



**NATIONAL NEWSLETTER**  
No 10 of 2015

Quote of the month

"The only truly happy people are children and the creative minority."

- *Jean Caldwell*

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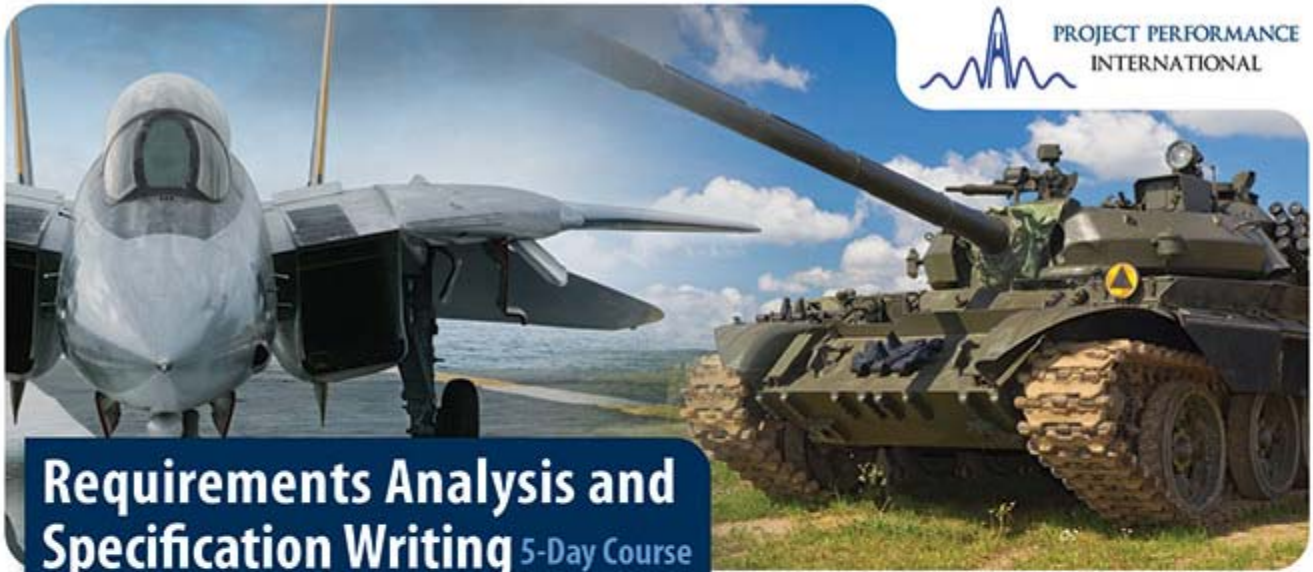
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18 April - 22 April	Melbourne
16 May - 20 May	Sydney
14 November - 18 November	Melbourne
21 November - 25 November	Perth

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## ▶ AIDN NATIONAL NEWS



### NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Greetings

To my fellow AIDN members..... hello.

We have again had an intense period of activities with AIDN.

Our review of AIDN's Strategic Plan continues. Don't forget to feed your suggestions to me or your Chapter ASAP. We have extended our review to include our most important position documents, the AIDN SME Participation Plan and the AIDN Industry Involvement Paper. I request your views on both those documents as well.

I can advise I have recently released an AIDN Communications Plan for internal review in this process also.

### Acknowledgements

Some 300 Australian Defence Force members were formally farewelled in Brisbane late October ahead of their departure for Iraq under Operation Okra. On behalf of the Defence SMEs we wish them a safe journey and return home.

Welcome to former US submarine commander Stephen Johnson as General Manager Submarines. We will try to arrange a meet and greet series with him as he settles in to his new role.

## President and National Committee Activities

Our activities on your behalf in the last month are below.

- I am finalising the renewal of the Defence Engineering Internship Program subcontract with AITEC the prime contractor to Defence for this program. The program is highly regarded and receives AIDN's complete support;
- We released speaker and official guest invitations for our 21st birthday celebrations in 2016. This is being coordinated by Graham Priestnall, Immediate Past President (QinetiQ), Rob Forbes AIDN ACT President (CEA) Sue Smith our National Executive Officer and I;
- Continued planning for the inaugural AIDN SME Summit in 2016 utilising the same team as above;
- AIDN continues to represent an AIDN member to Defence in relation to a significantly poor industrial situation. We will be raising this matter to ENADI.
- I attended the 3rd Annual Northern Defence Summit in Darwin. I have made this a separate news article but again congratulate AIDN NT President Gary Bettcher, XO Jodie Cassidy and the AIDN NT Executive for a very successful Gala Dinner and also the NT Government for a very successful Summit. I see a lot of potential for our AIDN membership in the North.

## Planned Activities

I will continue to arrange my appointments with the new Defence leaders to ensure we have a mutual understanding of the way forward for AIDN and its broad membership base going forward to the new White Paper, Industry Policy and the Industry Investment Plan.

Further planning activities will be undertaken for our 21st birthday celebration events. Please recall these are:

- A Defence SME summit is to be held immediately prior to the ADM Congress in Canberra, and
- A celebratory AIDN National dinner, also in Canberra.

I will ensure you get as much information as you can, as early as you can, to make sure these events are relevant and exciting for you all.

Our 2015 AGM is planned for Melbourne in early December 2015. Sue Smith will send out advice to Chapters soon. I am hopeful many of our Victorian Chapter members can attend and hear more of our achievements and plans.

Continued review of the AIDN Strategic Plan.

Finally we stand ready to receive and analyse the Defence White Paper and Industry Policy when released. More on this as events occur.

## Theme for AIDN National

– The Changing Landscape. Reorganisation for the future.

Our theme remains “The Changing Landscape”. Again I urge you to contribute to how you would like to see AIDN in its National role perform for you as Chapter members.

Contact details

All members should feel at ease in contacting me directly about any issues. If the matter you raise is related to member services, I will ensure your issue is raised with the appropriate Chapter President. I can be contacted via my AIDN email address [president@aidn.org.au](mailto:president@aidn.org.au) or my mobile 0413014480 during working hours.

## NEXT AIDN MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of AIDN National will be held on Tuesday 8 December at 0900 in the AIDN offices in Ashburton, Melbourne.

### NOVEMBER BREAKFAST – AIRBUS GROUP

More than 50 attended our Breakfast with Airbus Group Australia Pacific at their facility in RAAF Base Richmond. Their presentation on company capability and tour of C130 and P3 repair facilities was enjoyed by all and proved to be a successful function.

### CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

The Christmas function will be at the Harbour View Hotel, The Rocks on Thursday 3rd December. Registrations are already going well with an event to our usual standards assured. Make sure you register soon.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Your committee met on 19th November. Significant items were:

- Membership is down but stabilising with a number of companies recently joined
- Finances are healthy with the changed finance arrangements seeing the late payment list shortening.
- Fees for 2016 will increase in line with the CPI
- NSW will support the Defence Engineering Internship Program again this year; and
- A meeting with Industry Minister Anthony Roberts MP has confirmed his ongoing support for the defence industry in NSW and intention to appoint a Defence Advisor and an Advisory Committee

### AIDN NSW LINKEDIN GROUP

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## ▶ AIDN-NSW NEW MEMBER



### All Safe Lifting Equipment

All Safe Lifting Equipment is a key service provider in the lifting industry who stock and install a wide range of lifting equipment from both local & international suppliers, including Gunnebo, Rudd, PWB Anchor, Townley Drop Forge & Reid Constructions, and all at competitive prices. All Safe Lifting can design, manufacture, inspect, test and maintain a wide range of specialist lifting equipment and provide Lifting solutions. We specialise in inspections and load testing of equipment for the Royal Australian Navy to codes ABR5195 and hold NATA accreditations allowing us to Inspect & test to various Australian Standards.

We can prepare a suitable lifting equipment register for your file and each item tested is tagged and supplied with a traceable NATA Inspection & Test Certificate. In addition to our in-house manufacturing and testing resources that includes a massive 200t test bed, All Safe Lifting have developed two mobile test facilities so that work can be carried out on any site with minimal production downtime.

For further information on the full range of products and services offered by All Safe Lifting please visit the website at:

[www.allsafelifting.com.au](http://www.allsafelifting.com.au)

Contact

Pranil Kumar

Ph: (02) 4647 6800 or 0447 006 799

Email: [pranil@allsafelifting.com.au](mailto:pranil@allsafelifting.com.au)





# Nathans

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Michelle Nathan

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Tel: 02 4577 7277

[michelle@nathans.com.au](mailto:michelle@nathans.com.au)



Hello from the NSW chapter,

It seems only a very short time since the last, but again we have the holiday season almost upon us. We have already had our last Breakfast for the year, and our thanks go to Airbus Group for hosting us so well and providing such an interesting function. And it is only a week to our Christmas function.

I can also report to you that, together with SADIG, we recently had a very productive meeting with NSW Industry Minister, Anthony Roberts. We expect him to appoint a new Defence Advisor and Advisory Committee in the New Year, ensuring that the defence industry is kept in the forefront of the Government's thinking and that we can compete on equal terms with all of Australia for involvement in the large projects coming up.

