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## AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY & DEFENCE NETWORK INC

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Friday, 29 June, 2018

## Defence Industry SMEs welcome news of Future Frigates

Australia's small-to-medium defence industry peak body, the Australian Industry & Defence Network (AIDN) welcomed the announcement of the SEA 5000 Future Frigates successful bidder BAE Systems, formally announced last night.

"We would like to congratulate both BAE Systems on the win and ASC Shipbuilding securing a major role in the \$35 billion Future Frigate program," Australian Industry & Defence Network (AIDN) national president Rob Forbes said this morning.

ASC Shipbuilding will build the next generation of frigates as a subsidiary of BAE Systems during the build. This is a further demonstration of BAE Systems collaboration with the Australian Government and a commitment to the use of Australian industry capability.

"The government's investment into the Naval Shipbuilding Plan and BAE's winning design has the potential to create 4,000 jobs around the country while kickstarting the nation's sustained sovereign shipbuilding capability, is a real game changer for Australian SME's," commented Rob Forbes.

This concerted industrial effort will also provide further workforce and industry development opportunities in the lead-up to the rolling SEA 1000 Future Submarine procurement program.

"We are pleased that the SEA 5000 program will be a real investment and provide opportunity to Australia's small-to-medium defence industry businesses and its workforce, a win for the industry and a win for our members," Australian Industry & Defence Network (AIDN) national president Rob Forbes said today.

**The Australian Industry & Defence Network is the national peak body representing more than 800 small-to-medium enterprises seeking to do business in the defence and sectors. For more information, see: <http://www.aidn.org.au/>**

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