



## NATIONAL NEWSLETTER No 11 of 2015

### Quote of the month

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

- *Jean Caldwell*

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## AIDN NATIONAL NEWS



### NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015

Following is an extract from the 2015 AIDN President's report. The full report can be viewed on the AIDN web site [www.aidn.org.au](http://www.aidn.org.au) under What's New/Latest News.

Dear AIDN Members

This report summarises the AIDN activities since the last AGM in Melbourne 27 November 2014. The challenging trading conditions described in the last three President's reports were somewhat relieved in 2015 and the long awaited new submarine Competitive Evaluation got underway. However, changes in Defence Ministers' Prime Minister's and other political upheavals continually delayed the release of the still delayed White Paper, Industry Policy and Industry Involvement Plan, which together further delayed the start to a number of other projects. Unfortunately, at the beginning of 2015, many AIDN Chapter members

continued to experience a reduction in defence work due to ongoing Defence program delays and the impact of the First Principles Review.

In addition, at the beginning of this year, Australia's defence industry could rightly have felt that the new Submarine was all heading overseas which was combined with the award of two ships to overseas shipyards with Defence holding the view they could not be built in Australia.

Despite this generally slow outlook, there have been a number of positive events and initiatives for the defence industry; such as the Commissioning of the second Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) in Australia, the continued arrival of the Landing Craft for the LHDs to Sydney and the award to Thales of significant Land contracts.

As members will be well aware, the Government has announced that the new Defence White Paper, initially planned for release in 2014, will now be released in 2016, followed later by an updated Defence Industry Policy Statement (DIPS) and Industry Involvement Plan (previously the Defence Capability Plan). Defence has appointed a new Deputy Secretary of the new Capability & Acquisition Support Group (CASG) and 3 new Ministers in 2015 have been appointed. After over 20 years our customer completely stripped the old organisation from the ground up and this change will be ongoing for the next 2 years. It is indeed a brave new world.

Like the Defence Department, it has been 2 decades or more since AIDN had any significant change in the national approach, location, composition and strategic plan. A healthy and vibrant organisation must change, particularly to align with its customer, to remain relevant. In 2015, I initiated a process of deep self-examination which we will ensure emerges with a new Strategic Plan and supporting documents early in 2016. In 2015 I have received hundreds of inputs from Chapter members in relation to AIDN and we have reached the stage of a Draft Strategic Plan which is in circulation with Chapter Presidents right now for review. Once this is done, we will be utilising professional advice to produce the business plan and business case that will underpin the chosen strategy to ensure the value for money to AIDN is maximised.

I look forward to your insight in relation to where AIDN should head and how we should operate for the next 20 years.

AIDN must acknowledge member contributions to the National arena wherever possible so I will always acknowledge that our volunteers could not perform as volunteers without the permission and support of their companies, all of which are AIDN Chapter members, some are members of multiple Chapters. From personal experience I can urge you all to consider more activity in AIDN recognising that although there is a cost to do this, there is great reward for our industry.



## AIDN EXEC OFFICER'S MESSAGE

I would like to wish all AIDN members a relaxing break over the festive season and happy 2016 and thank you for your support during 2015.

2015 was an extremely busy year for AIDN National office with Australian SME's continuing to experience a reduction in defence work.

Highlights included:

- Participation in the UK-Canada-Australia-U.S. Quadrilateral Conference in London;
- Assisting AIDN members at the Avalon International Airshow and Pacific 2015;
- Participating in the SEA 1000 CEP contender briefings and Land 400 briefings;
- Input into the Defence White Paper and Defence Industry Policy documents.

Following the establishment of CASG, AIDN has observed an increase in the number of Defence related tenders in late 2015. AIDN intends to continue to try and maximise opportunities for Australian SMEs.

Please note the AIDN offices will be closed from Tuesday afternoon 22 December and will reopen on Tuesday 5 January 2016.

Kind regards,  
Sue Smith - AIDN Executive Officer

AIDN AGM

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

Following the elections this is your AIDN National Executive Committee for 2016:

President	Alan Rankins
Vice President	Rob Forbes
Past President	Graham Priestnall
Treasurer	Gary Bettcher
Secretary	Stephen Harvey
Member	Medhat Wassef
Member	Andrew Jones
Member	Aaron Thompson
Member	Chris Burns
Member	Serge DeSilva-Ranasinghe



**AIDN-NEW SOUTH WALES**

**AIDN-NSW NEW MEMBER**



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# 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\*
- DEF-STAN 00-35\*
- MIL-STD-883\*
- MIL-HDBK-2036\*
- RTCA/DO-160\*

\* including previous versions



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## ▶ AIDN-QLD MEMBERS' NEWS

### HEAT TREATMENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR JSF WORK

Brisbane-based company, Heat Treatment Australia, has been named Commercial Heat Treater of the Year 2016 by the prestigious United States based Metals Technology Institute, following its contribution to the Joint Strike Fighter program.

