

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ST Engineering Quits Cluster Munitions**

**Releases statement that it has ceased the design, production and sale of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions**

**LAPFF engagement cited as factor in the Company's decision to axe these weapons**

In 2014, LAPFF contacted nine aerospace and defence companies based in the US and Singapore regarding whether they sell or produce cluster munitions. The Forum engaged further with four companies, receiving some assurances from them in relation to their activities around cluster munitions, however some outstanding concerns remained.

On 11 November, LAPFF received a letter from one of the companies engaged, ST Engineering, stating 'ST Engineering is now no longer in the business of designing, producing and selling of anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions or any related key components.' The letter cited LAPFF's role in engaging with the Company as helpful in arriving at this position.

LAPFF Chairman, Kieran Quinn stated in response, "LAPFF supports companies in their efforts to implement responsible business practices and I am pleased to learn that our discussion helped to inform ST Engineering's decision to adopt this new position on anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions. LAPFF views this outcome as an example of how engagement between companies and investors can lead to mutually positive outcomes."

Cluster munitions continue to pose significant threats to civilian populations because they kill both military and civilian targets indiscriminately, as well as leaving a legacy of unexploded devices for future generations. The Oslo Convention, which bans the production and use of cluster munitions, took effect in 2010 but has not been ratified or joined through accession by key States, such as the US, Singapore and South Korea.

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**For further information:**

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**About the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum**

The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF), founded in 1991, is a voluntary association of 65 public sector pension funds based in the UK with combined assets of approximately £175 billion. It exists to 'promote the long-term investment interests of local authority pension funds, and to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote



corporate responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest.' [www.lapfforum.org](http://www.lapfforum.org) PIRC is the Research and Engagement partner to the Forum.