

Wednesday 21 March 2007

SA FIRM SIGNS \$19M DEFENCE DEAL

Premier Mike Rann has congratulated South Australian engineering firm Levett Engineering on signing a letter of intent for a \$19 million deal to supply components for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

The deal between Adelaide-based Levett Engineering and United States-based technology giant Pratt & Whitney was announced today at the Australian International Airshow at Avalon – the biggest airshow in the Southern Hemisphere.

The announcement follows a visit to the high profile defence event by Premier Rann and Deputy Premier Kevin Foley yesterday – including meeting with Levett Engineering at the South Australian stand.

Premier Rann said under the letter of intent, Levett Engineering will supply engine components for Pratt & Whitney's F135 military engine, which powers the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

“This deal is fantastic news for Levett Engineering and for South Australia,” Mr Rann said.

“It is also testimony to the fact that South Australia is recognised as a world leader when it comes to defence.”

Premier Rann said Levett Engineering has been at the forefront of defence manufacturing in South Australia since its inception in 1989.

The Elizabeth-based company has grown from a one-man operation to employ 23 people, with annual sales in excess of \$2.5 million.

“Levett Engineering's letter of intent with Pratt & Whitney comes after much hard work and perseverance by this local company over a long period,” Mr Rann said.

“Pratt & Whitney is known for having exhaustive demands on its suppliers when it comes to quality and best value.

“It took four years of evaluation of potential suppliers leading to Pratt & Whitney signing this letter of intent with Levett Engineering.

“This deal shows that South Australian industry is truly world competitive.

“Levett Engineering also foresees that it will not be the only South Australian company to benefit from this program, with the likelihood of other companies becoming lower tier suppliers as the program ramps up to full rate production over the next few years.”