When I look back over the year, I believe we have achieved a lot. For a start, we have completely updated our financial arrangements and we now have a high degree of assurance that we are in a sound position and our healthy bank balance is not an illusion. We have a committee who are dedicated to providing benefit to the members and we intend to do better next year after some strategic planning to focus our efforts.

That leaves me to wish you all well for the holiday season and the New Year. I trust that you and your families have a good time, stay safe and that you have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Regards,  
Medhat Wassef  
NSW President

### RHEINMETALL AWARDS CONTRACT TO REGIONAL NSW MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles Australia (RMMVA) recently awarded Milspec Manufacturing a significant contract for the supply of over 2,500 vehicle installation kits under Land 121 Phase 3B.

RMMVA has been contracted in July 2013 to supply over 2,500 military logistic protected and unprotected vehicle systems and nearly 3,000 modules to the Australian Defence Force. The first series vehicles are to be delivered in late 2016, with the final delivery expected in 2020.

The medium and heavy military logistic vehicle systems include vehicles which feature cranes, trays and tippers, vehicle recovery systems, heavy tractors and integrated load handling systems. Modules include flat racks, bulk fuel and water storage modules, maintenance and combat engineer stores variants as well as a heavy floating bridge, bridge erection and propulsion boat interface.

Milspec Manufacturing will design, build and install over 2,500 front bar and rear panel installation kits as well as over 2,500 installation kits for the truck cabins to accommodate the communication equipment used by the Australian Army. The communication suite includes VHF and HF radios, loudspeakers, computer and GPS equipment, fuse boxes, command and control equipment.

RMMVA said that the contract was awarded to Milspec as the company convincingly demonstrated not only its design and engineering capabilities, but also its proactive approach to finding mutually acceptable solutions for RMMVA and the Commonwealth.

"The Milspec engineers have been of great assistance by providing us with prototypes to support the verification phase of the lead vehicle program. They are a very capable and customer focused team" RMMVA's Project Manager Heavy Vehicles Peter Gray said. [Courtesy of ADM](#)

### QUICKSTEP RECEIVES 2015 PREMIER'S NSW MANUFACTURING AWARD

Quickstep Holdings, the manufacturer of carbon-fibre composite components for the aerospace and automotive industries, recently announced that it has received The Premier's NSW Manufacturing Award for 2015, for outstanding international success by a manufacturer. Quickstep will now progress as one of the national finalists for the Australian Manufacturing Award, at the Australian Export Awards, to be held in November 2015.

Quickstep managing director, Mr David Marino, accepted the award at the annual Export Awards ceremony, held at The Star on 28 October 2015. Mr Marino said: "Quickstep is honoured to accept this prestigious award, which helps to differentiate innovative NSW businesses in the highly competitive international market. Our aerospace component manufacturing facility in

Bankstown, NSW, is 100% dedicated to export manufacturing, and we have 160 staff supporting this activity.”

“Our aerospace component manufacturing sales alone for FY15, delivered \$33.7 million in sales, reflecting a 181% increase from FY14, a significant growth in export sales out of our NSW operations.”

Quickstep manufactures advanced composite parts in Australia for export to large prime contractors in the global defence and aerospace industries, including Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems.

Quickstep has significant expertise in the production of aerospace composite components using conventional autoclave-based manufacturing and has developed ‘new generation’ out-of-autoclave manufacturing technologies, including its proprietary ‘Qure’ and ‘RST’ (Resin Spray Transfer) processes for the cost-effective and rapid manufacture of advanced composites in the aerospace, defence and automotive sectors.

## THOMAS GLOBAL AND L-3 AVIATION PRODUCTS ANNOUNCE ALLIANCE AGREEMENT

NSW member Thomas Global Systems (Thomas Global) and L-3 Aviation Products (L-3 AP) Sydney have announced in Las Vegas USA, an alliance agreement to cooperate in the development of certain CRT-to-LCD display upgrade products that eliminate CRT-related maintenance costs, downtime and obsolescence issues, while providing a cost-effective growth path for cockpit upgrades.

## NEWCASTLE SHIPBUILDER FORGACS TO BE ACQUIRED BY CIVMEC

NSW member Forgacs, will sell its defence engineering division to Western Australian firm, Civmec. Forgacs chairman, Peter Burgess, says the agreement will strengthen the Hunter’s engineering capability and boost Newcastle’s role as a leading provider of engineering services to sectors that are vital to the future prosperity and safety of the nation. It represents very good news for the Newcastle and Hunter region as Civmec will be using the Tomago shipyard facility as its east coast headquarters and intends to replicate their Western Australian capabilities at Tomago. The details of the transaction are still being finalised, but the owners of Forgacs would end up with a stake in Civmec. The sale is expected to be finalised next month.



## Ed.35 2016/17 OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Our friends at the Australian + New Zealand Defence Directory now have their 2016/17 edition OPEN. The team are happy to hear from any AIDN members who wish to take advantage of a free listing on the key capability document of Australasian defence.

Support your company directly onto the DRN defence server, NZ’s equivalent and directly into the supply servers of 40 of the ‘Primes’.

Standing 15% AIDN member discount applies to all enhanced support placements.

For inclusive support options please contact Kynan via [Kynan.bolger@jpmmedia.com.au](mailto:Kynan.bolger@jpmmedia.com.au), on 0434 618 451 or visit [www.defence.directory](http://www.defence.directory)

## ▶ AIDN-NORTHERN TERRITORY

### AIDN-NT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AIDN-NT conducted its Annual General Meeting on Friday, 20th November. It was well attended by members who were positive about the future of the association. A number of new members stepped into executive roles through the annual election of committee members. For 2016 the new committee is constituted as follows:

President: Mr Andrew Jones, NTK Windows

Vice-President: Mr Stephen Goodall, Neptune

Treasurer: Mr Gary Bettcher, Leadership Management Australia

Secretary: Vacant

#### General Committee:

Mr Charles WrightQS Services  
Ms Sally-Ann Talbot, Penske Power Systems  
Ms Kerry Boyd, Batteryworld Darwin  
Ms Wendy Kirkbright, Roofmaster  
Mr Garth Beechey, Duratech Australia  
Mr Gerry Oorloff, Opus  
Ms Alice Beilby, Savannah Solutions  
Mr Geoff Crowhurst, Crowhurst Engineering

## NEW WEBSITE FOR AIDN-NT

Throughout 2015 AIDN-NT has been working hard on its new website funded by the Department of Chief Minister, Northern Territory Government.

The website is close to ready for launch, which is anticipated for January / February 2016. The Management Committee is excited to be able to bring this project to fruition, in particular for the benefits that will accrue to members when using the site.

On launch of the site members will have access to the following upgrades and benefits of their membership:

- Own individual company profiles managed through their own unique logon
- Individual accounts with their own history and contact log
- Newsletters and articles provided regularly
- Members can upload their Quad Charts to the website
- All member financial services such as membership payments and event bookings will be managed through the website.
- All members will be fully searchable through an integrated search directory
- Access to a NTDSI document library for projects, tenders and news etc
- Accessible by tablet and mobile phone through the use of responsive design
- Social media enabled for Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.
- An integrated CPD Module for management of training completed through AIDN-NT.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Industry Briefing and Consultation Invitation on Future Submarines SEA 1000

ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) has much pleasure in inviting you to attend a facilitated industry briefing to discuss the TKMS approach to Australian Industry Involvement for the Future Submarine SEA 1000 Project.

### About TKMS

TKMS is a leading global designer and builder of conventional submarine and surface combatants. TKMS is responding to the Commonwealths Competitive Evaluation Process for SEA 1000.

Submarines are an essential component of Australia's naval capability and TKMS is committed to maximising Australian industry involvement in the design, build and sustainment of these vessels.

### Supply Chain

A strong and cohesive supply chain is vital in establishing a sovereign and self-reliant Future Submarine capability for Australia.

This invitation is an opportunity for Australian companies to be informed on the TKMS approach to establishing this strong and cohesive supply chain and to engage in one on one discussions with senior TKMS management, engineering and procurement personnel.

Thyssen Krupp has been in Australia since 1865 and employ close to a thousand Australians and understands the country, industrial culture and the people.

### Event Details and Registration

Location: Chamber of Commerce NT  
Suite 5/4 Shepherd Street, Darwin NT 0800  
Date: Wednesday, 9 December  
Time: 9.00 am – 12.30 pm



## ▶ AIDN-NT MEMBERS' NEWS



*AIDN National President Alan Rankins enjoys the AIDN NT Gala Dinner with Air Marshal (Rtd) Eris Herryanto MA KKIP Vice Chairman and member of the NT Defence Advisory Board.*

### AIDN PRESIDENT ATTENDS NORTHERN AUSTRALIA DEFENCE SUMMIT

In his role as the National President of the Australian Industry & Defence Network (AIDN), Mr Alan Rankins attended the 3rd Annual Northern Australia Defence Summit between 28-29 October 2015 at the Darwin Convention Centre Network. He attended on the initiation of the Northern Territory AIDN President Mr Gary Bettcher. The overarching theme of the Summit was "Defence as a driver for developing the top end".

