Greetings
October was an extremely busy month for AIDN-Vic and its members. On 25 October we held our Defence Update and Golf Day which was oversubscribed with standing room only. There was a wide range of speakers from defence industry through to the Square Kilometre Array. The vibe was very positive and there was certainly an upbeat feeling amongst those who attended. The feedback from members was overwhelmingly positive.

Invitations have been sent out for AIDN-Vic’s end of year Special Awards event and announcement of the AIDN-Vic Young Achiever Award on Tuesday 22 November. The guest speaker for the evening will be Mike Brady AO, performer and speaker. Registrations are via this link: Click Here

Prior to the AIDN-Vic Special Awards event we will be hold our AGM. We expect to report a very good result for 2016 and a sound basis for continuing forward to provide members with the very professional services you have come to expect over the years.
AIDN-Vic, along with the Victorian Defence Alliances, presented to industry in the Latrobe Valley on 11 November on the benefits of joining AIDN-Vic and the support that we can provide to the defence and security sector.

20 lucky AIDN-Vic MEMBERS viewed Exercise Chong Ju at Puckapunyal (Combined Arms Live Fire Demonstration), on 20 October. The feedback was very positive and members welcomed the opportunity to discuss their capabilities with members of the ADF.

The Victorian Defence Alliances have held a number of committee meetings and events in October/November.

AIDN-Vic membership continues to grow and if you know of companies working in the defence and security sectors that could benefit from joining AIDN-Vic please pass on their contact details to sue.smith@aidnvic.org.au.

AIDN National will be holding its quarterly meeting and AGM on Thursday 1 December, in Launceston. This meeting will be reported on further in the next newsletter.

Regards
Stephen Harvey
AIDN-Vic President president@aidnvic.org.au

**AIDN-VIC NEW MEMBERS**

AIDN-Vic welcomes the following 5 new members:

![Amiga Engineering](http://www.amigaeng.com.au)

**Amiga Engineering Pty Ltd**

Amiga Engineering has been operating for more than a quarter of a century, having started in 1988 and is a respected supplier to the best known names in the oil and gas industry. Amiga has proven experience and capability in machining large items, although is comfortable machining most size parts.

Amiga is a very capable and comprehensive machining and fabrication shop, boasting an array of manual and CNC machines, including full 3D and 5 axis machine centres.

Amiga is very versed with all types of ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy and frequently commissions and processes castings and forgings, as well as machining Inconel, Duplex, Super Duplex, Copper-Nickel alloys and so on.

Amiga is also very apt at commissioning all types of HT and NDT and has proven material traceability systems.

Amiga owns Genat and Wood gearboxes, which are made in Australia, using Australian-made components. For more information visit:
  and

Amiga Engineering Overview
Machining
- Turning diameters up to 2800mm
- Milling lengths up to 4300mm
- Wash-grinding diameters to 1200mm
- 3D milling / 5 axis
- CMM 1200 x 700
- Traceability and compliance
- ISO 9001 certified
- Experienced and expert in machining and fabricating exotic metals and materials, including all types of stainless steels

Please contact:
Michael Bourchier
Managing Director
Phone: 03 9330 0688
sales@amigaeng.com.au

Australian Aerospace Engineering

Australian Aerospace Engineering (AAE) is a private maintenance, repair and overhaul company that has matured over 25 years.

AAE specialises in Helicopter Airframe, Tailboom and Composite structures and has the appropriate fixtures, tooling, craftsmanship and workshop capabilities to deliver a premier MRO service.

Please contact:
Viv Johnston
Engineering & Sales
Phone: 02 6026 2614
viv@austaerospace.com

GLB VIC Pty Ltd

G.L.B. (Vic) Pty. Ltd. was established in January 2002 as an Australian manufacturer of recovery strops designed specifically for vehicle recovery and towing.

G.L.B. (Vic) Pty. Ltd. is the manufacturer of the unique Black Snake Kevlar® and Nylon recovery strops. The one of a kind product constructed with fibre cores and rubber casing have been specially designed for high strength and durability.

The use of specially engineered manufacturing equipment allows G.L.B. (Vic) Pty. Ltd to construct unique and custom made recovery strops for most mining, industrial and recreational requirements. G.L.B. (Vic) Pty. Ltd also developed a Black Snake designed specifically for 4WD recovery.

Product development is continuing and custom products are being fabricated every day to suit customers’ requirements.

With our new production facility and recently increased capacity, G.L.B. (Vic) Pty. Ltd are expanding with international export opportunities and further research and development of our products.

