of AI on the sector is impossible to predict but certain to have a profound impact on cyber companies. CREST will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our members during this time, delivering the change and support that is needed to come out stronger, trusted and more successful than ever before.

2025: READY FOR THE COMING WAVE

CREST's mission is to build capability, grow capacity, drive consistent standards and support a connected global community. Much of 2025 focused on the system changes needed to deliver that mission at greater scale.

We improved the foundations behind accreditation, membership and examinations, strengthened the value of member services, and widened our reach across sectors and regions. These developments will help us create a more professional, consistent and trusted global cybersecurity ecosystem.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

CYBER ORGANISATIONS

Strengthening market recognition and pathways into accreditation

- Updated accreditation standards published and adopted across multiple disciplines.
- Pathway to Accreditation established more transparent, structured routes into accreditation, improving support for maturing providers.
- 123 organisations joined the Pathway to Accreditation across 30 countries.

- Members collectively held 905 accreditations at the end of 2025, with 159 new capabilities added during the year.
- CREST membership increased by 25% in 2025, driven by growing market demand for trusted, high-quality cybersecurity providers.
- Presentation of member capability improved through enhanced online profiles and new filtering model.
- Member Sales Training piloted to help members better articulate the value of accredited services when talking to prospective clients.
- Donor-funded CREST CAMPs strengthened global capability through mentorship of 69 providers in 14 countries.

CYBER PROFESSIONALS

Expanding the pipeline of trusted cybersecurity providers and professionals.

- Official CREST training material produced and piloted across penetration testing, incident response, and threat intelligence, helping our educational partners deliver targeted, high-quality training for our exams.
- Wide-ranging programme of exam updates delivered, redeveloping the red teaming manager and specialist qualifications for high-risk testing environments.
- Major digital transformation delivered across accreditation, exam and internal systems, to improve data quality and increase

operational efficiency.

- CREST played a pivotal role in the delivery of research on international workforce professionalisation.
- 165 practitioners undertook training aligned to CREST exams and standards through CREST CAMP.
- Member subscription growth enabled 1,944 free exam vouchers to be issued across the membership as part of a “giving back” initiative.

COMMUNITY

Building trust and recognition through an engaged global membership.

- Significant engagement with governments, regulators and partners widened global recognition of accredited practice and raised CREST's profile.

- CREST's expanded presence across regions and sectors opened member access to more market opportunities.
- CRESTCon evolved into a programme of leadership and community events for specific disciplines, led by member needs.
- Member survey results showed improved scores for communication,

perceived value and clarity of governance.

- Community engagement deepened across councils, focus groups and working groups.
- Community input from councils and working groups played a significant role in shaping standards and governance.



INCREASING MEMBER VALUE AND VISIBILITY

A key focus for CREST this year was to deliver more value to members, improving how they are represented, supported and connected across the community. We made it easier for buyers to identify suitable providers, introduced practical measures to help members win more work, and improved community engagement through discipline-focused events. Members responded positively to these initiatives and developments.

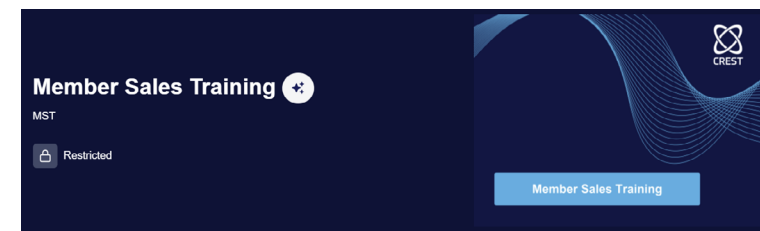
IMPROVED VISIBILITY FOR MEMBERS

Extensive work has gone into redesigning how members are presented on the CREST website so they are more discoverable to buyers seeking specialist accredited services. Updated member profiles and a new filtering

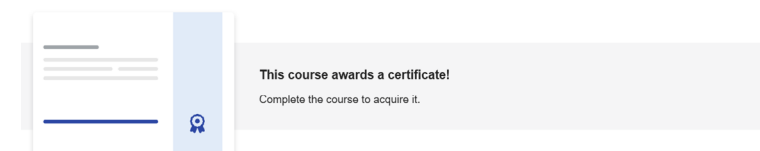
model give buyers a more accurate picture of provider capability and make it easier to find the right supplier. These changes form the groundwork for our new member listings platform launching in 2026.

