

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

South Australia's aerospace industry on world stage at air show

South Australia's largest ever industry contingent will attend the bi-annual aviation, aerospace and defence showcase, Avalon Airshow, in Geelong, as the state looks to grow jobs and investment in the sector.

Eighteen companies from the local defence industry will join the *South Australia The Defence State* stand, along with SA's three universities Adelaide University, UniSA and Flinders University.

Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith said that Avalon 2017 is another opportunity to promote South Australia's natural advantages as a hub for national intelligence and surveillance capabilities and Unmanned Aerial Systems.

The Defence State stand is also part of the Royal Australian Air Force Jericho Trail, in recognition of the state's involvement since Plan Jericho launched in 2015. Plan Jericho will transform our Air Force for the information age.

The event will also see the Australian debut of the much-talked-about F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. South Australian companies including Levett Engineering and BAE Systems have been involved in the program, manufacturing parts and components.

Background

South Australia is the centre of the nation's military intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and electronic warfare capabilities. We are home to the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft, Triton unmanned aerial system and the most suitable testing and training environments for the new aircraft in Woomera and Cultana.

Avalon 2017 comprises two concurrent events – the Australian International Airshow and the Australian International Aerospace and Defence Exposition.

The Aerospace and Defence Exposition is the largest civil and military aviation and aerospace trade show in the southern hemisphere and serves to promote the development of Australia's aviation and aerospace industries. As well as providing a showcase for Australian companies, Avalon is a platform for a program of conferences, workshops, seminars and events designed to provide networking, sales and business development opportunities for all industry participants.

Australia's strategic intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and electronic warfare (ISREW) capabilities are centred in South Australia, and underpinned by a state-based cluster of leading defence aerospace companies.

Locally based companies include Airbus Group Australia Pacific, BAE Systems Australia, Boeing Defence Australia, Cobham Aviation Services, Lockheed Martin Australia, Nova Systems, QinetiQ, Raytheon Australia, RUAG Australia and TAE.

Supporting these companies is a vibrant group of innovative small-to-medium enterprises specialising in software development, systems engineering and integration, and advanced manufacturing.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith

Our defence industry is an extremely important part of South Australia's transition to our advanced manufacturing future. But the industry extends beyond the maritime sector and we have a number of companies doing terrific work in the aerospace and space sectors and we are supporting their efforts at Avalon 2017. South Australia's aerospace industry is competing on the global stage.

South Australia is ready to support the Royal Australian Air Force in its transition to the world's first fifth generation Air Force through Plan Jericho.

We are also focused on building partnerships with Defence Science and Technology Group, the university sector and industry to drive innovation and new technologies which will serve future defence programs.

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