"We benefited from presentations from the Hon Adam Giles MLA Chief Minister of the NT, the Hon Peter Styles MLA, Minister for Defence Industries NT, Air Marshal Gavin Davies Chief of Air Force and a host of serving and former senior Military figures. We also benefited from a range of presentations from key industry figures from the NT's vibrant Defence industry, said Mr Rankins."

I was particularly pleased to meet members of the Northern Territory Defence Advisory Board during my visit. I congratulate the NT Government for their focus on the defence industries in the north and their obvious willingness to assist their industry with real funding and support. The NT model is one of the best Government to defence industry partnerships in Australia."

As stated by the NT Chief Minister the Hon Adam Giles MLA, the relevance of Northern Australia and its strategic importance in the Asia Pacific region reaches a new high. The world's focus on Asia has never been as intense as it is now and the growth of Asia as an economic giant has made it a focus for Defence Forces around the world. If you take the populations of Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, the Philippines, Timor, Laos, Vietnam, and Singapore, you have more than 500 million people not including China. That's more than 500 million people within 4 hours flying time of Darwin. Two thirds of the world's middle class is expected to be living in the Asia Pacific region by 2030, and that means that a huge amount of world's trade will be passing through the region each and every day. As with the port of Newcastle, the NT has established a leasing option with a company from our greatest trading partner China. I am sure this will bring the NT the growth and success already being seen in Newcastle.

Defence spent \$1.5 billion in the NT. Approximately 50% is salaries and 50% operational costs, accounting for 6.9% of the Territory's Gross State Product.

In his speech on behalf of the AIDN NT defence industry, Mr Bettcher said "AIDN NT has a membership of approx 100 SMEs in NT and together with AIDN Nationally is celebrating its 20th year of supporting the Defence and Industry stakeholders. The value of the work and commitment of NT SMEs in supporting Defence requirements in the NT is well respected by Defence and the NT government. The Strategic Value of a strong Defence presence in NT for Australia is ongoing. The Chief Minister and the Minister for Defence Industry in the NT, acknowledge that defence is one of the seven pillars for building the NT economy.

The value of the work and commitment of NT SMEs in supporting Defence requirements in the NT aligns with the Strategic Value of a strong Defence presence in NT for Australia .....and is ongoing. The First Principles Review has strongly suggested that the outputs of Defence industry should be viewed by the Federal Government as a Fundamental Input to Capability (FIC) and be integrated into the acquisition life cycle.

Defence's "Smart Buyer Approach" - involves tailoring procurement strategies appropriately which will enable industry to be involved earlier and undertake project and contract management activities currently undertaken by Defence. This is particularly relevant in the sustainment phase of the life cycle and should encompass the progress made through the Rizzo and Coles reforms..... The development of programs and projects to grow and develop local industry to be successful in providing

services to Defence and AIDN-NT must also be part of the solution. AIDN-NT continues to provide a range of opportunities for members to effectively engage with appropriate procurement elements of DoD and Defence Industry Bodies to build relationships and enhance Defence awareness of the NT DSI products, services, capability, capacity and skills.

AIDN-NT represents and advocates for the sustainment and growth of the NT DSI sector capabilities through engagement with both regional and national stakeholders. Member's views are strongly presented to strategically influence and pursue outcomes favourable to member's interests. AIDN-NT provides a range of services that meet members' needs and ensure the retention of its current membership base and promote growth to a target of over 120 companies across a diverse DSI sector. AIDN-NT also works with Defence Support Division in the NT to encourage DSI participation in events and activities."

Mr Rankins left the NT with a clear image of the dedication of the NT industry and the effective liaison between the industry SME base and the NT government. This is an impressive liaison that can only improve the outcomes for Defence.

Footnote: AIDN is the peak industry association for SMEs wishing to do business in the defence and security sectors. Established in 1995, AIDN represents the interests of Australian SMEs in the defence and security industry sectors by advocacy, representation and member services. It has a combined national membership in excess of 800 SME companies.

## NEW MARITIME SUPPORT FACILITY FOR DARWIN?

Opening the first day of ADM's Northern Australia Defence Summit, recently the NT chief minister Adam Giles announced that his government is willing to spend \$100 million on a common user facility ship lift if Defence and the wider federal government is willing to guarantee more work for the Darwin site.

The Marine Industry Park program would provide an estimated 4,500 jobs for the territory and provide another ship support option in the region.

The announcement comes in the wake of news earlier this month that the Port of Darwin will be operated by a Chinese company for the next 99 years.

Speaking in response to intense media coverage about the sale, Giles outlined the comprehensive consultation process that the NT government went through with the Department of Defence.

"Reports that Defence has issues with a Chinese company running Darwin port are false," Giles told the 200-strong audience. "There are no security concerns about the sale."

Other speakers including chief of Air Force Air Marshal Leo Davies, UNSW's professor Alan DuPont and retired Indonesian Air Marshal Eris Herryanto were all eloquent in setting the geo strategic circumstances that both the NT and wider Australian landscape face.

"Pax Americana is unravelling to a more turbulent world," professor DuPont said. "We're in an era of strategic competition again as states and players jockey for power. And while US is not in strategic decline but will have to cede power and influence to others." [Courtesy of ADM](#)

## DEFENCE SUPPORT BUSINESSES RECOGNISED

The local businesses that help support the operation of the large Australian Defence Force contingent in the Northern Territory have been recognised at the Defence Connect Gala Dinner at the Darwin Convention Centre overnight.

The annual awards coincide with the 3rd Northern Australia Defence Summit being held in Darwin this week exploring investment and infrastructure opportunities and requirements to support Defence operations.

A highlight of the summit was yesterday's announcement by Chief Minister Adam Giles that the Country Liberals Government would invest up to \$100 million to develop a common-user ship lift facility at the Marine Industry Park.

The facility would be funded from proceeds of the Darwin Port lease if the Federal Government commits to ship servicing of its naval and border protection fleet in Darwin.

Minister for Defence Industries Peter Styles said the facility would meet the current and future maintenance needs of Defence, Australian Border Force and commercial users and remove the need for such vessels to use Asian or interstate ports.

"Defence plays a crucial role in the growth of the Northern Territory and the development of Northern Australia spending more than \$1.5 billion dollars here every year," Mr Styles said.

"A strong and capable Defence force requires an equally strong and capable Defence support industry.

“The summit has been focused on further investment required to support major Defence projects and necessary infrastructure needed for operations now and into the future.”

The Northern Territory Government sponsors the Minister’s Award for Excellence awarded to the business that has provided the best overall contribution to the Northern Territory Defence Support Industry.

The 2015 Minister’s Award has been presented to Coach Charters Australia which receives \$5,000 to contribute to further business development opportunities.

“Coach Charters has been conducting regular passenger transport services for Defence for more than five years,” Minister Styles said.

“It is now the ‘carrier of choice’ thanks to its reputation for flexibility, reliability and commitment to meet the Defence requirements.”

Coach Charters Australia has invested heavily in equipment and infrastructure to increase its capability and capacity to support Defence, including opening a new headquarters in Humpty Doo.

It has also expanded into freighting and developed its customer base to include US Marines, US Navy and various other visiting foreign forces.

A Special Recognition Award was presented to Crowhurst Engineering for its tireless work to develop its workforce, particularly apprentices, by working with schools to transition local students into apprenticeships.

Crowhurst Engineering is a long-term Northern Territory small business that has been providing products and services to Defence for the past seven years.

The two-day 3rd Northern Australia Defence Summit will wrap up this afternoon.

Photos courtesy of Australian Defence Magazine



*Coach Charters receives Minister's Award for Excellence*



*Geoff Crowhurst receives the Encouragement Award from Minister Styles for Crowhurst Engineering*

## **GILES ANNOUNCES PORT OF DARWIN LEASED FOR 99 YEARS FOR \$506 MILLION**

THE Port of Darwin has been leased for 99 years to Chinese owned Landbridge Group for \$506 million, Chief Minister Adam Giles has announced.

Mr Giles, who surprised everybody with the announcement less than two weeks after expressions of interest closed, said the biggest advantage to the NT is the private investment in the Port that will grow the economy and open up better trade links with Asia for the future.

“What we want to make sure is that it’s about long term jobs and investment in the Northern Territory,” Mr Giles said.

Landbridge has pledged to spend \$35 million in the first five years to expand the Port and \$200 million over a 25-year period.

The company’s Australian infrastructure director Mike Hughes said the group had the connections in China to increase trade, expand the port and get shipping prices down through economies of scale.

“We believe we’ll put Darwin on the map in China for Chinese businesses. We are the right partner for the Northern Territory,” he said.