Minister for Defence Materiel and Science, the Hon Mal Brough MP, today acknowledged both Heat Treatment Australia's success and the global opportunities the Joint Strike Fighter program is providing Australian industry.

"Heat Treatment Australia has recently qualified to provide a vacuum brazing process for the Joint Strike Fighter. This highly skilled process, undertaken in Brisbane, makes the aircraft stronger and lighter by using a high-end technology to bond metal together and reduce the need for nuts and bolts," Minister Brough said.

"Heat Treatment Australia's involvement in the global Joint Strike Fighter program has given the Australian company the opportunity to demonstrate its capability to international customers. "The Joint Strike Fighter program is opening doors internationally for industry participation and Australian companies are seizing the opportunity to demonstrate the capability, innovation, and value that Australia can provide.

"The return for Australian industry is not only reflected in over half a billion dollars (US\$484 million) in Joint Strike Fighter design and production work so far, but also in the diversification and growth opportunities that flow from Joint Strike Fighter industry participation."

Heat Treatment Australia's Director of Strategy and Commercial, Karen Stanton said the global F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program had been a significant driver for innovation. "This technology is particularly sought after in the aerospace industry where one of the key aims of innovation is to reduce weight and increase strength," she said.

“Heat Treatment Australia has already been involved in the Joint Strike Fighter program production by providing thermal processing for components that have been machined by Australian manufacturers.”

Ms Stanton said there were a number of factors that came together to contribute to their success.

“Professionalism, innovation and a long term view has been pivotal in what we have achieved so far,” Ms Stanton said.

“Heat Treatment Australia has also used Australian Government industry programs that have provided timely assistance along the pathway to achieving Joint Strike Fighter qualification and orders”.

Heat Treatment Australia has worked with major Defence industry companies, including Lockheed Martin, Boeing, BAE Systems and Australian Aerospace. In May this year, Heat Treatment Australia also participated in the Team Defence Australia Trade Mission to the United States.



**NEW COURSE**

# Architectural Design

This five day Architectural Design course addresses the principles and methods of designing, regardless of what is being designed. The course provides an integrated approach to the set of technical design process disciplines. These combine with technology knowledge to contribute to the satisfaction of requirements and maximisation of system effectiveness, enhancing project success and reducing risk to the enterprise.

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*Image credit: Christopher Pyne Facebook page*

## **\$3 MILLION INVESTMENT CONFIRMS SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS A SUBMARINE COMBAT SYSTEMS INTEGRATION GLOBAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

Lockheed Martin recently opened a new high-tech laboratory to support the design, delivery and sustainment of Australia's future Submarine Force, bringing world-class defence innovation to South Australia.

Leveraging significant international expertise, the submarine combat system laboratory will create a collaborative environment where the best minds from industry, academia and government come together openly to create a world-best design that meets Australia's unique national security and defence challenges.

In recognition of the laboratory's contribution to future defence projects and the local South Australian economy, today's opening was attended by the Federal Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science the Hon Christopher Pyne MP and the South Australian Defence Industries Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith MP.

The laboratory will grow further to provide state-of-the-art equipment in a simulated operational environment, together with known and proven technologies, to realistically test and validate the Royal Australian Navy's concept of operations for the next generation of Australian submarines.

The laboratory will generate many benefits for the South Australian economy and community by early provision of important technical transfers, and upskilling required in the initial stages of customer and partner collaborations. The longer term plan will achieve considerable skills transfer on cutting edge engineering and technology to the South Australian sector for further leverage.

"The combat system is essentially the eyes, ears and sword of the submarine and the tactical effectiveness of Australia's future submarine capability will depend on a fully integrated suite of the best technologies from Australia and around the world," said Raydon Gates, Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin Australia & New Zealand.

"Lockheed Martin's ability to seamlessly integrate the best sensors, sonar, radar, navigation, imagery systems and weapons will give Australia's future submarine the strategic advantage it needs to protect our nation. It is critical we get this right for Australia, which is why we have already invested more than \$3 million in establishing the laboratory and engaging with the best minds across industry, academia and government."