ENHANCING COMMERCIAL SUPPORT

Member Sales Training is an initiative designed to help members articulate their value more clearly in procurement conversations, and improve commercial outcomes. The online training materials support client-facing teams with clear, consistent messaging on CREST's role, how accreditation sets them apart, and how to position services in different regions. Feedback from the pilot was overwhelmingly positive.

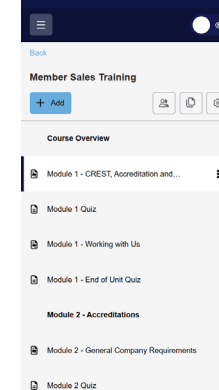


Member Sales Training is designed to equip CREST Members to confidently pitch the benefits of accredited providers to potential buyers.



MEMBER SALES TRAINING FEEDBACK

“The content was clear, easy to understand and highly relevant. The flow of information was spot on, and helped me gain a deeper understanding of what CREST stands for, who it's for, and the benefits of accreditation and certification.”



CREST International

Independent not-for-profit membership body representing the global cybersecurity industry founded in 2006.



We bring:

- Buyers together with accredited providers.
- Cyber expertise into regulated standards.
- Trust in the digital world by raising professional standards and delivering measurable quality assurance for the global cybersecurity industry.

Our Mission and Vision

CREST builds capability, capacity, consistency and collaboration in the global cybersecurity industry through services that nurture, measure and enhance the performance of individuals and organisations.

POSITIVE MEMBER FEEDBACK

Our member survey results showed distinct improvements in satisfaction, communication, perceived value and understanding of CREST's direction compared to 2024. Members showed increased confidence in community activity and the usefulness of focus groups. They reported a substantial increase in the number of business opportunities received as a result of membership. Overall, the results reflect a more positive, engaged and informed membership, with stronger alignment between member expectations and CREST's priorities.

EVENTS TO ENGAGE THE CREST COMMUNITY

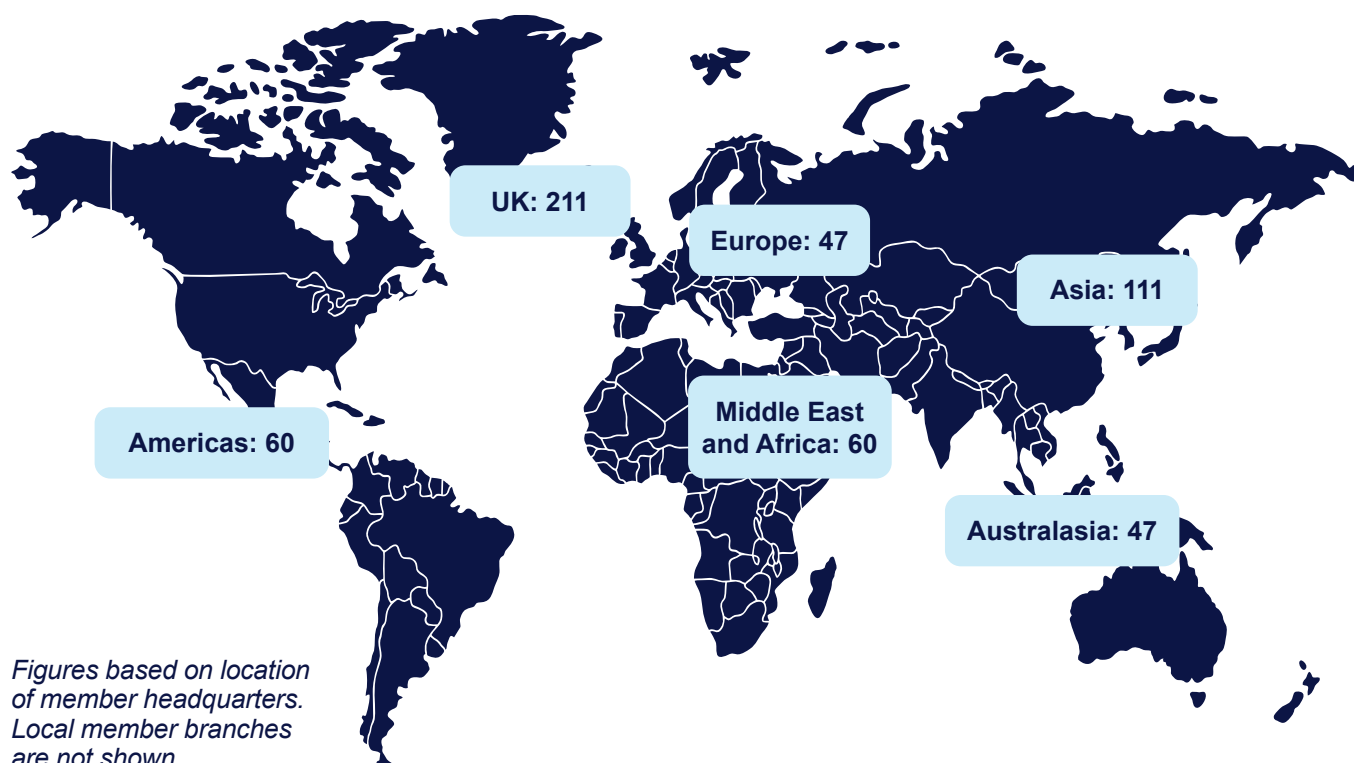
A new model for our flagship event was piloted in the UK in 2025. CRESTCon UK evolved and grew from a single annual conference into a series of events. Our leaders' day and dinner brought together 50 senior representatives and several government speakers for purposeful and productive