A condition of the agreement will see the NT Government take in 15 per cent of any so-called “super profits” — revenue earned over annual projections.

The Government also sought to keep 20 per cent of the Port in Australian hands, for now with the NT Government. But Landbridge must find an Australian company to take the 20 per cent share within five years.

Landbridge has confirmed its intent to maintain the established workforce at the Port of Darwin and that there will be no forced redundancies during the term of the current Enterprise Agreement (which terminates in June 2018).

Despite assurances that jobs will be protected, the Maritime Union of Australia says Port workers were not consulted at all about the sale and have called on the Giles Government to ensure that current working conditions for public employees is enshrined in legislation for the term of the lease, not just until 2018.

“It’s a commitment like the one that was made to TIO and Bus Link workers who were pretty much thrown out the door as soon as the ink was dry on the paper,” said MUA spokesman Thomas Mayor. “Talk is cheap.”

Labor leader Michael Gunner called the lease a short-sighted “cash grab” that failed to seek private investment while maintaining control of the Port.

“This is nothing more than another one-off cash grab by the CLP government — just like the last budget and TIO,” he said. “The CLP has no mandate to sell or lease the Port.”

Under the terms of the agreement the Territory will lease the Darwin Port land and facilities of East Arm Wharf (including the Darwin Maries Supply Base) and Fort Hill Wharf.

The Territory will retain Stokes Hill Wharf, Fisherman’s and Hornibrook’s wharves and Frances Bay facilities.

It will also retain a range of oversight and regulatory functions including the Regional Harbourmaster role and responsibility for price and access regulation.

## ▶ AIDN-NT NEW MEMBERS



### Gimbells

Established in 1962, Gimbells is a premier large project provider of landscape design, construction and maintenance in the NT.

The company has an extensive history of successful landscape project execution covering subdivisions, commercial facilities, defence establishments, multiple residential projects, national parks, remote area sites and large scale grounds maintenance.

Our list of satisfied clients includes private developers, government departments, local councils, civil and building contractors, bodies corporate, mining service providers and national park authorities.

Gimbells' capabilities include all facets of hard and soft landscaping, site assessment, landscape and irrigation design, environmental and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) works, native rehabilitation and re-vegetation works and whole of life maintenance services.

Gimbells Landscaping operates under a WHS system to Federal Safety Commissioner level, is NCOP compliant and maintains CAL accreditation.

Gimbells has a proven track record of professionalism in landscape, design, construction, maintenance and rehabilitation. Gimbells comprehensive design and construction capabilities provide turnkey landscape solutions for a range of clients. Specialising in large scale landscape projects Gimbells is able to provide a range of packages that include expert advice, quality service and value for money in all areas of hard and soft landscaping. Gimbells is compliant with the National Code of Practice for the Construction Industry. Gimbells is currently accredited to Federal Safety Commissioner level for WHS.

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## DIRT Australia

As a leading technical, trade and labour hire company in Darwin, DIRT Australia undertakes all projects no matter how difficult or large it is. We pride ourselves in our output; be it technical works, labour or technical resourcing; attention to detail and most importantly, addressing a client's needs in a matter of hours. It's the territory way. Whilst we pride ourselves on our performance, we also specialise in all technical and legal aspects of trade labour hire. In selecting a labour hire company over direct employment, you will be spared from the difficulties of managing employment and complying with rules and labour laws. For instance, we take care of our employees' Workers Compensation Insurance and Public Liabilities Insurance and we make sure that our clients comply with industry standards such as WHS requirements.

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P: 0405 106 580

E: tim@dirtaust.com

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## Elsam plastics

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For over 20 years, the Fluid Power Northern Territory group of business units have been diversified service providers in Hydraulic System Design, Manufacture, Installation, Testing, Diagnosis and Maintenance. Fluid Power Centre provides high quality products, installation service and maintenance support for industries including construction, drilling, mining, transport, and power generation. Our success can be attributed to a high level of technical expertise, rapid responsiveness and state of the art equipment. The past 25 years has seen our services diversify greatly to ensure we can provide our clients with the knowledge and equipment their industry demands.

4 Andrews St, BERRIMAH, NT, 0828  
P: 08 8921 8654  
E: darwin.sales@fluidpower.com.au  
www.fluidpower.com.au



### Micks Ally Fab

Micks Ally Fab is a specialist welding and fabrication business based in Winnellie, NT. We specialise in light and heavy marine fabrication, repairs and modifications as well as coded welding, pipe welding and sheet metal fabrication works. Micks Ally Fab works out of a fully equipped 630sqm workshop in the heart of Winnellie, NT. We are also fully equipped to conduct mobile welding works.

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P: 08 8947 7037  
E: admin@mafnt.com.au  
www.micksallyfab.com.au



### Perrott Engineering

Perrott Engineering offers a comprehensive hydraulic and precision engineering service from simple hose and fitting supply to a total design, manufacture and installation of complete systems. Our extensive range of machinery and equipment in both our Darwin and Cairns facilities has made us one of the leading hydraulic specialists.

We have over 40 year's experience in servicing the general engineering requirements of the surrounding mining, marine and rural industries. Since that modest beginning, we have expanded the business into a specialist hydraulic, lubrication and precision engineering business servicing all industries across Australia, PNG and Asia.

We offer a total hydraulic service covering all aspects of design, sales, service and onsite installations of anything related to hydraulics or lubrication. This capability encompasses basically all hydraulic equipment such as cylinders, pumps, motors, valves, HPU's (power packs) winches, filtration, system flushing and heat exchange units.

3-5 Nebo Road, EAST ARM, NT, 0822  
P: 08 8985 9100 F: 08 8985 9150 M: 0416 063 842  
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www.perreng.com.au



### Total Diesel Services

Total Diesel Services is an established heavy diesel business operating from Pinelands in Darwin. We specialize in maintenance and repairs of heavy machinery, prime movers, service vehicles, light vehicles and associated equipment. We specialize in lifting equipment and carry our major repairs, compliance rebuilds and safety inspections to Elevating Work

Platforms (EWP), and truck mounted cranes. All rebuilds are carried out in accordance to relevant Australian Standards. We work with customers from various industries including government agencies, civil contracting, mining, aboriginal communities, defence and a wide range of general contractors.

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P: 08 8932 8848

F: 08 8932 2948

E: [totaldiesel@bigpond.com](mailto:totaldiesel@bigpond.com)

# DEFENCE TESTING



Austest Laboratories offers the most comprehensive and publicly available environmental, EMC and electrical testing facilities in Australia and New Zealand. This includes the most up to date EMC facilities, vibration and shock equipment, climatic chambers, pressure and altitude simulations and many others covering requirements of all commonly used defence specifications such as MIL-STD-461, MIL-STD-810, MIL-STD-167, MIL-STD-202, DEF-STAN 00-35 etc.

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- MIL-STD-202G\*
- RTCA/DO-160\*

\* including previous versions



## Lightcore Tech

Lightcore Tech offers an Optical Fibre Specialist for communications services nationally to Australia. Providing Optic solutions in testing, repair, certification, installation from extensive experience within the Defence maritime environment.

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Lightcore Tech has experience on HMA Ships within the Royal Australian Navy and establishments optical networks including communications systems. This includes urgent defect repairs on Australian and international maritime vessels and shore facilities Australia wide and understand the flexibility required within this line of work.

Please contact:

Brad Barr

Founder, Director

Mobile: 0412 226 657

Brad@lightcoretech.com.au

## ▶ AIDN-QLD MEMBERS' NEWS

### TAE BIDDING FOR RAAF F-35A JSF SUPPORT WORK

TAE, fresh from winning the contract to support engines for Lockheed Martin F-35 JointStrike Fighters operating in the south Asia-Pacific region, is now responding to an Australian defence department requirement to maintain the fighter's components.

The work will be carried out at its facility at the Australian air force's Amberley Air Base outside Brisbane.

It says it is the largest turbine engine maintenance supplier in Australia, The company was recently acquired locally in a management buy out from Air New Zealand.

Work maintaining the F-35 JSFs' components could be extended to include F-35 JSFs of other defence forces based in the Northern Asia-Pacific region with a tender expected to be called by the Washington, USA based F-35 Joint Project Office in the first quarter of next year.

Earlier this year it won the contract to provide the engineering support for the JSF's Pratt and Whitney F135 engine for aircraft in the South Asia/South Pacific (basically Australia).

It also has the contract to support the Boeing F/A-18 Hornet/ F/A-18FSuper Hornet's F404 and F414 engines for the Australian air force. For the regional industry TAE claims it has the largest parts inventory in the Asia-Pacific along with the region's largest engine rental pool and asset base of tooling and test equipment.





## AUSTRALIAN SOLUTION FOR DEFENCE AMMUNITION CARRIERS

BAE Systems Australia will produce ammunition carriers for the ADF's M777 Light Weight Towed Howitzer.

The Company has signed a \$2 million contract (GST inclusive) with the Australian Department of Defence to supply 80 Unit Load Ammunition Carriers (ULACs) to the Australian Army during 2016.