Please contact:
Ian Checkley
Director
Phone: 03 9720 7337
Hardchrome Engineering Pty Ltd

Founded in 1968, Hardchrome Engineering is recognised as an industry leader in surface technology and heat treatment.

With a large scale facility in Melbourne, Hardchrome Engineering services a broad range of industry sectors and clients.

Demand for new and improved processes has required us to expand from our initial hardchrome applications, to one of Australia's largest industrial surface technology and heat treatment specialists. A highly skilled work force including fully qualified metallurgists and chemical engineers, ensures high product quality and fast turnaround.

From the small machine components to large mill rolls for the steel and aluminium industries, Hardchrome Engineering specialises in providing customised solutions for any application with every job being specifically tailored to meet the exact specifications of our clients.

While Modern technology and machinery have simplified many industrial processes, people remain at the core of Hardchrome Engineernings technical expertise.

With a range of specialists from metallurgical, plating and engineering backgrounds, Hardchrome Engineering has kept at the forefront of this industry by investing in our people who in turn provide the direction, knowledge and expertise required to remain industry leaders.

Recognising the need to provide the highest levels of quality, reproducibility and service, Hardchrome Engineering is accredited to ISO 9001:2008 by SAI Global.

Hardchrome Engineering is also approved by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) for a broad range of services and processes for the aeronautical industry.

Please contact:
Mehdi Soodi
Senior Engineer
Phone: 9561 9555
mehdi@hardchrome.com.au

PWB Anchor

We are a manufacturer and sales outlet for all types of lifting equipment. We manufacture chain and fittings and we assemble Hoists, Chain Blocks, Lever Blocks, Air Hoists, Cranes, Air Balancers and other items.

Please contact:
John Ventura
National Business Manager
Phone: 03 9473 8208
venturaj@pwbanchor.com.au

we-do-IT Pty Ltd
we-do-IT is a global provider of geospatial IT solutions. We offer consulting, development, training, system support, system integration services and products.

Our customers are Defence, Government, Telecommunications electricity, gas, water utilities.

We develop and distribute our own products as well as redistribute international software.

Please Contact:
Craig Williams
Principal Account Manager
Phone: +61 3 8681 0477
cwilliams@we-do-IT.com

**VICTORIAN DEFENCE ALLIANCES**


The Alliances Manager represented the Victorian Defence Alliance – Land Systems at Land Forces 2016 exhibiting on the State Government of Victoria Pavilion. Over 200 copies of the Land Systems Alliance Capability Directory were distributed. Land Systems Alliance members reported a high level of interest from attendees at Land Forces and deemed the event very successful.

The Chair of the VDA-Land Systems (Mr Miles Partridge) spoke at the State Government of Victoria breakfast at Land Forces 2016 where he outlined the ‘Case for Victoria’ as a location for land systems work. This event was well attended by many senior Defence, Government and industry personnel.

With support from the State Government of Victoria the Alliances Manager and Chair of the VDA-Submarines attended Euronaval in France (18-21 October 2016). Maritime and Submarines Alliance members’ capabilities were promoted through the Alliance Capability Directories. A key purpose of this visit was to identify and engage with European organisations and companies to pursue opportunities in the surface ship and submarine projects. A post-event report was presented to members at the Maritime and Submarines Members’ Briefing event in Melbourne on 3 November 2016.

The Aerospace Alliance held a Briefing Session 28 October 2016, with Air Commodore Philip Tammen from CASG Aerospace Division presenting on opportunities from the Defence Integrated Investment Plan. The Maritime and Submarine Alliances held a joint Briefing Session on 3 November with a presentation on SEA 1180 from Peter Croser, CASG Maritime Division and a presentation on Lockheed Martin’s role as the Combat Systems Integrator for SEA 1000. SAAB Australia briefed members on maritime business opportunities.

The Land Systems Alliance held a Members Briefing Session 8 November focusing on LAND 400 and a briefing from Greg Combet (Victoria’s Defence Industry Advocate). The Digital Alliance will be holding a Members Briefing Session 25 November with a presentation from Peter Lawrence – Defence Chief Information Officer. Notification of these events has been circulated to Alliance Members. Where there is capacity, AIDN-Vic members who are not yet part of the Alliances will be given the opportunity to attend.

Work has commenced on the development of the Victorian Defence Alliance – Aerospace Capability Directory. The Directory will be used to showcase Victorian aerospace industry capabilities at the 2017 Australian International Airshow. Alliance Members have been contacted about providing input to the Directory. The Directory will be published by the Victorian Government and provides an excellent opportunity for companies to promote their capabilities. New members joining the Alliance will have the opportunity to be included in the Directory.
Thales Australia has joined the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre [AMGC] as the first industry member after an agreement was signed recently.