discussion. We also ran four member community days, each centred on a core service area: red teaming, threat intelligence, incident response and SOC, and penetration testing. These sessions included specialist talks, professional development and peer discussion. They were well-attended and positively received, so we plan to expand the concept globally in 2026.



A THRIVING GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP

A broader membership base helps us develop more mature cyber markets, creating new opportunities while raising standards worldwide.



THE NEXT PHASE OF MEMBER SUPPORT

Our next phase of work will build on the foundations created this year. After launch, additional CREST Marketplace features will showcase more member company differences and strengths. We will increase our engagement with the buying community and their links to CREST members, supported by full rollout of member sales training. This will be supported by stronger marketing and visibility to ensure CREST membership and accreditation are more clearly recognised in the market.

THE GROWTH OF A TRUSTED PROVIDER BASE

We strengthened the global supply of trusted cyber service providers in 2025 by fully updating our accreditation standards and launching new categories that reflect current industry practice. CREST standards were published for the first time and downloaded by over 3,500 people, a move welcomed by providers and regulators seeking greater clarity on our requirements. This created the foundation for organisations to join Pathway to Accreditation, using the open-source standards to learn, identify gaps and accelerate towards full accreditation.

SUPPORTING PROVIDERS WITH CREST'S PATHWAY TO ACCREDITATION

The development of Pathway to Accreditation, consisting of Pathway and Pathway+ stages, supports CREST's mission of capacity-building by helping participants align with standards, build capability and prepare for assessment. These programmes have been particularly valuable to startups and growing organisations, bringing opportunities for greater global visibility and credibility. Pathway and Pathway+

credentials enable participants to signal their commitment to CREST's standards and intent to meet them in the future.

Pathway organisations have had success meeting the accreditation requirements more rapidly than direct applicants.

Pathway companies at different maturity levels have been able to engage with the CREST community and build their understanding of professional before assessment. Participants can start at a level that matches their circumstances,

supported by on-demand tools that clarify expectations and help teams understand how to evidence their capabilities.



PATHWAY UPTAKE 2025

123

organisations on Pathway to Accreditation. 59 Pathway, 64 Pathway+.

30

countries represented across higher and lower-end income economies.

9

new countries engaged with Pathway to Accreditation in 2025.