Lockheed Martin is collaborating with key partners Saab Australia and Thales Australia & New Zealand on this initiative in South Australia who collectively have a very strong record and have well-respected maritime domain knowledge and expertise. Lab-based workshops are planned to commence in January 2016. Further, other collaboration partners such as Acacia Research and L3 Oceania are early Lab participants.

The laboratory capitalises on Lockheed Martin's heritage of more than 40 years of demonstrated submarine combat systems integration methodology on submarines for seven nations. Lockheed Martin is a full life cycle combat system integrator with expertise in all phases of design, test, integration, certification, delivery and sustainment.

## **KEEL LAID FOR NUSHIP SYDNEY**

The last week of November marked significant progress on the Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) program, as the keel was laid for

the third destroyer, NUSHIP Sydney, and initial combat systems activation has commenced on the first destroyer, NUSHIP Hobart.

AWD Alliance CEO Rod Equid said that the keel-laying for the third ship is the latest in a series of important achievements across the project, with the start of the hull consolidation phase for Sydney, as well as the progression to the system activation phase for Hobart in advance of sea trials next year. Equid said the second destroyer, Brisbane, is also on track towards meeting the completion of hull consolidation next month.

"We are proud of this further progress. Production is now more than 70 per cent complete across the project and significant productivity improvements are being realised from ship to ship. We have come a long way since our first keel-laying ceremony was held three years ago.

"We recognise the importance of the work being done on the third ship, as this is where we will achieve the highest levels of productivity, based on the lessons from Sydney's sister ships," Equid said. [Courtesy of ADM](#)



## GHD STRENGTHENS FOCUS ON DEFENCE PROJECT DELIVERY

One of the world's leading engineering, architecture, environmental and construction services companies, GHD, has appointed Damian Drain as Defence Infrastructure Manager, based in Canberra, Australia.

Damian previously held a senior project management and delivery role in the Department of Defence. He is a civil engineer and served in the Australian Army for 23 years. His skills include infrastructure planning and delivery, strategic planning and complex project management.

Ken Snell, Defence Market Leader, says, "We are committed to our Defence clients and Damian's appointment brings additional depth to our multidisciplinary team. We continue to grow our business in this sector, building on our experience in delivering a variety of innovative infrastructure solutions, including major capital works programs."

## LEVETT ENGINEERING RECEIVES A COMMENDATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

On Tuesday 8th of December Levett Engineering received a commendation from the Department of Defence and the Australian Government, for their outstanding achievements in support of the global F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program.

The commendation noted that "Levett's clarity of vision coupled with its professionalism, perseverance and commitment to excellence has been fundamental to its success. Since joining the JSF Program in 2002, Levett successfully demonstrated they can meet the exacting quality, cost and schedule criteria required to support Program imperatives. Levett's demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement has set new standards in delivery excellence".

The JSF Program has benefited from Levett's expertise in titanium and alloy machining.

## HMAS FARNCOMB UNDOCKS AT ASC NORTH

ASC showcased its submarine maintenance abilities with the recent undocking of HMAS Farncomb – the first Collins Class submarine to undergo the revised full-cycle maintenance program.

The submarine hull has been cut in half, main motor and diesels removed, tested and refurbished off the boat and reinstalled and the hull rewelded – all while reducing the maintenance schedule by a full year.

Completion of the maintenance activity is expected before mid-2016.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

AIDN-Vic recognised and celebrated the achievements of the Victorian branch of the Australian Industry & Defence Network over the past 12 months and paid 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 also presented the AIDN-Vic Young Achiever Awards “to recognise individuals who may be future industry leaders”. Congratulations to Jessica Teague, Harris as the winner of the AIDN-Vic YAA. Also congratulations to the 2 finalists Ken Ang, Harris and Joshua Stewart, Rheinmetall.

Also special thanks to our sponsor for the evening the Aerospace Maritime & Defence Foundation of Australia.

Finally members were delighted to hear from Minister Lily D’Ambrosio on future plans for the defence industry in Victoria and Minister Mal Brough. “The Turnbull Government strongly supports maximising the opportunities for Australian industries to participate in defence acquisition and sustainment,” Minister Brough said.



## PACIFIC 2015: VDA-SUBMARINES

On day two of Pacific 2015 the State Government of Victoria hosted a breakfast for defence industry at the National Maritime Museum. The breakfast provided an opportunity for the Victorian Defence Alliance – Submarines to stake its claim to be an important part of the national submarine supply chain solution.