In partnering with the AMGC, one of six centres established as part of the Government’s $248 million Growth Centres Initiative, Thales will work with the organisation and future members to develop a more innovative, globally competitive manufacturing sector in Australia.

To showcase the company’s pedigree in this regard, and particularly its world leading research and manufacturing in the sonar and acoustics domain, CEO Chris Jenkins hosted the managing director of AMGC Dr Jens Goennemann on a tour of the Thales facility in Rydalmere, Sydney.

A passionate mechanical engineer who specialised in acoustics, Jenkins proudly explained the sophisticated work being undertaken by the 450 employees at the facility. Dr Goennemann and ADM were shown the process by which ceramics are developed and incorporated into highly sensitive hydrophones, transducers, sonars and towed arrays.

“We’re turning out the world’s leading sonar sensors here,” Jenkins said. “The product we are developing is globally exported – we do the transducers for the UK and French submarines, we’re also doing the sonars for the FREMM ASW frigates in Europe, the big low frequency units.”
The advanced work Thales has been doing for many years in the sonarspace represents exactly the kind of methodology and
mind-set the AMGC is seeking to foster throughout Australian industry.

“What we have here is a highly specialised advanced manufacturer that isn’t focused on interstate rivalry but rather its ability to
compete on the world stage with something niche and so sophisticated,” Dr Goennemann said. “That is exactly why we’ve
chosen Thales as our first member company.”

In joining the AMGC as a Tier 1 member, Thales will support the AMGC in achieving key functions such as assisting Australian
advanced manufacturers of all sizes to connect with the global supply chain.

“A successful multinational company, like Thales, that reaches across industry, utilising its strength to connect with SMEs
before making them part of the global supply chain, is precisely what we are looking for in a Tier 1 member,” Dr Goennemann
said.

Both Jenkins and Goennemann agreed the global market was huge, and it was better for Australian manufacturers to seek out
“small slices of a very large cake” than to continually fight among themselves for the scraps of a smaller local cake, often
ending up with nothing.

Thales will also work with the centre to identify and develop growth projects. For Dr Goennemann, it simply won’t be enough to
focus all of the nation’s efforts into building the future submarines, as complex a project as that will be.

“In order to benefit from what is evolving for the Australian economy, this will require a vibrant and broad base of advanced
manufacturers,” he said. “To substantially participate in building and sustaining complex systems like the future submarine in
country requires a wide landscape of advanced manufacturers – I am concerned we have a gap there, but we have some time
to work on that gap.”

To that end, the AMGC hopes to support Government in mapping Australian defence industry capabilities as far as advanced
manufacturing is concerned, as Dr Goennemann explained. “We need to see what we have and what we should have for
capability and sovereignty reasons in order to support the building and sustaining of future complex systems that benefits
defence and the nation overall.”

Jenkins said that the AMGC membership opportunity has happened at the perfect time and for Thales it represents one of the
mechanisms that can change the way industry works in Australia.

“Right now, in the defence sector, the Government and its policy is saying the methodology must change – this helps us figure
out what we can do to change the environment and improve the supply chain enterprise.”

He stressed it wasn’t just about Government simply spending more money on industry, but also about industry lifting to match
that spend with confidence – and in so doing perpetuate a mutually reinforcing cycle.

“By defence industry proving it’s willing to invest in this whole process of being globally competitive, the taxpayer will get a
better outcome – a virtuous cycle is created whereby a globally competitive Australian defence industry sector can win and
perform value for money work on projects.”

**SENTIENT SHOWS OFF VIDAR AT UK DEMONSTRATION**

Sentient Vision Systems has completed a capability demonstration with the Vidar airborne wide-area maritime search and
surveillance system as part of the Unmanned Warrior 16 demonstration of autonomous systems led by the Royal Navy in the
UK.
Integrated into the Insitu Scan Eagle, ViDAR performed over 55 hours of operations during the demonstration, consistently showing its ability to autonomously detect small objects on the surface of the ocean over wide areas, Sentient stated.

RUAG AUSTRALIA WINS LEAD ASSIGNMENT IN FOUR TECHNOLOGY GROUPS FOR F-35 REGIONAL SUSTAINMENT

In a major coup for the national Defence Industry, Australia has won 10 of the initial 11 component categories available to partner countries for F-35 Joint Strike Fighter regional sustainment. Starting in 2025, RUAG Australia will have lead responsibility within the Pacific Region for the maintenance, repair and overhaul of Joint Strike Fighter components in four Repair Technology Groups - Valves (RTG F), Auxiliary Power Systems (RTG G), Landing Gear Components (RTG L) and Hydraulics, Pneumatics, Pneudraulics & Hydro-Mechanical (RTG H) – all of which are consistent with RUAG Australia’s core capabilities.