DEVELOPING ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

In response to market demand, we expanded the range of services covered by CREST accreditation standards by publishing new and updated requirements. This included newly defined standards for Security Architecture, and updated standards for Threat Led Penetration Testing (TLPT) and Threat Intelligence for Simulated Attack (TISA). A new Cyber Threat Intelligence baseline created an accreditation route for intelligence providers who need a recognised way to evidence capability. Work also began on supplements for emerging areas such as AI-enabled services, in response to clear interest from our member community and the need for practical support.

IMPACT ON ASSURED CYBER SERVICE PROVISION

The global supply of trusted cybersecurity services continues to expand, with 905 accreditations delivered by CREST members at the end of 2025. This includes 159 new accreditations added over the past year, demonstrating sustained growth in demand

for assured services. An increasing number of providers are expanding into multiple service areas, strengthening the depth and resilience of the global market.

LOOKING AHEAD

Existing members will move through an enhanced renewal cycle in 2026, as we apply additional evidence requirements to reaccreditations. We will continue to broaden the range of services and capabilities that can be assured, and develop “supplements” that allow additional capabilities to be formally recognised. Together with Pathway to Accreditation, this work will help trusted providers scale, and give buyers and regulators greater confidence in assured practice.



Security Architecture



Threat-led Pen Test



Threat Intel for Simulated Attacks

CREST CAMP: A CAPACITY-BUILDING MODEL WITH GLOBAL REACH

CREST CAMP is our flagship model for building capacity around the world. In 2025 it helped service providers progress through Pathway to Accreditation, developed practitioner skills, and expanded national training programmes. Across the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Asia, our work has shown strong uptake and steady progression, training partners are becoming established, and long-term capability is growing.

CREST CAMPs in Asia, funded by the Australian DFAT, sustained momentum across multiple countries, while a CREST CAMP funded by the EBRD moved into its next phase in Morocco. Building out our training partners in Kenya, Bahrain, Georgia and Malaysia ensured donor funding turned into lasting capability. These partnerships opened doors to national authorities and regulators, increasing the value of CREST accreditations and creating opportunities for members.

PARTNERS AND DONORS (2024-2025)

- UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) - donor
- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) - donor
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) - donor
- Strathmore University, Kenya - national training partner
- National Centre for Science and Technology (NGST), Bahrain - national training partner
- Georgian Information Technology and Analysis Center (GITA), Georgia - national training partner
- Ofisgate, Malaysia - national training partner
- Thailand National Cyber Academy (THNCA) - national training partner



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

MEMBER MENTORS AND TRAINING PARTNERS


























CAPABILITY GROWTH AND PRACTITIONER DEVELOPMENT

Maturity levels vary across participating regions, but organisations show strong engagement, moving from Pathway to Pathway+ and onward to membership. Progression occurs over a multi-year period, reflecting the time needed to build governance, methodology and technical capability to meet CREST standards. Mentorship from CREST members continues to strengthen practice, while practitioner training provides the skills for ongoing development.

In 2025, 165 practitioners completed exam-aligned CREST CAMP training across the core disciplines of incident response, penetration testing and threat intelligence. Training-of-trainers equipped partner institutions to deliver CREST-aligned courses independently and build long-term, sustainable local teaching capability. Across all regions, 84% of CREST CAMP organisations progressed from Pathway into later stages, with timelines reduced from one-to-two year journeys to around six months. As a result, we've seen consistent and sustainable capability growth across diverse regulatory and economic contexts.

CREST CAMP PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS BY REGION

20

Africa

11

Europe

16

Middle East

22

Asia

FUTURE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Looking ahead, further work is planned with the EBRD in 2026 and additional funding opportunities are being explored. Participating organisations will continue to develop through the Pathway to Accreditation, creating stronger pools of accredited providers in more regions. As capability grows, engagement with national authorities and regulators is deepening, supporting wider adoption of CREST standards.

Greater capacity strengthens the market for all providers through shared best practice and a wider pool of trusted professionals. Members that have mentored other providers in CREST CAMP have opened up new markets for business and found long-lasting partnership opportunities.

6-12

months average reduction
in accreditation readiness.

92%

CREST CAMP participation
satisfaction rating.

81%

of participants reported
acceleration in their
accreditation journey.