Mr Rohan Stocker, the Chair of the Submarine Alliance, said, “our mission is to assist Alliance members to win work in the national and international submarine industry supply chains”. With over 100 member companies, the Alliance represents SMEs with a proven reputation for excellence in advanced manufacturing, innovation and the delivery of quality products and services.

It is widely recognised that in order to be successful the submarine industry must be a national endeavour. As such the Alliance believes that the capabilities of Victoria’s industry are an essential part of the supply chain that will support Australia’s submarine capability into the future.

Alliance members benefit from advocacy, networking, collaboration and mentoring. In order to showcase the depth of the supply chain in Victoria the Alliance, with support from the Australian Industry & Defence Network Victoria and the State Government of Victoria, has produced a Capability Directory of over 100 companies’ submarine relevant capabilities.

Mr Stocker launched the Victorian Defence Alliance – Submarines Capability Directory at the breakfast.



## 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.

## ▶ AIDN-VIC MEMBERS' NEWS



### RUAG AVIATION APPOINTS NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR RUAG AUSTRALIA

Ruag is pleased to announce the appointment of John Teager as Managing Director of RUAG Australia, effective 1 January 2016. John will assume full responsibilities for RUAG's Australian operations, succeeding Thomas Gehring who is pursuing opportunities at RUAG Group in Bern, Switzerland.

John Teager is a familiar name within the industry and the RUAG organisation. Joining RUAG Australia in May 2013 as Vice President Sales & Marketing, he was responsible for developing market opportunities in Australia and has contributed considerably towards securing new, long-term business relationships. John Teager also proved a key leader in the successful positioning of RUAG within the Australian market following the organisation's acquisition of Rosebank Engineering in December 2012.

The appointment of John Teager as Managing Director of RUAG Australia, firmly underscores RUAG's overriding strategy of internationalization as outlined by RUAG Group CEO UrsBreitmeier in the 2014 Annual Report. In his interview, Mr. Breitmeier describes internationalization as being comprised of three distinct features: cosmopolitan employees, good structures and processes, and outstanding products and services. He also identifies the Asia-Pacific region as a key growth market and emphasizes the importance of strengthening our presence in the region. Further, Mr. Breitmeier stipulates that full one quarter of the 2018 Group sales will be generated outside of Europe. Leveraging our expert leadership and local base of operations together with our knowledge and experience in both civil and military markets, RUAG Australia is now uniquely positioned to serve our customers and contribute significantly to these goals.

John Teager's career at RUAG began after his employ in the South Australian government where he held the position of General Manager Defence and Industry Development at Defence SA from 2009 to 2013.

Prior to 2009, John Teager completed a highly distinguished, 32-year military career, initially serving with the Royal Air Force (1977-1997) and then with the Royal Australian Air Force (1997-2009). John Teager accumulated more than 3,000 flying hours, principally on the F-4 Phantom, and is the recipient of several Active Service Medals from both the RAF and the RAAF. He served as Commander Aerospace Operational Support Group, one of the RAAF's six Force Element Groups, during his final appointment in the RAAF. John Teager pursues service today and is currently serving as a Reservist in the RAAF Reserve.

John Teager maintains professional standings as a qualified Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Chartered Management Institute and the Royal Aeronautical Society. He holds a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA). In 2005, John Teager was recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia for his achievements and service in the fields of surveillance and electronic warfare.

RUAG Aviation is energised by John Teager's appointment. We are confident in his professional and passionate leadership as well as his excellent reputation and firmly established network within the aviation industry. John Teager will have a pivotal role in our continued positioning of RUAG Australia as The Partner of Choice in the Asia-Pacific market.

AIDN-Vic congratulates John Teager to this new appointment.

### RHEINMETALL AWARDS INTEGRATION AND SUPPORT CONTRACT TO PENSKE

Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles Australia (RMMVA) has awarded Penske Commercial Vehicles (PCV) the contract to provide integration services and spare part supplies for a new fleet of over 2,500 medium-weight and heavy-weight military logistic vehicles.

The vehicles will be supplied by RMMVA to the Commonwealth under the Defence program Land 121 Phase 3B. The vehicles are required to undergo final installation activities as part of the overall program in Australia. Penske will also be coordinating the supply of all spare parts for the vehicles once they enter service with the ADF. Both the Integration and Spare Parts supply will be conducted via PCV's facilities in Wacol, Brisbane.

