

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Investment and Trade

Friday, 1 September 2017

Defence SA celebrates 10 years of defence industry job building and sector growth

The South Australian Government's dedicated defence agency, Defence SA, today celebrates 10 years of building jobs and a strong, viable and sustainable defence industry in the state.

The anniversary marks a decade of defence industry success in South Australia, with Defence SA supporting the delivery of major defence projects, attracting significant investment and strengthening the state's naval shipbuilding and defence capabilities.

The stand-alone organisation, supported by the Defence SA Advisory Board, was formed on 1 September 2007 to build upon the work of the Defence Industry Advisory Board and the Port Adelaide Maritime Corporation (PAMC) to attract the \$8 billion Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) program to South Australia.

Tasked with the role of creating a sustainable defence industry in South Australia, the agency's first task was to support the State Government's 2004 decision to underpin its bid for the AWD program by building a ship lift and Common User Facility (CUF) at Techport Australia.

Following the Federal Government's decision in May 2005 to build the AWDs in SA, construction of the CUF started in 2007, before being completed and ready for first commercial use in 2010.

Background

Key South Australian Defence achievements and milestones:

- **2010:** Completing the CUF, including the largest ship lift in the southern hemisphere, transfer system, wharf and the Maritime Skills Centre at Techport Australia, enabling the Australian Government to commence major shipbuilding projects.
- **2010:** Creating a new South Australian Government Defence Industries portfolio with dedicated Minister, making South Australia the first state in Australia to do so.
- **2010:** Defence Industries Minister Kevin Foley participated in the first overseas trade mission to attract defence work from the US and UK.
- **2011:** Supporting the relocation of the 7th Royal Australia Regiment Battalion from Darwin to new facilities within the RAAF Base Edinburgh.
- **2012:** Working closely with the Department of Defence, Department of Industry and state agencies to establish the Woomera Prohibited Area Advisory Board, a *management framework* to improve the co-existence of national security and economic interests in the WPA.

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- **2012:** ASC secures long-term contract to provide through-life support for the Collins Class submarine fleet at Techport Australia.
- **2014:** Sir Angus Houston is appointed Chair of Defence SA Advisory Board, following the appointment of Sir Peter Cosgrove to Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.
- **2014:** The five-fold expansion of the Cultana Training Area receives the green light, with the State Government assisting the expansion to provide important support to Army's 1st Brigade, particularly the 7RAR Battle Group based at RAAF Base Edinburgh.
- **2015-2016:** Launch of the first and second Air Warfare Destroyers, Nuship *Hobart* and *Brisbane* respectively at Techport Australia.
- **2016:** Securing the \$35 billion Future Frigate and \$50 billion Future Submarine programs for construction at Techport Australia.
- **2016:** Ensuring the first Offshore Patrol Vessels will be built at Techport Australia from 2018, maintaining the skills base and infrastructure for the Future Frigate program.
- **2016:** Establishing a dedicated space office within Defence SA to support the growth of South Australia's space industry.
- **2016:** Delivery of the first P-8A Poseidon aircraft to RAAF Base Edinburgh, the home of maritime patrol and future home of Triton unmanned aerial vehicles.
- **2016:** First overseas defence exhibition at Euronaval in Paris.
- **2017:** Delivery of the first Air Warfare Destroyer HMAS *Hobart* at Techport Australia.
- **2017:** Establishing the Defence Innovation Partnership, a new organisation that generates defence-related research and development activity for the state.
- **2017:** Securing the sale of Techport Australia to the Australian Government for \$230 million; recouping the state's significant investment and allowing the swift commencement of upcoming naval shipbuilding projects.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Martin Hamilton-Smith

This significant milestone marks a decade of defence success – it is a time to celebrate how far we have come in our naval shipbuilding and defence capabilities, while also looking to the future to ensure we maximise investment attraction and job opportunities.

Our vision to create a sustainable, long-term defence industry and to be the nation's leading 'Defence State' began over a decade ago, and through hard work and commitment we have transformed that dream into a reality.

Our state is home to a world-class defence industry, delivering many of Defence's largest and most complex projects. The South Australian Government, through the help of this key agency, is committed to supporting and growing the defence sector, which is pivotal to the growth of our economy and providing high-tech jobs of the future.