RAISING THE BAR FOR THE CYBER WORKFORCE

BUILDING INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS

The international harmonisation of standards is core to our mission, and the target of our work with global leaders in cyber workforce professionalisation. Our objective is to elevate the talented cyber community into a respected, trusted and valued profession.

Key activities in 2025 included ongoing support for the International Coalition on Cybersecurity Workforces (ICCSW) bringing 7 countries together, with more likely to join. The governments

and agencies in the coalition are taking steps to align national and international practices, with the goal of strengthening workforce assurance and building trust. The project supports resilience and economic growth by improving workforce mobility and ensuring consistent minimum standards. It establishes a shared baseline, while domestic policy and implementation remain under national control.

This work culminated in a presentation alongside several government representatives from the coalition at Singapore International Cyber Week, hosted by the Cybersecurity Authority of Singapore.



PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

At national level, we supported a range of projects for different stages of professional recognition, with initiatives running in the UK, Singapore, Dubai and Australia, amongst others.

As a licenced body of the UK Cybersecurity Council, we awarded a growing number of professional titles in the security testing and incident response specialisms. Insights from applicants have broadened our understanding of how professional capability develops over time, and will inform our work in related projects, future career pathway designs, and product developments.

EXAM DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING SUPPORT

CREST delivered a wide programme of exam updates this year through the Pearson Vue test centre network. These ranged from syllabus changes to exam content updates and new delivery mechanisms. CREST exams were taken in over 40 countries across every continent.

We delivered wholesale changes to our red team manager and specialist qualifications which are critical measures of competence for engagements in high-risk testing environments. These certifications are required for regulated frameworks, such as the Bank of England's

CBEST, so the exams must maintain the very highest standards. We made these changes to ensure our qualifications remain rigorous, challenging and realistic for members, while discounts and exam vouchers help support affordability.

Official CREST training materials were also launched in 2025 and made available for licensing by approved educational partners. Covering security testing, threat intelligence and incident response, the materials support 50% of CREST examinations, helping candidates better understand requirements and prepare for assessment.

GLOBAL EXAM REACH AND ACCESSIBILITY

Global delivery

Exam centres available worldwide through Pearson Vue Partnership.

Workforce impact

Exam availability strengthens routes into professional titles reinforcing CREST recognition.

Increased access

Demand-driven expansion of access shows international value of CREST certifications.

Member benefits

Discounts for all exams. 1944 exam vouchers given back to members.

THE NEXT STAGE OF WORKFORCE PROFESSIONALISATION

Our progress in 2025 creates a strong platform for the future. ICCSW is set to deliver its framework as the coalition broadens its reach across additional regions. Professional recognition is likely to accelerate as processes mature and the value of assured capability becomes clearer to practitioners and employers. The global expansion of exam access will support increasing numbers of member employees to demonstrate their excellence, and raise the international recognition of CREST standards. These developments position CREST to play a greater role in shaping how the global cyber workforce evolves over the coming years.

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT; GLOBAL INFLUENCE

To fulfil CREST's mission, we strive to build a broad, authoritative professional community. The international reach of our members and supporters enables us to increase awareness of CREST standards and build global influence.

In 2025, our regional engagement raised the visibility of CREST standards in policy, regulatory and professional settings. For members, this work increased the value of accredited status, improved recognition, and opened up new opportunities. For the wider market, it increased trust in consistent standards and helped more organisations understand what high-quality, assured work looks like. Our strategic local activities are connecting the professional community and increasing CREST's international influence on behalf of our members.

ENGAGING WITH GOVERNMENTS, REGULATORS AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

CREST's standards gained wider recognition in 2025 as regional teams engaged governments, regulators and agencies across North America, Europe, the United Kingdom, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and Africa. Our work is improving understanding of quality-assured practice, increasing recognition of accredited providers, and creating safer digital markets.

Our engagement activities included industry and policy events, regulator-led panels, national resilience initiatives and direct dialogue with national cyber authorities. In regions with established frameworks, we focused on regulatory

alignment. Activity has ranged from industry and policy events to direct engagement with national authorities, including markets where demand for standards and accreditation is growing at pace.