The ULACs will be a modern version of the equipment originally produced by Royal Ordnance in the UK more than 28 years ago, and will be manufactured in South Australia. Each ULAC is designed to securely house and transport M777 ammunition, comprising projectiles and propellant bags.

"This will be the first time the ULACs have been manufactured in Australia for the ADF. As a global organisation, BAE Systems is proud to provide in-country solutions to support Defence requirements wherever possible," BAE Systems Australia Land Platforms Program Manager Bob Holdcroft said.

"This helps our customer with reduced costs and delivery times, development of a strategic in-country capability and improved supply chain."

All but one component used in the manufacturing process will be sourced from Australian suppliers with the ULACs assembled at BAE Systems plant in Wingfield, Adelaide. [Courtesy of ADM](#)

## JUMBO VISION AWARDED \$1 MILLION COMMERCIALISATION GRANT TO OPEN CADWALK CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE IN EUROPE AND THE US

Space-critical room design for high-value assets like control rooms, has traditionally been a long-winded saga of meetings, design reviews and scale modeling. Jumbo Vision's CADwalk is set to change all that.

Their 200 sqm CADwalk visualisation experience breaks down the barriers between idea and implementation by allowing stakeholders to physically walk through a life-sized virtual projection of their control room as it takes shape. This unique "holodeck"-like approach results in a much faster journey from concept to construction – typically shaving months from the usual process.

Jumbo Vision currently operates a CADwalk in Adelaide, to service the domestic market and is poised to open a second Australian CADwalk in Perth, servicing the Asia Pacific region by the end of November.

As an innovative leap forward in commercial room design, CADwalk was recently supported by the Australian Government's Entrepreneurs' Programme, which awarded Jumbo Vision \$1 million in matching grant funds to support their global expansion through the establishment of CADwalk Centres of Excellence in both Europe and North America.

CAD walk has already been put through its paces in trial projects from both sides of the Tasman. Organizations that have benefited from the technology include Air Services Australia, Major Oil and Gas and Mining Companies, CSIRO, AGL, South East Water, Unison NZ and Transpower NZ. As part of their expansion plans, Jumbo Vision will look beyond control rooms to other space-critical environments, such as data centers, shops and warehouses, offices, lean manufacturing, and even kitchen design.

## LEVETT ENGINEERING WINS BUSINESS SA EXPORT AWARD – MANUFACTURING

On Friday 23rd October Levett Engineering was announced as the winner of the 2015 Business SA Export Award for the Manufacturing category.

CEO Paul Levett said "This achievement would not be possible without the commitment and dedicated support from staff, customers and suppliers. For this, we thank you."

This is Levett Engineering's second Export Award, with the first being presented to the company in 2009, when it was just starting its export journey in the Joint Strike Fighter Program.



Now, some six years later, export accounts for almost 70% of the organisations turnover, demonstrating the organisation's commitment to advanced manufacturing and success as a competitive Australian supplier to global supply chains.

## MG ENGINEERING CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN OPERATION

Shipbuilding and fabrication company, MG Engineering, welcomed over 100 guests to its Port Adelaide facility on Friday to celebrate 20 years of operation.

Guests included Chief Executive of Defence SA, Andy Keough, representing the Minister for Defence Industries, Liberal Leader Steven Marshall MP, Chief Operating Officer of ASC Shipbuilding, Martin Edwards and industry leaders from across the defence, commercial shipping, oil and gas, mining and construction sectors.

A family business, founded in 1995, MG Engineering has gone on to complete an impressive range of projects including the recently completed high profile Mast Ship Blocks for the ASC Air Warfare Destroyer Alliance, which with other completed mechanical componentry for the ship totalled a value of \$15,000,000 worth of work over a 4 year period.

"Our success over the past 20 years can be attributed to our ability to work across multiple sectors. We are currently competing against a number of global companies for a contract to construct up to 10 steel-hulled prawn trawlers for one of Australia's largest commercial fishing companies, which would lead to the creation of another 75 jobs over a five-year period", said Mr Brdar.

## DTC MEMBERS MAKE THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS INDEX TOP 100 COMPANIES LIST

On 5 DTC Member companies have made the South Australian Business Index Top 100 companies list.

The list, developed by analysts at Prescott Securities, measures financial year revenue and each company's contribution to employment.

Entries for the InDaily South Australian Business Index Top 100 were eligible based on the following criteria:

- They must be a public South Australian company with an Adelaide share registry; or,
- A South Australian-operated company, founded and majority (50.01 per cent plus) owned by South Australians;
- Not owned in part or whole by any government body or government agency;
- Not registered with the ATO as a not-for-profit organisation; or,
- Registered with the ATO as a not-for-profit but gain more than 90 per cent of revenue through commercial activities.

The members are:

96 - Boileau Business Solutions Pty Ltd

78- Customs Agency Services Pty Ltd

64 - SAGE Automation

59 - Nova Systems

17- Badge Group (SA) Pty Ltd.

The DTC congratulates you all on being leaders in your chosen fields, and making a significant contribution to South Australia's economy.

## SAAB SIGNS CONTRACT TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN C-RAM CAPABILITY

Defence and security company Saab has signed a contract to supply the Australian Defence Force with Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar System (C-RAM) support with a contract value of approximately \$AUD 26.4m (approximately SEK 168 million). The initial contract period includes the establishment period and three years of support services thereafter, with options of up to five 12-month extensions, that could take the contract period up to July 2024.

C-RAM is an essential capability to protect friendly forces from hostile fire. C-RAM sensors provide detection and warning against small, mobile and hard-to-find threats such as rocket and mortar fire. The C-RAM capability components to be supported under this contact are Giraffe Agile Multi-Beam (AMB) radar, Giraffe Training Simulator and a Lightweight-Counter Mortar Radar. The contract follows the 2010 procurement of Saab's Giraffe AMB and Giraffe Training System Mission Systems to support Australian troops during Operation 'Slipper' in Afghanistan.

"The Giraffe AMB radar maintained an operational availability of 98.5 per cent in Afghanistan and was the first layer of defence against insurgent rocket attacks for the Australian led coalition base at TarinKot," says Dean Rosenfield, Managing Director of Saab Australia.

“This contract is a boost to local industry with additional positions through the period of the contract to manage the Australian sub-supplier network and deep maintenance services from our headquarters in Adelaide”, says Rosenfield.

Adelaide-based, Saab Australia will lead an In-Service Support team which includes Saab in Gothenburg, Sweden and SRCTec, LLC in Syracuse, USA.

The C-RAM capability is intended to be absorbed into the wider Australian Defence Force ground based air and missile defence capability.

## ▶ AIDN-TASMANIA

AIDN-Tas welcomes new member:



### Direct Edge Manufacturing

Direct Edge Manufacturing provide an innovative one stop shop for all sheet metal manufacturing R associated components. We offer a range of services from design/drafting, prototype assembly, varied production quality assurance testing, final assembly & powder coating as we have demonstrated working with clients such as CAT, Mader International, Haulmax, Taylor Brothers, SERS & MMG. Supplying ready to assemble components to any product line, Direct Edge Manufacturing has a proven 98% D.I.F.O.T over the past 18 months into the global market and are a supply chain partner for you. Through triple certified ISO systems Direct Edge Manufacturing have reduced their environmental footprint, minimised Workplace Health & Safety risk & are able to be heavily invested in Continuous Improvement with the main benefits resulting in reduced lead times and the ability to move between low & high volume production streams.

Direct Edge Manufacturing's cutting edge technology delivered by Trumpf CNC Machinery provides world class optimal & cost effective solutions along with a certificate of compliance courtesy of a Hi-Tech Metrology Absolute RomerArm7325. Direct Edge Manufacturing via modern technology & adaptable production capabilities are in the position to add value & drive competitive advantage into your supply chain.

Please contact:

Diane Edgerton

phone: +61 3 6434 0500

diane@directedge.com.au

### INCAT BOOSTS WORKFORCE

Incat Tasmania's recent announcement of new orders is resulting in a significant boost in workforce numbers. The current staffing level of around 230 is set to increase by at least 50 per cent over the next year, with 11 vessels to deliver between December 2015 and late 2017.

Incat Tasmania's "ramp-up" plan includes a significant number of skilled tradespeople with the intention of taking on apprentices both from the existing workforce and new starters. The first intake of welders, fabricators, electricians and trade assistants commenced on October 19. Most in the first group are former Incat staff returning to the fold.

Incat chairman Robert Clifford said "I am delighted to see former Incat personnel contacting us keen to work with the company again, and it is also encouraging to see other skilled workers from a range of industries recently submitting applications to be considered for future employment opportunities".

"The gradual ramp up will continue over the next six months across most of our varied trades including welding, fabrication, electrical, fitting and fit-out. The incremental increase allows for easier induction and safety training and less disruption to workflow in the shipyard".

