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BitLocker Suitable for the protection of RESTRICTED data on Windows Vista Service Pack 2

The Information Assurance Technical Programme (IATP) is pleased to announce that BitLocker Drive Encryption – the full volume data encryption feature within Microsoft’s Windows Vista Operating System – has been judged suitable by CESG for the protection of IL3 (RESTRICTED) data when used on Windows Vista Service Pack 2 – the latest edition of Windows Vista.

CESG has worked closely with Microsoft to ensure the continued suitability of this feature, and has produced an updated version of both the CESG “Bitlocker Installation Tool” and associated Security Procedures to ensure that HMG departments can continue to make full use of this data protection product as they keep their operating system up-to-date with the latest service pack.

Government departments considering taking advantage of this feature of Windows Vista Service Pack 2 should consult the Security Procedures and then order the CESG Installation Tool from CESG. Contact the CESG enquiries desk for information on the ordering process.

This work was funded by the IATP and delivered through its Trusted Computing Project, which seeks to take advantage of a major industry-led initiative to enable HMG to securely use commodity COTS platforms, such as PCs and mobile devices, through fundamental but minimal changes to their architectures.

CESG is currently assessing the security of BitLocker Drive Encryption within the recently released “Windows 7” operating system and expects to make a statement about its use at RESTRICTED in early 2010.

For additional details on the work of the IATP or for advice on the suitability of BitLocker Drive Encryption, customers should contact the CESG Enquiries Desk at enquiries@cesg.gsi.gov.uk or on +44 (0) 1242 709141