Government

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS



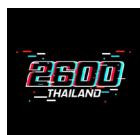
ANCA CERT

Australian Government
Department of Home AffairsKINGDOM OF MOROCCO
ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION
SYSTEMS SECURITYISAA | Information Systems
Agency of Armeniaالوكالة الوطنية للأمن السيبراني
National Cyber Security Agencyالمركز الوطني للأمن السيبراني
NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY CENTERNACIONALINIS KIBERNETINIO
SAUGUMO CENTRASالمركز الوطني
للسلامة المعلوماتية
Oman National CERT



OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Organisations united by a shared commitment to strengthening the global cyber security ecosystem, supporting CREST's mission through collaboration, insight and advocacy.



2600 Thailand



Australian Computer Society (ACS)



Indonesian Digitalisation and Cybersecurity Association (ADIGSI)



Arab Association for Cyber Security (ACS)



Australian Cyber Collaboration Centre



Australian Women in Security Network



Centre for Internet Security (CIS)



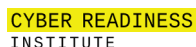
CI-ISAC Australia Ltd



Cloud Security Alliance



The Cybersecurity Forum for Omani Women (CSFOW)



Cyber Readiness Institute



Cyber Risk Institute



Cyber Threat Alliance



Cybermindz



Cyber Peace Institute



CyberSafe Foundation



Division Zero



Forge Institute



Global Anti Scam Alliance (GASA)



Global Cyber Alliance



Global Resilience Federation



Global Technology Industry Association



The Canadian Cybersecurity Cluster



ISACA



ISACA Melbourne Chapter



ISC2



Information Systems Security Association UK



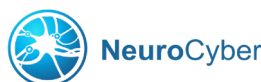
The Association of Cyber Security Experts



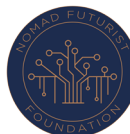
Malaysia Cyber Consumer Association



MITRE Engenuity



NeuroCyber



Nomad Futurist Foundation



OWASP



SFIA Foundation



SherpaSec



The Security Institute

ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY FORUMS

CREST took part in the final sessions of the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group (UN OEWG) on the Security and Use of ICT, focused on the role of consistent standards and the benefits of CREST CAMP in global capacity-building. We will continue to advocate for non-governmental stakeholder inclusion and the importance of standards within the permanent mechanism, from 2026.

At the Global Conference on Cyber Capacity Building (GC3B), we led a session showcasing multi-stakeholder perspectives of the positive outcomes from CREST CAMP in building local cyber industry ecosystems. We also reaffirmed support for the Accra Call for Cyber Resilient Development, which promotes coordinated capacity-building efforts in developing regions.



IDEAS THAT ARE SHAPING THE INDUSTRY

CREST helped build wider understanding of high-quality cybersecurity practice by publishing authoritative, policy-aligned insights. A variety of national and regional focused articles included:

- the Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA) and Threat Led Penetration Testing (TLPT) series, which linked CREST accreditation to European regulatory expectations;
- analysis of the proposed federal cybersecurity budget in the United States, exploring how policy changes affect assurance needs;
- contributions to the United Kingdom's Cyber Growth Action Plan, exploring the importance of cyber as an engine for economic growth beyond the security benefits.

CREST also supported industry practice through technical maturity guidance, including:

- a Security Operations Centre (SOC) metrics framework to help teams measure incident response performance;
- cybersecurity incident management guide;
- the importance of incident exercising using trusted providers.

A new avenue to explore innovative thinking and developments came from the inaugural CRESTCon UK Leaders' Day and service-focused community days. Event briefing notes were shared with leaders across the global member network and will be expanded in 2026.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL DIGITAL SAFETY IN 2026

Our focus for 2026 is to strengthen CREST's role in areas where standard-setting and quality assurance are gaining momentum. By focusing our efforts on the locations that have a strategic imperative to engage CREST, we will optimise the impact for members. Having observed an acceleration in adoption of cyber-related laws and regulations over the last several years, we see increasing opportunities to deliver support and standardisation over the coming year.

A DIGITAL ENGINE TO DRIVE CREST'S FUTURE

To give our member companies and individual professionals a great experience when interacting with CREST, we need to have the systems and processes that match our position as a global professional organisation.