As a significant, long-standing provider of in-country component maintenance and repair capabilities to the Australian Defence Force, RUAG Australia is extremely well qualified to now extend such services to the regional Joint Strike Fighter fleet and is particularly appreciative of the recognition accorded to RUAG Australia by the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office.

The assignments to RUAG Australia are the result of three years of discussion and close collaboration by RUAG Australia staff with Joint Strike Fighter component Original Equipment Manufacturers, including Honeywell, UTC Aerospace Systems, Eaton, Moog and Parker, and with its industry partners and suppliers in Australia, including TAE and H.I. Fraser. RUAG Australia also acknowledges the consistent support provided to Australian industry by Defence’s Joint Strike Fighter Division and the strong advocacy for Australian companies by the Hon Christopher Pyne, Minister for Defence Industry.

“This assignment is a genuine reflection of the quality and skill of our people and the treasured reputation for reliable service that they have developed over many years of serving the military customer,” said John Teager, Managing Director of RUAG Australia. “The Joint Strike Fighter will be the cornerstone of the Royal Australian Air Force, and a number of other air forces, for many years to come. RUAG Australia is committed to being a successful and valued member of the global team supporting the platform,” he added. “We look forward to collaborating with our chosen partners in delivering the best possible Australian contribution to the Joint Strike Fighter program, both in terms of manufacturing and deeper level repair. There is still much work to be done before component repair assignment becomes actual work, but the laying of the foundation can never start too early. We will continue to extend and broaden our existing manufacturing contracts as well as bidding, alongside our partners, for additional Joint Strike Fighter sustainment opportunities as they emerge.”

RUAG Australia has a long history in the Joint Strike Fighter program having been manufacturing major hydraulic components for the aircraft continually since the system design and development phase in 2003. The assignment for deeper level maintenance and repair is a logical and very welcome extension to RUAG Australia’s well established engineering capabilities. RUAG Australia welcomes the opportunity to continue its support to the Joint Strike Fighter program in both manufacturing, surface finishing and deeper level component repair for many years to come.

RUAG Australia, with its headquarters in Melbourne, operates from five locations across Australia – two in Victoria, one in South Australia and on-base at RAAF Amberley and RAAF Williamtown. All sites will likely contribute over time to the delivery of Joint Strike Fighter deeper level component maintenance and repair. RUAG Australia is the Australian arm of the Swiss based RUAG Group and a core element of RUAG Aviation International. RUAG established itself in Australia through the acquisition of Australian company Rosebank Engineering in late 2012.

NOVA GROUP ACQUIRES GEOPLEX
Nova Group, parent company of Nova Systems, GVH Aerospace and Auspace has acquired Australian based geospatial firm, Geoplex.

Geoplex is a professional services company specialising in enterprise geospatial systems and data management solutions using agile and inventive approaches to deliver mapping solutions that help people see their world from a new perspective.

"Nova Group has made a number of acquisitions over time, with Geoplex representing a further significant step towards achievement of our global strategy and regional aspirations, notably within the Australian and NZ markets," Nova Group Global CEO Greg Hume said. “Geoplex adds complementary capabilities to our professional services business Nova Systems, and strengthens our technology offerings within Auspace.”

"Geoplex is a professional services company specialising in enterprise geospatial systems and data management solutions.”

CEO of Geoplex Adam Smith said Nova provided an immediate opportunity to take his firm’s products and services to a larger and more diverse client base. “In addition, we can leverage Nova's business support and resource base to help realise our strategic plans for the Australian and New Zealand markets.”

Geoplex will continue to trade through the Geoplex Pty Ltd and the Geoplex Products Pty Ltd businesses,” a statement on the Geoplex website said. “The management team and staff are staying with the company and will continue to conduct the business as a going concern. Adam Smith remains as a Director and the CEO of Geoplex.”

**DEFENCE & SECURITY NEWS**

![A modified Jeep fitted with a DST Satellite-On-The-Move (SOTM) unit (the dome on the rear tray). Credit: DST Group](image)

**DST GROUP: HARDENING AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES FOR EW**

Defence researchers, led by DST Group Electronic Warfare research leader Brian Reid, have joined forces with scientists from the US Army Tank Automotive Research & Development Engineering Centre to demonstrate the semi-autonomous and tele-operation of two modified Jeeps at Woomera.