RMMVA was contracted in July 2013 to supply over 2,500 military logistic protected and unprotected vehicles and nearly 3,000 modules to the ADF.

The first series vehicles under Land 121 Phase 3B are to be delivered in late 2016, with the final delivery expected in 2020.

[Courtesy of ADM](#)



## REFRESHED TANKS DELIVERED TO SCHOOL OF ARMOUR

The first of 10 'refreshed' M1A1 Abrams tanks has been delivered to the Army's School of Armour at Puckapunyal, Victoria.

The Land Systems Division (LSD) within the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG) worked with Army and Joint Logistics Unit – Victoria (JLU-V) to deliver the tanks as part of a major Tank Technical Refresh and Remediation Program.

Approved by Army in May 2013, the \$59 million program aims to enhance Army's 59 M1A1 Abrams tanks and seven M88A2 Hercules Armoured Recovery Vehicles. The program, which is scheduled to be completed in 2018, will update the baseline configuration of the tanks and M88s, undertake major upgrades and address obsolescence and fatigue issues.

Work on the M1A1 Tank fleet is being undertaken by the Broadspectrum (formerly Transfield) workforce at JLU-V, in Bandiana. This has created employment opportunities for the local community, as well as facilitating up-skilling of Transfield staff, who have undergone on-the-job training with M1A1 specialists from the US Anniston Army Depot. Work on the Hercules vehicles will be undertaken by a BAE Systems team from the US at Joint Logistic Unit – North, in Darwin, commencing in early 2017.

"The implementation of the 'Refresh' program, combined with a fleet rotation that aims to even out usage across the fleet, is expected to allow the tanks to be supported through to life of type," CASG Head Land Systems Major General Paul McLachlan said.

In line with the Tank Technical Refresh, the tank program team at LSD completed an upgrade and refresh of all M1A1 Tank simulation earlier this year at the School of Armour and 1st Armoured Regiment. They will soon also commence an upgrade and refresh program on the M1A1's AGT1500 turbine engine. This will be conducted by TAE, an Australian company that has undertaken repairs on the engines since August 2013 and which, compared to the previous practice of returning the engines to the US for repairs, has saved 90 per cent on the repair costs and up to 50 per cent on turn-around time. [Courtesy of ADM](#)



## AUSTRALIAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY SEARCH AND RESCUE AIRCRAFT TO SEE FURTHER, MORE CLEARLY, WITH SENTIENT VIDAR

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority's (AMSA) four new Challenger 604 jet search and rescue aircraft which begin to enter service in August 2016 will have an unprecedented ability to visually detect and track objects and people in the water, thanks to prime contractor Cobham Aviation Services' selection of Sentient Vision's Kestrel Maritime ViDAR (Visual Detection and Ranging) system as part of the program's sensor suite.

Kestrel Maritime ViDAR consists of a 9-megapixel optical sensor and on-board software that automatically detects and highlights sea surface objects invisible to the naked eye in real time. In tests with the US Coast Guard in 2014 the ViDAR system detected small boats at ranges in excess of 20nm that were optically invisible to the sensor operators. Each Challenger 604 will mount three fixed ViDAR sensors and an integrated processing system to cue the primary

Wescam MX-15 sensor to detected objects.

Cobham Business Development Director Anthony Patterson commented. "The real benefit we see in ViDAR is the ability to maintain a consistent quality visual search that has the same probability of detection in the first hour through to the last hour of an eight hour mission. Visual searching with the human eye is very fatiguing and diminishes over time as crew fatigue. This is the first product that offers the potential to offset the human fatigue factor for search and rescue (SAR) operations and we are very excited about the benefits to SAR outcomes."

Sentient Director of Business Development, Strategy and Partnerships, Simon Olsen, said ViDAR's inclusion on the AMSA SAR aircraft was validation of its proven capability.

"With ViDAR, Cobham will be able to provide AMSA with a proven, mature, highly capable visual detection system suited to the SAR role," he said. "We are proud that Cobham has chosen our system as part of a sophisticated sensor suite that can be trusted to deliver during critical, life-saving SAR operations."



## BEAK COMPLETE POWER SKATE FOR TULLAMARINE T4

In September this year Beak completed the full cycle of design, development and validation when it delivered and installed 11 bespoke Power Skate handling systems for the new Melbourne Airport T4 expansion project. This product has the ability to control over 25m of dual 400Hz cable with GPU power switching provided at the aircraft end of the unit and automatic anti-collision lighting. These units are expected to greatly reduce cable/plug wear and reduce ground operator injuries and fatigue. The standard 12m Power Skate is already being used extensively at most major Australian airports.