Our goal for 2025 was to strengthen our technology and data foundations by introducing more automation, improving data quality and enhancing the user experience. This work underpinned the delivery of CREST Marketplace, and created the infrastructure for future customer experience improvements.

EFFICIENT SYSTEMS, ENHANCED SUPPORT

In 2025 we introduced automations and simplified workflows across the Pathway to Accreditation. Pathway and Pathway+ stages have become self-service routes, creating a smoother, faster and higher-quality onboarding experience. This is supported by a new self-assessment tool for Pathway+ companies, which provides a simple way to assess their gaps and generate improvement plans. Member applications are now submitted through a new portal, with refreshed application forms aligned to the updated standards.



Section 1 – Governance and Core Technical Capabilities

This section evaluates the organisation's governance framework for selecting, managing, and maintaining tools used in incident response. The goal is to ensure tools are appropriately selected, regularly reviewed, maintained, and capable of supporting effective incident detection, analysis, and response. Please complete each requirement by selecting the option that best represents your current state. Your responses will generate a readiness level indicating how prepared your organisation is for accreditation.

1.1 Tool Selection & Onboarding

Evaluation Process: We maintain a documented process for evaluating and approving tools before deployment in incident management. *

☐ Yes

☐ Partial

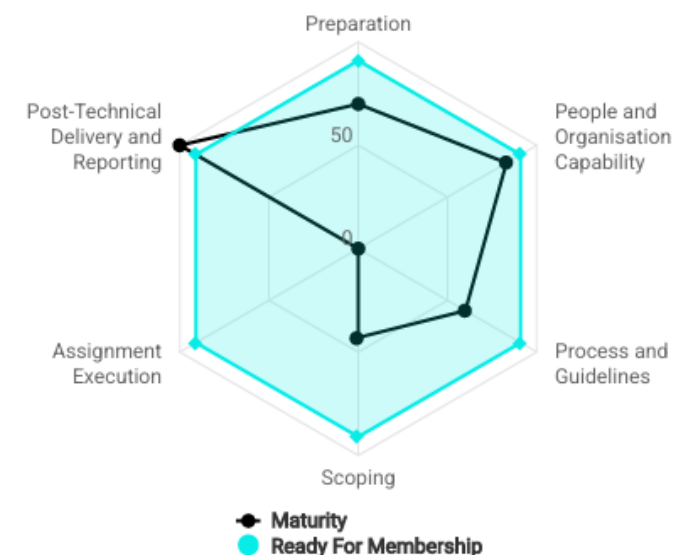
☐ No

Formal Approval: We can provide evidence of formal approval for internal and third-party tools before deployment. *

☐ Yes

☐ Partial

☐ No



STREAMLINED ACCREDITATION FROM ENTRY TO MEMBERSHIP



GOVERNANCE, COUNCILS AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE EVOLUTION

We strengthened our governance model to align with the latest best practice and ensure decisions serve the best interests of member companies. Elections were held for the North America, Asia and Europe regional councils, bringing in the latest cohort of member company leaders to influence CREST's strategy and drive impact in their locality.

Our focus groups continued to support discipline development, and task-based working groups produced new guidance based on the latest

frameworks. Our newly established Technical Committee brought the focus groups together in a coherent cross-product forum, advising on service-category updates, new specialist supplements, terminology, and improvements to the educational partner model.

OUR FUTURE GROWTH STRATEGY 2026–28

Our 2026–28 strategy builds on the systems we put in place in 2025. We will continue to increase automation, explore the careful use of AI-enabled services, and further develop tools to make it easier for organisations to connect with providers.

The foundations we've established in 2025 will support the next wave of CREST evolution, increase value for buyers and improve how we deliver our services. They provide the infrastructure and flexibility we need to serve a broader global membership and service catalogue in the years ahead.

2026 AND BEYOND: LEADING A NEW ERA IN CYBERSECURITY

We move into the 2026–2028 period with a refreshed global strategy set by our International Council and informed by our regional councils and focus groups. This strategy builds on the strong foundations of recent years, with a clear focus on delivering our mission: to develop capability and grow capacity in the global cyber security industry through consistently applied standards and community collaboration.