The vehicles were controlled by operators situated 16,000 kilometres away in Detroit via a DST-initiated satellite link enabling the transmission of vision and control messages.

The test aims to prove that autonomous vehicles which have shut down, stopped, or malfunctioned in any way can be tele-operated to complete the mission. The ability to do this via a satellite link offers greater utility and flexibility, "The collaboration on this project has a two-fold purpose," Jacobs Australia project manager, Alan Ross said.

"The first part is really about the contested environment, determining how an autonomous vehicle could be defeated using electronic warfare.

"Secondly, we will see how we can harden these autonomous vehicles against electronic attack.

"Another benefit is further developing existing autonomous capability so that the vehicles can better think and do what they need to do. This knowledge will support Australia's future vehicle acquisitions."

The successful Woomera trial is the first of three. The second, scheduled to take place in 2017, aims to defeat the remotely
controlled vehicles using electronic warfare techniques. The team will then use these results to harden the vehicle. The final trial, scheduled for 2019 will test the effectiveness of the hardening.

"Somewhere in the future the Army may have a requirement to look at vehicles with varying degrees of autonomous capability," Ross explained.

"Before we get to that stage we need to look at how, as a country, we are going to use that capacity and how much we will be involved in developing it. This project is a first step in that direction."

Ross stressed the research is in its early days and there is much work ahead.

"The underlying tenet of this autonomy is that it's got to be trusted. To be autonomous we've got to trust what it's going to be doing." Ross said. Courtesy of ADM

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**GENERAL NEWS**

**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-Vic aidnvic@aidnvic.org.au for assistance with registration.

**Aerospace Environmental Working Group (AEWG)**
The last AEWG was held on Friday 29 April 2016 in Canberra. This AEWG focused 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. The date for the next meeting will be advised when known.

**Land Environmental Working Group (LEWG)**
The last meeting of the LEWG was held on Monday 5 September 2016 in Adelaide, in conjunction with Land Forces Conference.

**Maritime Environmental Working Group (MEWG)**
The last MEWG was held on Friday 8 April 2016 in Canberra. The date for the next meeting will be advised when known.

**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 Thursday 17 March 2016 in Canberra. The date for the next meeting will be advised when known.
PERSONNEL CHANGES

ANSTO recently announced that Ms Michelle Durant had been appointed Managing Director of the Australian Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE).

AFL, a worldwide manufacturer of fibre optic cable and accessories, recently announced that its parent company, Fujikura Ltd., has appointed Yoichi Nagahama as Chairman of AFL, succeeding Takamasa Kato. Additionally, Fujikura appointed Satoru Ogawa as Vice Chairman.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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<td>ADM Congress 2017</td>
<td>7 February 2017</td>
<td>Hyatt Hotel, Canberra</td>
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<td>AIAC17</td>
<td>26 Feb- 2 March 2017</td>
<td>Melbourne Cricket Ground &amp; Avalon Air</td>
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<td>HUMS2017</td>
<td>26 February – 2 March 2017</td>
<td>Melbourne (MCG &amp; Avalon Air)</td>
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This major Defence and Industry Conference has evolved into a pivotal event in the Defence calendar, attracting over 350 delegates each year. The theme for 2017 will be Innovation in One Defence with key topics to include Industry as a Fundamental Input to Capability (FIC); what Joint looks like in the ADF and Coalition Environments; and First Principles Review Implementation. Information regarding the event and program will be updated here in due course.

**AVALON INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW 2017**

Date: 28 February – 5 March 2017  
Location: Avalon Airport Geelong  
Website: [AIRSHOW2017](#)

AVALON 2017 will again present a unique opportunity to showcase products, technologies and services to an informed target audience and to demonstrate a marketing presence in this vibrant and vital region. High levels of economic growth and technological development have resulted in growing demand for aviation and aerospace services, products and technology, right across the spectrum from General Aviation to airlines, air forces and space.

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

**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-Vic Newsletter.

Articles are to be limited in size and submitted by email to [sue.smith@aidnvic.org.au](mailto:sue.smith@aidnvic.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-Vic office:

AIDN-Vic, PO Box 336, Ashburton Vic 3147, Ph: 03.9886 9278  
[sue.smith@aidnvic.org.au](mailto:sue.smith@aidnvic.org.au)  
ABN: 28 597 845 793  
[www.aidn.org.au](http://www.aidn.org.au)
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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@aidnvic.org.au

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