

Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative Newsletter | August 2020

A message from Commodore Jonathan Earley, Program Manager

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold and we adjust to this "new normal", I am focussed on ensuring that the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative (ASMTI) continues to deliver optimism and opportunities for the local and national economy. This month saw an exciting milestone for the Initiative, with main works getting underway at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) expansion site. Despite the pandemic, Singapore's \$2.25 billion investment in Central and North Queensland is still on track to deliver advanced military training areas.



I was also pleased to see eight new work packages released recently by SWBTA Managing Contractor Laing O'Rourke. These work packages will deliver services from general construction to mechanical services to composting toilets. It is anticipated around 160 work packages will be awarded to subcontractors to develop the expanded SWBTA site, injecting tens of millions of dollars both directly and indirectly into the local community annually over its five year delivery program. With around 85 per cent of work under the ASMTI SWBTA project and 99 per cent of work at the Greenvale training area (GVTA) yet to be awarded, I am prioritising getting you and your business ready for these opportunities. In July, we also held an interactive training session to assist successful subcontractors fulfil their new contract with Defence.

Defence is excited to be offering online tutorials later this year to help you and your business prepare to get "Defence Ready" and navigate the tender and subcontract responsibilities with ease. We will bring you more information about this program in the next edition of the newsletter. As always, my team and I will continue to keep you informed of all upcoming work opportunities and we are here to answer any questions you might have.

Rockhampton-based company Manuplex reaps ASMTI rewards



Even with the heavy toll the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the construction industry, it's been a good year so far for Central Queensland engineering and manufacturing firm *Manuplex*. In less than 12 months they've managed to nearly double their work force and they have outgrown their workshop – thanks to 'top tier' clients, including the ASMTI. They've upskilled employees, and been able to take on new apprentices who will be with the company for the next four years.

"We're not new kids on the block. We've been around for 10 years. But we made sure we attended ASMTI networking events, where we met Program Manager Commodore Earley in January," *Manuplex* Co-founder and Director, Matt Jurkic said. *Manuplex* was awarded a subcontract to deliver insulated temporary offices and administration buildings to the expanded SWBTA under the ASMTI earlier this year. Despite *Manuplex*'s success, Mr Jurkic is quick to admit it has taken effort. "You can't expect work to just turn up. It takes commitment, money and time. You need to be specific on what you're targeting, engage with partners and other local contractors, and be prepared to stretch your team, learn and strengthen your capability." And on advice for other companies looking to secure ASMTI work? "Don't be afraid to engage with industry and ask questions." *Manuplex* are looking to the future now as more comes down the ASMTI pipeline: "Big or small role, you know you're part of a bigger picture – an important project for the Commonwealth. Find that motivation, stretch your team and capabilities and get out there!"

COMING SOON TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU!

To assist your business in becoming "Defence Ready," we are creating online resources to help you prepare to compete for work to develop, maintain and service Defence's training areas. Keep an eye out for more information in our **October newsletter** and get ready to put your business' best foot forward!



ASMTI recognised as 4th major Australian infrastructure project likely to boost local property prices

Propertyology, one of Australia's major property market analysts, has trawled its expansive national research library and ranked Australia's top 10 major infrastructure projects by their potential to positive influence property markets.

"The ASMTI is going to see widespread and long term economic benefits. Many jobs will be required to support the project, and this will bring confidence to local property markets. Residents of Rockhampton and Townsville will see benefits for 20 years. That's exciting for Australia as a country," Propertyology Head of Research, Simon Pressley said.

The ASMTI came in at number four, in front of Maroochydore city centre development and Queens Wharf in Brisbane. The report defines the influence a project has on the property market of an individual city as the combined sum of the jobs created during construction, the post-construction jobs, those job volumes relative to the total volume of jobs within that city, the broader economic benefit, and whether the project creates a legacy of improved local sentiment.

"In addition to construction jobs, the 25-year provision of goods and services to trainees will provide long-term and enduring economic benefits for Rockhampton and Townsville, increasing the demand for real estate in both regional cities," Mr Pressley said.



Image: Rockhampton and Townsville property prices courtesy Propertyology

Australia marks the National Day of Singapore

Singapore celebrated its 55th National Day on Sunday, 9 August. This date is commemorated every year to mark Singapore's independence from Malaysia in 1965. The celebrations were different this year in Singapore, where citizens watched the National Day Parade through their screens instead of on the streets, due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. There was also a televised address by Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsein Loong. Central Queensland councillors led by Rockhampton Regional Council Mayor Margaret Strelow and Livingstone Shire Council Mayor Andy Ireland also paused to mark this special occasion and the region's friendship with Singapore.



Image: Central Queensland marks National Day of Singapore

ASMTI Q&A

Q: How many local companies have already won work so far under the ASMTI?

A: To date, 24 subcontracts have been awarded under the SWBTA ASMTI expansion to Central Queensland companies, and for GVTA Early Works, three have been awarded to North Queensland companies.

Ready to get involved?

SWBTA, Central Queensland: Contact Managing Contractor Laing O'Rourke at ASMTI@laingorourke.com.au for further information about construction works.

Greenvale, North Queensland: With the Managing Contractor to be announced later this year, submit a Capability Statement to ASMTI.GVTA.CapStat@arecongroup.com.

Have a question or comment?

Contact **Sean Hawkins**, ASMTI Defence Liaison Officer:

P: 0429 901 465

Contact **Mick Reilly**, Business Community Liaison:

P: 0417 614 865

Visit the ASMTI website for more info or send us an email:

W: www.defence.gov.au/Initiatives/ASMTI

E: ASMTI.Local@defence.gov.au