Our vision, building trust in the digital world, together, reflects both the scale of the challenge ahead and the importance of collective action. As the cyber security landscape continues to evolve at pace, not least through the accelerating impact of AI, our members are navigating increasingly complex demands. In this environment, our role is to provide clarity, consistency and leadership, ensuring that standards are not only developed but applied rigorously and globally.

Guided by our values of Collaboration, Excellence and Integrity, we will continue to work in partnership with our members and the wider community to strengthen the industry. By balancing innovation with responsibility, and by applying our standards with consistency and care, we will reinforce our position as a trusted voice and strategic partner, helping to shape a more capable, resilient and trusted digital world.



CYBER ORGANISATIONS

Strengthening progression and recognition for accredited providers:

- Extend accreditation through additional category-specific guidance and criteria, enabling organisations to demonstrate specialist capabilities.
- Reinforce the use of standards and progression routes through renewal cycles for consistent accreditation outcomes across regions and disciplines.
Use Pathway to Accreditation to make organisational maturity more visible, helping providers show progression from baseline capability to full accreditation.
- Strengthen how member accreditations and specialist services are presented to buyers through listings, verification features and clearer information.
- Scale CREST CAMP and related capacity-building activity, to create a sustainable pipeline of cybersecurity providers.

- Build on member value initiatives to help providers convert accreditation into more commercial opportunities.
- Strengthen the visibility and recognition of the CREST brand and standards, so accredited practice is more consistently understood across markets.

CYBER PROFESSIONALS

Building accessible routes into recognised professional competence

- Continue workforce professionalisation through recognised titles, certifications and alignment with international frameworks.
- Expand and support training partner networks so CREST-aligned training and certification are more accessible and in demand across the world.
- Strengthen routes from training into certification, helping practitioners move from skills development to recognised competence.
- Boost certification uptake by building awareness, understanding, and increasing demand among employers, regulators and national authorities.

COMMUNITY

Growing engagement, recognition and influence across the world

- Build on the member-centred CRESTCon model to support specialised professional development and peer learning.
- Harness councils, focus groups and working groups to shape guidance and assurance in response to regulatory and market change.
- Translate engagement with governments, regulators and agencies into clearer outcomes and opportunities for members, including wider recognition of accredited practice.
- Create a strategic thought-leadership programme to explain and reinforce our role as a trusted authority on accredited cybersecurity practice.
- Strengthen our role as a convenor between industry, buyers and regulators.
- Grow our global reach through new partnerships, formal agreements and collaboration with governments, regulators, agencies and professional bodies.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

CREST GROUP RESULTS 2025

	2025 £m	2024 £m
Revenue	5.98	5.03
Operating Costs	(4.90)	(4.51)
Underlying profit	1.08	0.52
Investments (Opex)	(0.05)	(0.03)
Gross Profit	1.03	0.49
Net grant income	0.13	0.14
Currency gains/(losses)	(0.10)	(0.02)
Taxation	(0.28)	(0.07)
Net profit/(loss)	0.78	0.54
Cash Reserves at year end	2.9	1.7

Our independent external auditors issued a clean audit report for the 2025 accounts.

CREST group is made up of CREST (International), CREST USA Inc.,

CREST Assurance South East Asia Pty Ltd and CREST EU Stichting.

These figures represent a non-statutory consolidation of those four entities.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2025

REVENUE

£5.98m, up 18% versus 2024 reflecting a 25% growth in Membership during 2025.

OPERATING COSTS

£4.9m, up 8% versus 2024.

Increase reflects the continued investment in the business, development of the regional and central teams to support growth.

INVESTMENT

£0.3m Capital and Operational investment.

CREST is focussing investment in increasing Member value, with projects launching CREST Marketplace and developing the Pathway offering.

CASH RESERVES

CREST held cash reserves of £2.9m at the end of 2025, up £1.2m on 2024 due to in-year surplus.

Reserves enable CREST to ensure ongoing operation in the event of any short-term cash requirements and year on year investment in our Membership offering.



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