The intake will be mainly skilled tradespeople but importantly Incat will be offering apprenticeships to some existing casual staff and also engaging unskilled workers as trade assistants and labourers. It is anticipated some of these will be offered apprenticeships in the future, providing a much needed boost to Tasmania's manufacturing industry skills base and economy, ensuring a trained and skilled workforce to meet future employment demands.

Revolution Design, which handles design and engineering for Incat vessels, have also recently increased their staffing levels. The multiplier effect is likely to see employment gains also in sub-contract ranks, with many Incat key suppliers also welcoming the news of a solid order book for at least the next two years.

Work at the Hobart shipyard continues on four boats for Sydney company Manly Fast Ferries, the two 24 metre ferries due for delivery late December and two 33 metre boats to head to Sydney in the New Year.

Design work is well underway on six new Sydney Ferries with the first metal not likely to be cut until about March 2016. The six commuter ferries will progressively be delivered to Sydney Harbour from late 2016 through 2017.

Work is already underway on a large wave piercing catamaran for Danish Company MolsLinien, the third Incat vessel for their fleet in four years. The KatExpress3 eighteen month build program should see her leave the shipyard for Denmark at the end of March 2017.

Incat is also a consortium member of the TasPac bid for the Australian Government's Pacific Patrol Boat replacement program. The tender award is not due to be announced for another year, but if successful it would mean a twenty vessel order for 39 metre patrol boats to be built and delivered between 2017 and 2024. [Courtesy of ADM](#)

## ▶ AIDN-VICTORIA

### EVENTS

#### SPECIAL AWARDS Monday 7 December at 5.30pm

AIDN-Vic will recognise and celebrate the achievements of the Victorian branch of the Australian Industry & Defence Network over the past 12 months and pay tribute to those whose support has been instrumental in the success that our network has enjoyed by recognising members with 15, 10 & 5 year certificates. We will also present the AIDN-Vic Young Achiever Awards "to recognise individuals who may be future industry leaders".

Contact [aidnvic@aidnvic.org.au](mailto:aidnvic@aidnvic.org.au) for more info.

#### AIDN-Vic Victorian Defence Alliance - Maritime (VDA-M) Event 15 December

VDA-M members will be briefed on the Enterprise Naval Shipbuilding Plan and the Defence Materials Technology Centre, will outline the Centre's research programs for SEA 5000, Future Frigate Program.

Contact [charlotte.morris@aidnvic.org.au](mailto:charlotte.morris@aidnvic.org.au) for more info.

#### AIDN-Vic DEFENCE UPDATE/GOLF DAY

More than 100 members and guests attended the AIDN-Vic Defence Update on Tuesday 27 October at Riversdale Golf Club. The feedback following the event revealed that the speakers provided very useful information which benefited the members. Speakers were: Sonya Kilkenny, Member for Carrum, Senator Stephen Conroy, CERT, Defence Science Institute, DMTC, Aus/US Defence Trade Treaty; EFIC and the Victorian Defence Alliances.

40 members and guests also enjoyed a round of golf in the sunshine.

Special thanks go to the sponsors for making this event so successful: Merchandise Sponsor – Marand; Lunch Sponsor – EFIC; Golf Drinks Cart Sponsor - Logie-Smith Lanyon; Golf Competition Support Sponsors included: Logistic Engineering Services & General Dynamics Land Systems

## ▶ AIDN-VIC MEMBERS' NEWS

### EXELIS/C4I IS NOW PART OF HARRIS

In May 2015, Exelis was acquired by Harris Corporation, creating a company with greater scale, capabilities, core franchises and more balanced business portfolio. The combined company has a broad portfolio of advanced, technology-based solutions to solve government and commercial customers' mission critical challenges.

## RHEINMETALL AND TECTONICA ESTABLISH LAND 400 PARTNERSHIP

Rheinmetall has recently announced a partnership with Melbourne-based defence systems integrator Tectonica Australia for the development and manufacture of a sophisticated Local Situational Awareness System (LSAS) for the Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) under the Land 400 Phase 2 Request For Tender.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia managing director Andrew Fletcher said Rheinmetall would provide funding and support to Tectonica to develop and manufacture a next generation LSAS that enhances the situational awareness of the Boxer CRV.

"Rheinmetall is delighted to partner with Tectonica, a proven leader in the Australian Defence industry that employs highly skilled engineers and manufacturing workers, invests significantly in research and development and exports its products globally," Mr Fletcher said.

Mr Fletcher said Tectonica was among 300 companies that met with Rheinmetall executives through June and July as part of its comprehensive supplier engagement activity in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Darwin and Adelaide.

In the event Boxer is selected, Tectonica will manufacture the LSAS and Rheinmetall will offer it for export through its global supply chain, ensuring ongoing local support for the ADF whilst securing Australian jobs.

"We are pleased to have this opportunity to provide a vital situational awareness capability to the ADF in partnership with a world leader in armoured vehicles," Tectonica managing director David Levy said.

The president of Rheinmetall's Combat Platforms Business Unit Ben Hudson said the company was committed to the creation of an enduring Australian capability beyond the minimum Land 400 Australian Industry Capability (AIC) requirements and the application of Australian technology for global requirements.

"Tectonica has provided an innovative proposal that will dramatically increase the situational awareness of the BOXER CRV crew and we see potential application not only to the Boxer CRV but also to our wider family of military vehicles in-service around the world," Hudson said. [Courtesy of ADM](#)



## DMTC POSTDOC PURSUES CAREER IN THE USA

A DMTC postdoctoral researcher has accepted a coveted tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Virginia Tech's Department of Materials Science and Engineering in the USA.

Dr Carolina Tallon will move to Blacksburg, Virginia, to take up her new position in a few weeks, having resigned from her role at the University of Melbourne's Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

In an open letter to early career researchers at DMTC, Dr Tallon expressed her thanks for DMTC's support throughout her seven years as a DMTC researcher.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have been involved in amazing projects with an extraordinary team of academic and industry researchers and engineers... I have always felt supported and encouraged by DMTC to participate in scientific conferences and to publish to continue my academic career."

Dr Tallon said that one of the biggest perceived challenges of being a DMTC-sponsored postdoctoral researcher was balancing the need to publish research for one's academic career with meeting 'commercial-in-confidence' or 'in secret' requirements.

"But remember that there are always fundamental science and engineering aspects that can be presented to the general

public. DMTC's project leaders and COO can help you identify those aspects," she said.



*We're looking to replace the large antennas, like you see here on the HMAS Stuart, with something smaller – around the size of Coca Cola can. Image credit: Department of Defence*

## MINI ANTENNAS FOR STEALTHIER NAVY SHIPS

Everybody knows that good things come in small packages. That might help explain our fascination/obsession with pint-sized versions of things: tiny baby clothes, kittens, teacup pigs, mini burgers... The list goes on.

But compact things aren't always cute and can have other merits. Like, say if you need to be stealthy to avoid being spotted by opponents out at sea.

That's one of the reasons why we've been awarded funding through the Australian Department of Defence's Capability and Technology Demonstrator (CTD) program, to develop mini antennas for the Royal Australian Navy.

At the moment Navy ships require dozens of large and heavy antennas to detect signals, each spaced metres apart from one another around the ship.

We're looking to replace these with a small number of radio frequency antennas that are much more sensitive, lightweight, low-noise and as small as a Coca Cola can. The new technology aims to give the Navy greater stealth, safety, new functionality and cost savings.

By applying this technology, we will increase antenna receiver sensitivity to a level approaching the quantum limit while increasing the bandwidth at the same time.

It has the potential to replace many conventional antennas used to date and could also be suitable for unmanned aerial vehicles (or drones).

The project was announced by the Australian Department of Defence as the flagship project, securing the largest proportion of funding through the latest round in the CTD program. The program supports projects that have the potential to enhance the nation's defence capabilities.

Superconductivity is a versatile technology and we're applying it to a range of challenges from mineral ore discovery, to making telecommunications more efficient and detecting dangerous substances and contraband using terahertz (THz) imaging.

## ATTAR HOSTS VICTORIAN DEFENCE ALLIANCE AND AIDN-VIC MEMBERS

On the 1st of October 2015 ATTAR (Advance Technology Testing and Research) hosted a breakfast for AIDN-Vic and Alliance members.

ATTAR delivers leading practice consulting engineering, materials evaluation and non destructive testing (NDT) training. Services include asset risk based assessment and monitoring programs with an emphasis on life extension, as well as Materials Engineering and Forensic Failure analysis that can be used to improve the design, quality and reliability of infrastructure and associated assets.

Attendees learnt about the importance of choosing the correct material for the job and non destructive testing in Practice. The breakfast concluded with attendees being divided into groups and treated to a tour of ATTAR's testing laboratories as an opportunity to see the testing techniques first hand. Each group had the opportunity to see

- (i) the importance of non destructive testing in the field,
- (ii) the advanced and cost effective monitoring techniques used on vessels/structures and
- (iii) materials testing and forensic failure analysis in action (includes determining root cause, life cycle and compliance assessment).

