

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Friday, March 31, 2017

Future Frigate program Request for Tender released

South Australian Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith is encouraged by the Australian Government's release today of the Request for Tender (RFT) release for SEA 5000, Australia \$35B Future Frigates.

The release to the three shortlisted designers; BAE Systems, Fincantieri and Navantia is an important next step in creating the tempo for future shipbuilding work in South Australia, estimated to create more than 2000 direct jobs, preserving key skill capability and create a sustainable naval shipbuilding industry.

He has welcomed the ongoing and future investment by the bidders in South Australia and its world class shipbuilding industry.

Background

Techport Australia is the confirmed build location of the Future Frigate program, a fleet of nine vessels to replace the in-service ANZAC class frigates. The program is scheduled to commence in 2020 as part of a continuous build.

The new frigates will be larger and more capable than the ANZACs, with a heavy emphasis on anti-submarine warfare. The design and construction phase of the program is valued at approximately \$35 billion with the program expected to create more than 2000 jobs in South Australia.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith

The Future Frigate program is an important project in a continuous naval shipbuilding program which will stretch for the next 30 to 50 years.

South Australia is the national centre of naval shipbuilding and we welcome international companies to Adelaide to engage with our world-class defence industry. South Australia's defence industry is highly capable, having produced some of the most complex defence programs in Australia's history.

The South Australian Government is a huge supporter of our local industry and we are committed to maximising our state's involvement in defence industry programs and seek assurance from the Australian Government that they will seek to maximize Australian Industry Capability in the SEA 5000 project.

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