### Defence and paramilitary portfolio

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▶ AIDN-WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AIDN-WA NEW MEMBERS

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## ▶ AIDN-WA MEMBERS' NEWS

### THE BIG NEW PLAYER IN THE NAVAL SHIPBUILDING GAME

Civmec's announcement last week that it was to acquire the engineering division of Newcastle shipbuilder Forgacs was proof the heavy engineering and construction services provider is establishing itself as a company with clear ambitions in the defence sector. Indeed the company has made no bones about its intentions with regard to the Sea 1000 Future Submarine Program – that it be considered as a potential builder.

ADM caught up with Perth-based Civmec's new general manager (Defence) and former Submarine Force Commander, Mike Deeks. Just 10 weeks into his new role, Deeks talks about Civmec's capabilities as a potential submarine and ship builder.

"At one end of the spectrum we think we have a great site to be the host of the whole construction assembly process for the future submarine," Deeks said.

Civmec's facility is situated at Henderson in WA, directly adjacent and with unimpeded access to the Australian Marine Complex (AMC), home of the Common User Facility 100 metre x 44 metre Floating Dock.

"We're just 10 kilometres across the Cockburn Sound from Fleet Base West and the RAN's submarine fleet and we have access to the Indian Ocean where most of the world's hot spots have a tendency to flare up," Deeks said.

The debate on South Australia building the future submarine has neglected to appreciate whether the state has the capacity for such a program, according to Deeks.

"The Government has announced they will be spending \$89 billion on new naval equipment in the next 20 years, including Future Frigates and Offshore Patrol Vessels," he said. "Something's got to move elsewhere and we believe we are well-positioned to pick up a significant portion of the work, particularly with regard to submarines."

"The three submarine CEP contenders have all talked to us, we expect to feature in each of their submissions in some way or another."

Of course, as Deeks readily admitted, "a lot of water has to go under the bridge before these decisions are made". He said the two shipbuilding projects are further progressed than Sea 1000 in terms of first steel cut dates "so it will take some time to clarify what is happening with those". "This will then lead to more understanding of where the future submarine program will end up."

Deeks said Civmec hasn't discounted any possibility of a relationship, either with ASC, or with other companies here in the west or elsewhere in Australia, indeed around the world.

"The three submarine CEP contenders have all talked to us, we expect to feature in each of their submissions in some way or another," Deeks said.

In fact the company is already proving its expertise by building a demonstration section of a submarine hull.

"It's about two metres long, a cylindrical section with T-frames – suffice to say it's being built to the specifications of one of the designers, and will conform to the current best practice in terms of the type of steel being used," Deeks said.

Civmec's heavy engineering and manufacturing skills are the other reason it should be taken seriously for a program as complex as the future submarine build, according to Deeks.

"Civmec's capabilities in terms of steel rolling, welding – all of the things that we have been doing here in the sub-sea space, would make us fairly competitive I would think, for example when it comes to building submarine hull sections."

Deeks said these were the obvious fabrication skills that initially attracted him to Civmec. "Their specifications are not dissimilar to submarine hull sections."

The company is constructing four 250 tonne suction piles for Shell's Prelude FLNG facility, soon to be deployed in the Browse Basin on WA's Northwest Shelf. These are basically 11 metre diameter sea anchors, made to precise circularity requirements to handle the extreme pressures they will encounter at depths of up to 250 metres.

"Their specifications are not dissimilar to submarine hull sections," Deeks told ADM.

What was less obvious to Deeks initially were some of the systems the company had put in place in recent years that have set them up well for defence projects.

"They have a very smart project management system called Civtrac – manufactured components are all fitted with an RFID device, making them trackable via handheld scanners throughout the production process," he said.

From Defence's perspective, with a submarine build it's critically important that important data such as the source of the steel, its quality, and the status of welds is catalogued, Deeks said. This tracking data is available in near real time and can be accessed remotely by both Civmec and a customer.

"Despite our system being developed for the offshore oil and gas industry, we can confidently say we have a good handle on the data recording aspects for all the components that would go towards building a submarine – there isn't a lot of disparity between the Defence and offshore industry requirements," Deeks said. [Courtesy of ADM](#)



## ▶ 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: [dannysoong@experiaevents.com](mailto:dannysoong@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	15	AIDN-Vic VDA-Maritime briefing	AIDN-Vic
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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  
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AIDN-Tas  
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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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