## ENTRIES OPEN FOR VIETNAM WAR HISTORY COMPETITION



Victorian students can now apply for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Vietnam as part of a study tour to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

Minister for Veterans John Eren recently joined the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia Victorian Branch (VVAA Victorian Branch) Education Team at Albert Park College, which teaches students about the war that helped shape Australia's military history. Some 60,000 Australian ground troops, air force and navy personnel served in Vietnam, and 521 were killed.

The Andrews Labor Government and the VVAA Victorian Branch will support ten students to see for themselves a nation so pivotal to Australia's story, and to learn more about the sacrifices of our Vietnam veterans. The group will visit Australia's key battle sites, as well as places of historical significance in Ho Chi Minh, Saigon and Hanoi.

When entering, students are asked to explore the topic of the "controversial Vietnam War", and the issues that prompted debate amongst a nation. The 13-year war was set against a backdrop of divided public opinion over conscription and the use of chemical and guerrilla warfare. The Vietnam War was the first to be played out on television.

Students can make written submissions, or enter craft or audio visual projects. The Vietnam War History Competition is open to all Victorian students in Year 10 and 11 in 2016, but entries close on March 27. Teachers wishing to secure a chaperone position are also encouraged to apply.

The study group will be announced at the Vietnam Veterans State Reception at the National Gallery of Victoria. The group will travel in September 2016.

For more information visit <http://www.vvaavic.org.au>

Quotes attributable to Minister for Veterans, John Eren

"As we reflect on 50 years since the Battle of Long Tan, we should remember those that gave their lives for Australia, and safeguard their legacy for younger generations to cherish."

"Our students are our future. This is our opportunity to teach them about a time that shaped our nation, and their chance to learn for themselves about our wartime history."

Quotes attributable to VVAA Victorian Branch State President, Bob Elworthy AM

"This competition is a great opportunity for young Victorians to learn more about the history of the Vietnam War and reflect on the impact this conflict had on communities during this time"

"It encourages young people to stop and think about a time where men and women, not much older than themselves, were put in extraordinary circumstances."



## AEROSONDE WIN IN TAIWAN

Aerosonde, the Melbourne-based business of Textron Systems UnmannedSystems, has delivered a commercial variant of its Aerosonde SmallUnmanned Aircraft System (SUAS) to the Taiwanese government as part of its typhoon research program (National Applied Research Laboratories/Taiwan Typhoon and Flood Research Institute).

The Aerosonde team delivered a complete system including three aircraft, command-and-control elements, and associated equipment, which is equipped with specialised sensors as part of a comprehensive research effort to model and predict typhoon activity surrounding the island nation. Earlier variants of the Aerosonde system have been used extensively for meteorological research, including history-making hurricane flights off the US' Atlantic coast and off western Pacific Ocean by National Taiwan University.

Designed for commercial applications based on lessons learned from the company's decades in the SUAS industry, the Aerosonde team has optimised its commercial variant for maritime surveillance, payload range testing, and maritime and coastal environmental monitoring. This delivered system offers a radio link that is capable of satellite communications,

delivering beyond-line-of sight operations for more than 18 hours of endurance. It has been demonstrated with a variety of application-specific payloads including electro-optic/infrared, high-definition survey, mapping and meteorology.

ADM also understands that the company has done significant work with various branches of US Special Forces but is unable to comment on the nature of these programs.

Aerosonde is the first Australian company to receive an Air Operator's Certificate from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority to fly in commercial airspace. [Courtesy of ADM](#)

## ▶ AIDN-WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## AIDN-WA MEMBERS' NEWS

### AUSTAL ROLLS OUT OMANI HSSV

Austal has rolled out the first of two 72m High Speed Support Vessels (HSSV's) being built for the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) at the company's Henderson Western Australia shipyard.

Austal CEO Andrew Bellamy said the HSSV program successfully represents Austal's capability to deliver competitive, customised defence solutions from proven designs for both domestic and export markets.

"The rollout of the first Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)-sized HSSV not only extends Austal's naval vessel portfolio but further demonstrates our consistency in delivering major, multiple naval vessel programs, on schedule," Bellamy said.

Based on the Expeditionary Fast Transport (EPF) platform, previously known as the Joint High Speed Vessel (JHSV), the HSSV offers a range of capabilities to support naval operations, including helicopter operations, rapid deployment of military personnel and cargo, search and rescue operations, humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions.

Austal was awarded the \$US124.9 million contract for the design, construction and integrated logistics support of the two HSSV's in March 2014 and construction commenced in August 2014.

This first HSSV will be launched next week before undergoing final fit out and sea trials prior to delivery to the RNO early in 2016. The second HSSV is under construction and is on schedule for completion later in 2016. [Courtesy of ADM](#)

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ABN 48 087 649 741 Australian Credit Licence 237 988.

## ▶ DEFENCE INDUSTRY NEWS

### BAE SYSTEMS SECURES MORE F-35 WORK

Australia has achieved another significant milestone in contributing to production work for the global F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program.

Under a long-term agreement with Northrop Grumman Corporation valued at US\$15 million, BAE Systems Australia has begun exporting high-end circuit boards and sub-system assemblies for the F-35.

The agreement will allow the Adelaide based company to export parylene-coated circuit boards, which will be used in the JSF's Communication, Navigation and Identification (CNI) system developed by Northrop Grumman. The parylene coating protects the boards from the harsh conditions in the aerospace environment.

Australia's JSF Program Manager, Air Vice Marshal Chris Deeble, said that participation and collaboration from Australian defence industry will be critical to delivering and sustaining the new F-35 JSF aircraft.

"As the largest Defence Program in the world, with thousands of F-35s planned for production globally over next 25 years, Defence has been working closely with Australian industry to promote participation in the development, acquisition and delivery phases," AVM Deeble said.

BAE Systems is one of some 30 Australian companies who have been providing component, sub-systems and engineering solutions for the JSF program.

"I congratulate BAE Systems Australia on achieving this milestone and their commitment to gain qualification with Northrop Grumman for the JSF program," said AVM Deeble.

Australian industry is already surpassing the expectations of international JSF manufacturers in design and production having secured more than half a billion Australian dollars (US\$484 million) of work with more opportunities to come as production triples over the coming years.

Defence estimates that Australian industry will win at least US\$1.5 billion in orders over the production phase of the JSF program. [Courtesy of ADM](#)



*ADCU's Board of Directors present Australian Military Bank to members following the successful vote. (L to R): Directors Bruce Scott, BRIG Jane Spalding, Warren Thomas, Jodie Hampshire, Chairman RADM Clinton Thomas CSC, RAN, Graham Weber, John Brooks and CEO John Ford.*

## AUSTRALIAN MILITARY BANK RECEIVES OVERWHELMING SUPPORT

After a record vote, Australian Military Bank is poised to become Australia's newest mutual bank on 1 December 2015.

At the Credit Union's AGM held in Sydney last night, members voted in record numbers in overwhelming favour of the move to become Australian Military Bank.

With a resounding 92.5% in favour of the change, Chairman, RADM Clinton Thomas AM, CSC said "We're thrilled at the level of support our new name has received from our members".

"With over 2,200 votes received, the spike in voting from previous years shows that our members share our excitement in becoming Australia's newest bank" Mr Thomas explained.

"Whilst our name will change from 1 December, Australian Military Bank will remain true to our values. We are committed to remaining a member-owned organisation, we are dedicated to the Defence community and we will remain a strong, secure financial institution".

The name change to Australian Military Bank is subject to approval from APRA (The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority).

The AGM also voted to return directors John Brooks and Clinton Thomas while Ernst & Young were appointed the new external auditors.



## ARMY GETS NEW RIBBON BRIDGE UNDER LAND 155 PROGRAM

General Dynamics European Land Systems (GDELS) has signed a \$39 million contract from the Defence for the production and delivery of the Improved Ribbon Bridge (IRB) under the Land 155 program for enhanced gap crossing equipment.

The contract covers the delivery of bridge bays, logistics package, as well as operator and maintainer training. The IRB will replace the legacy Floating Support Bridge which was delivered by GDEL's predecessor company EWK in the 1980s.

The IRB can be operated as a multi-bay ferry as well as a floating bridge and provides wide wet gap crossing capability for loads up to MLC80 Tracked/96 Wheeled, including the Australian Army's M1A1 Main Battle Tank. The IRB bridge bays will be transported on and launched from a new multipurpose truck which will be purchased under the Land 121 program. Delivery of the first systems will start in fourth quarter 2016.

Australia will be the fourth user nation of this modern floating bridge system. The IRB is already in service in US, Germany and Sweden. The IRB is fully interoperable with GDELS' legacy floating bridge systems (FSB) and the amphibious ferry system M3. [Courtesy of ADM](#)

## SIKORSKY OFFICIALLY A LOCKHEED COMPANY

Lockheed Martin has closed its acquisition of Sikorsky Aircraft, aligning it under its Mission Systems and Training (MST) business segment.

