

Tuesday, 28 August, 2012

WORKS START ON LARGEST TITANIUM MANUFACTURING FACILITY

Premier Jay Weatherill and BAE Systems Australia Chief Executive David Allott today turned the first sod for BAE Systems' new advanced titanium manufacturing facility at Edinburgh Parks.

The facility will be the largest of its kind in Australia, manufacturing highly specialised, five metre long, thin titanium parts for the Joint Strike Fighter vertical tail fin, as well as other small specialised components for the aircraft.

The commencement of site works marks a major milestone in this project, and a significant step forward in South Australia's advanced manufacturing vision.

"On this site, BAE Systems Australia will deliver the single largest manufacturing package awarded to Australian industry on the Joint Strike Fighter program," Mr Weatherill said.

"The production of vertical tail fin parts is high precision, advanced machining work employing state of the art manufacturing technology, tools and techniques."

To complement BAE's investment, Rosebank Engineering will establish a new processing facility alongside BAE's site, providing world-class specialised treatment and metal finishing services.

"BAE Systems and Rosebank's combined capability will be an Australian first, opening up a raft of other aerospace, commercial and defence opportunities for local industry," Mr Weatherill said.

"Our support of these facilities reinforces my government's unwavering commitment to building a sustainable defence industry in South Australia.

"Generating revenue of \$1.8 billion and currently employing about 27,000 people directly and indirectly, defence remains a critical industry for this State, and the foundation of our advanced manufacturing future.

"Headquartered in Adelaide, BAE Systems is a key player in our local defence industry employing approximately 1400 people in South Australia, nearly 30 per cent of their Australian workforce.

"They operate at the forefront of defence technology delivering a diverse range of projects in South Australia from submarine periscope modifications to Nulka missiles, military vehicle upgrades and Joint Strike Fighter work."