Another year is almost over and it has certainly been a more positive year for those of us doing business in the Defence and security industries sectors.

The year started with a rush with the release of the Defence White Paper, the Integrated Investment Programme and the Defence Industry Policy in February.

AIDN-Vic has continued to provide the high standard of networking and information services to our members that are our core business and the reason why membership of AIDN is essential for Victorian companies working in the defence industry environment.

There are many performance indicators that attest to our relevance but none more so than our membership and attendance levels at our functions. I am pleased to report that our membership has increased notably since last year to 266 companies and organisations. It is also noteworthy to reflect on the diversity of companies and organisations that now look to AIDN as a conduit to defence industry intelligence and opportunity.

During 2016, your Executive has engaged with the AIDN National President and Committee. One initiative adopted by AIDN National this year was to move the AIDN office to Canberra from the AIDN-Vic office. They have also appointed a new Coordinator to manage the AIDN administration.

AIDN-Vic is appreciative of the continued financial support by the Victorian Government of the Alliances during 2016. The Victorian Defence Alliances (VDA), facilitated by Charlotte Morris, established the VDA-Aerospace and VDA-Digital groups in March, 2016. The VDA-Submarines has continued its work of engagement by Victorian industry with DCNS for the SEA 1000 Future Submarine Project. The VDA-Land Systems has been focused on the LAND 400 project and the VDA-Maritime has been working on opportunities in the SEA 1664 Replenishment Ship project, the SEA 1180 Offshore Patrol Vessel and SEA 5000 Future Frigate projects. The VDA-Digital had a presentation on Plan Jericho and the VDA-Aerospace had a presentation on the Airlift and Tanker projects.

Following the success of the Alliance Model, the Executive has decided to extend that model into 2017. We are in the final stages of negotiation with the Victorian Government about this financial support.

At Land Forces 2016, held in Adelaide in September, a number of members exhibited. Some were hosted on the Victorian Government Pavilion and others were part of the AIDN showcase. All members were supported by Sue Smith and Charlotte Morris to facilitate business engagement to maximise opportunities at the Exposition.

AIDN-Vic appreciated the support of the Victorian Government to produce the VDA-Land capability directory for distribution at Land Forces.

The range of other activities conducted, co-hosted or facilitated by AIDN-Vic included sector briefings, Alliance briefings and, what has become a very popular networking event, the annual Defence Industry Update and Golf Competition held in October.

I am grateful for and acknowledge the support of our many sponsors that enable us to run these valuable activities throughout the year. Details of AIDN-Vic activities and our valued event sponsors are at Annex A.
I believe that all members should be proud of their association with AIDN-Vic and value their membership. It is a credit to our membership and the qualities that your respective companies bring to the industry that our Network is so highly regarded.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone on the Executive Committee for their help and support over the last year. In particular, I would like to thank Richard Yanieri, YTEK, as Vice President and Paul Payne, Faraday, for taking on the Treasurers role in July 2014 until this year’s AGM. Also special thanks to Michelle Brown, TXM, who joined the committee in December 2011 and has been President, Vice President and Secretary of AIDN-Vic during her time on the Committee.

It goes without saying that AIDN-Vic would not be what it is without our Executive Officer, Sue Smith, and her assistant, Sharon Turner who continue to provide an invaluable service to members and for Charlotte Morris’ support to the Alliances. We are indebted to Sue, Charlotte and Sharon for their unswerving support for AIDN-Vic.

AIDN-Vic appreciates the continued support Brig Simon Welsh, Land Systems Division, and Mike Phelps and staff from the Victorian Government during 2016.

Finally, to all member companies and their employees, to our supporters in State and Federal Government, to the Executive Committee and to Sue, Charlotte and Sharon, I wish you a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous 2017.

Stephen Harvey
President, AIDN-Victoria

22 November 2016
ANNEX A: AIDN-VIC ACTIVITIES 2016

Complimentary Networking Events:
- BidWrite seminar on Winning Tenders in Defence
- EY Government Incentives Briefing
- Australian Advanced Manufacturing – Toward Greater Competitiveness and Growth
- PwC’s Defence Industry Briefing: the current and future international trade landscape

General Events:
- DCNS Innovation Seminar
- ADM Conference (AIDN National Young Achiever Award)
- LAND 400 Project Team - Industry Engagement
- BAE Systems LAND 400 - Industry Engagement Event
- Thales Land 400 Industry Engagement Day
- AIDN-Vic Minister for Defence Industry, Christopher Pyne, Reception hosted by KPMG
- LAND FORCES 2016
- Defence Fire Power Demonstration Day at Puckapunyal
- AIDN-Vic Defence Update & Golf Day

Victorian Defence Alliance Events:
- Digital Alliance – Plan Jericho Briefing & CSIRO SME Connect
- Submarines Alliance – DCNS briefing and ISO9001:2015 standard
- Aerospace Alliance – Briefing by Aerospace Division, CASG
- Maritime Alliance/Submarine Alliance - Specialist Ships Acquisition CASG, Saab Australia and SEA 1000 Combat System update
- Land Systems Alliance - LAND 400 update
- VDA Alliances & AIDN-Vic Regional Briefing Sale

AIDN-Vic Event Sponsors

Defence Update/Golf Day
- Marand Merchandise Sponsor
- ADA Golf Competition
- AME Systems Golf Competition Dinner
- RUAG Golf Drinks Cart Sponsor

Special Awards Event
- Aerospace Maritime & Defence Foundation of Australia Limited
- State Government of Victoria

AIDN-Vic Events
- BidWrite
- EY
- PwC
- KPMG