Sikorsky Aircraft will now be known as Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin company. The acquisition expands Lockheed Martin's core business into the areas of helicopter sustainment and production.

With the acquisition complete, Dan Schultz has been named president of Sikorsky. Schultz led Lockheed Martin's integration efforts leading up to the closure of the acquisition, and was previously the vice president of the ship and aviation systems line of business within the MST segment.

Sikorsky will retain its Stratford, Connecticut headquarters.

Marillyn Hewson, chairman, president and CEO, Lockheed Martin, said: 'We are proud to welcome the Sikorsky team to Lockheed Martin. Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky share a legacy of innovation and performance that has shaped the history of aviation for more than a century. Together, we are even better positioned to provide the best value for our customers, employees and shareholders.'



## THALES AWARDED NEW CONTRACT TO SUPPORT RAPID DEPLOYMENT ON OPERATIONS

Thales in Australia has signed a three-year extension to its Command and Intelligence Systems Support Organisation (CISSO) contract with the Department of Defence, providing hardware and software support services to its critical Command & Control and telecommunications systems used on operations.

Over 300 deployed Information and Communications Technology (ICT) systems will be supported over the life of the contract, including scalable networking technologies and other solutions to help Australian Defence Force commanders plan and make

decisions on operations.

The systems will form part of the Army's LAND 2072 Phase 2B battle space telecommunications capability, and will be sustained by a robust support system to ensure the highest levels of availability.

Sam Keayes, Vice President of Secure Communications and Information Systems at Thales in Australia, said: "This contract provides the long-term expert support and system upgrades to enable rapid operational deployment and free up soldiers for other tasks. Thales is continuously improving the performance of these critical systems so that they can use higher volumes of data and a wider range of applications in challenging military conditions."

The CISSO support program is comprehensive, in that it encompasses a suite of products and services from building and sustaining Deployable Local Area Networks (DLANs) to enhancing specialist software, and managing and operating the CISSO Support Test and Integration Facility.

In addition, the contract extension includes the ongoing support of other deployable ICT systems for the Royal Australian Air Force, Headquarters Joint Operations Command, and the Royal Australian Navy.

The original CISSO contract was signed in 2010 and ran for five years.

## ▶ GENERAL NEWS

### PERSONNEL CHANGES

Rear Admiral Stephen Johnson (US Navy, Retd) has been appointed the new General Manager Submarines within the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG). Rear Admiral Johnson commenced his new role on 5 November.

Rear Admiral Johnson was the Director for Undersea Technology in the Naval Sea Systems Command from 2003 to 2006 and was the Director of Strategic Systems Programs from 2006 to 2010. Since 2010 he has worked as an Adviser to the US Department of Energy and NASA and as Vice President and General Manager of Power and Control Technologies in DRS Technologies.

### ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUPS

Environmental Working Groups are administered through the Govdex website. Registrations for attendance, meeting agendas and useful environmental information such as Capability Development contact officers can be undertaken/sourced at this site.

For members who are not already members of the EWGs via Govdex please contact AIDN admin@aidn.org.au for assistance with registration.

#### Aerospace Environmental Working Group (AEWG)

The next AEWG will be held on Friday 18 March 2016 in Canberra from 0900h till 1500h. This AEWG will focus on the 2015 Defence White Paper, Integrated Investment Programme, the progressive implementation of First Principles Review and Plan Jericho. More details will be provided on Govdex.

#### Land Environmental Working Group (LEWG)

The date for the next meeting of the LEWG will be advised when known. This is expected to be in the Sep-Nov 2015 timeframe when the DWP and FPR Implementation Plan are available.

#### Maritime Environmental Working Group (MEWG)

The MEWG Conference for 2015 was originally planned for 18 November 2015 however, due to the SIA Conference in Adelaide scheduled during the same week it has been decided to move the MEWG Conference to Tuesday 01 December 2015 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra. Details of the MEWG Conference will be posted on the MEWG Govdex site when they become available.

#### C4ISREWG Environmental Working Group

The C4ISREWG Environmental Working Group meeting was conducted 09 September 2014 in Canberra. The date for the next meeting will be advised when known.

#### Synthetic Environmental Working Group (SEWG)

The last SEWG was held on Friday 13 November 2015 at ANU in Canberra. The date for the next meeting will be advised when known.



## ▶ UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ADM2016 Congress

Date: February 9, 2016

Location: Hotel Hyatt, Canberra

Organiser: ADM Events (Adam Wiltshire)

Phone: 02 9080 4321

Email: [adam.wiltshire@informa.com.au](mailto:adam.wiltshire@informa.com.au)

Website: [www.admevents.com.au](http://www.admevents.com.au)

The date for ADM's 2016 Congress has been confirmed. We are currently working up the program so stay tuned for speaker announcements as they are confirmed.

Singapore Airshow 2016 (Note Team Defence Australia will have a stand at this event)

Date: 16-21 February 2016

Location: Changi, Singapore

Organiser: Experia Events

Phone: +65 6595 6123

Email: [dannysong@experiaevents.com](mailto:dannysong@experiaevents.com)

Website: [www.singaporeairshow.com](http://www.singaporeairshow.com)

Singapore Airshow is Asia's largest and one of the most important aerospace and defence exhibitions in the world. A truly global exhibition where the latest state-of-the-art systems and equipment, together with their related technologies and developments, are displayed by top aerospace companies around the world. The event also features two high-level conferences namely the Singapore Airshow Aviation Leadership Summit and the Asia Pacific Security Conference.

DMTC Annual Conference

Date: 16 and 17 March, 2016

Location: Shine Dome, Canberra.

The DMTC Annual Conference has become a key event in the defence calendar, providing the opportunity to learn about the latest advances in technologies and priority industry capabilities within the DMTC community. The conference will include keynote presentations by prominent Defence and industry guest speakers, synopses of the technical challenges facing the Army, Navy and Air Force and detailed technical presentations on the progress of DMTC projects.

The Gala Dinner will be held on the evening of 16 March at the Australian War Memorial and will include the presentation of the Awards for Excellence as well as a distinguished Guest Speaker.

Further details, including how to register, will be announced soon.

For more details on overseas events please check the AIDN web site under Whats News/Defence Information.

## AIDN ACTIVITIES LIST FOR 2015

December	3	AIDN-NSW Christmas Function HarbourView Hotel	AIDN-NSW
	7	AIDN-Vic Special Awards Reception	AIDN-Vic
	8	AIDN National meeting Melbourne	AIDN
	15	AIDN-Vic VDA-Maritime briefing	AIDN-Vic

Contact your local AIDN Chapter for more info on the above activities:

AIDN National  
Phone: 03.9885 0907  
[admin@aidn.org.au](mailto:admin@aidn.org.au)

AIDN-NT  
Phone: 08 8999-6207  
[xo@aidnnt.com.au](mailto:xo@aidnnt.com.au)

AIDN-Tas  
Phone: 03.9885 0907  
[admin@aidn.org.au](mailto:admin@aidn.org.au)

AIDN-Canberra  
Phone: 0408 492 405  
[winston.bucknall@gmail.com](mailto:winston.bucknall@gmail.com)

AIDN-Old  
Phone: 041 222 7375  
[kevjar@tpg.com.au](mailto:kevjar@tpg.com.au)

AIDN-Vic  
Phone: 03.9886 9278  
[aidnvc@aidnvc.org.au](mailto:aidnvc@aidnvc.org.au)

AIDN-NSW  
Phone: 0421 345 637  
[nswxo@aidn.org.au](mailto:nswxo@aidn.org.au)

DTC  
Phone: 08 8260 8256  
[business@dtc.org.au](mailto:business@dtc.org.au)

AIDN-WA  
[admin@aidn-wa.org.au](mailto:admin@aidn-wa.org.au)

## Have you got a story or a news item to tell?

Anything from a recent success story to a new product or service, we want to hear about it.

Why? So we can tell all our Member Companies about it, and also the many other people with an interest in the defence, security and aerospace sector who receive the AIDN Newsletter.

Articles are to be limited in size and submitted by email to [sue.smith@aidn.org.au](mailto:sue.smith@aidn.org.au). This is a free service to members.

## CAN WE HELP YOU?

If you would like any further information or require any assistance with defence industry issues, please contact the AIDN office:

AIDN, PO Box 334, Ashburton Vic 3147,  
Ph: 03.9885 0907

[admin@aidn.org.au](mailto:admin@aidn.org.au)

ABN: 37 252 416 031 ARBN 115 614 803

[www.aidn.org.au](http://www.aidn.org.au)

## ADVERTISING IN THE AIDN NEWSLETTER

Would you like to assist yourself and AIDN by advertising in the newsletter? The newsletter is circulated to more than 800 defence related companies in Australia, as well as Overseas Associations and key CASG decision makers. Advertisements of one column wide by half a column long can be booked at **\$185+GST** per issue for members. Please contact Sue Smith to book your advertisement. We will continue to print newsworthy information for free under Members' News. [sue.smith@aidn.org.au](mailto:sue.smith@aidn.org.au).

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