

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Thursday, 3 August 2017

SA ACT unite in push for national space agency at COAG meeting

South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory will join forces to strengthen calls for a national space agency at tomorrow's Council of Australian Government's Industry and Skills Council (CISC) meeting.

The space counterparts will present a joint position paper discussing ways to grow Australia's space industry at the meeting, which will be attended by Australia's state and federal ministers, including South Australian Assistant Minister to the Treasurer Chris Picton.

Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith said the move will add further pressure on the Australian Government to take action and establish a dedicated Australian Space Agency, aimed at stimulating the nation's space economy and making sure we secure our share of this multi-billion global industry. Opportunities abound, not just in communications, but also in defence, research and security..

Background

SA and the ACT are leading the nation in developing strong space ecosystems, and have agreed to collaborate to support the growth and development of the Australian space industry. At least 60 local organisations with space-related expertise, or the potential to apply current expertise to the space value chain, have been identified in SA.

In March this year the Space Industry Association of Australia released its White Paper, *Advancing Australia in Space*, calling on the Australian Government to establish an Australian Space Agency. SA Cabinet considered the SIAA White Paper and agreed to advocate for a dedicated agency to be based in Canberra, with an operational centre in South Australia.

Pressure on the Australian Government to establish a national space agency is mounting as Adelaide prepares to host the 68th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in September. The event is set to attract around 3500 international and local delegates, including the world's leading space agencies, making it one of the state's largest conferences.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith

South Australia and the ACT have competitive space capabilities and are committed to supporting the growth of the Australian space industry. Similar to the defence industry, the space sector will deliver opportunities for manufacturers and service providers to transition to a high technology, high growth sector, creating jobs of the future.

Along with our ACT counterparts, we are strongly advocating for an Australian Space Agency, with an operational centre in Adelaide which will boost our competitiveness and create a thriving national

space industry. This fits with our established space heritage, dating back to the Woomera range in the 1940s.

Quotes attributable to Assistant Minister to the Treasurer Chris Picton

Next month the eyes of the world will be on Australia's space industry when delegates and space agencies from all over the world come to town for the 68th International Astronautical Congress.

Opportunities stemming from IAC could be missed, and our nation will continue to miss out on its fair share of the \$420 billion global space industry, if the Australian Government fails to act quickly to support our participation in the industry.

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