

Tuesday 19 December 2006

ROLLS ROYCE SIGNS UP TO \$50 M DEAL TO BUILD TECHPORT AUSTRALIA SHIPLIFT

Premier Mike Rann announced today that Rolls Royce Marine had won a \$50 million contract to build what will eventually be the largest shiplift in the Southern Hemisphere needed to build the Navy's three \$6 billion Air Warfare Destroyers.

Mr Rann and Deputy Premier Kevin Foley today went to the ASC's Osborne site to sign the contract with the Managing Director Rolls Royce Marine Australia, Doug Brice and Chief Executive of the Port Adelaide Maritime Corporation Andrew Fletcher.

Mr Rann said this was one of the largest contracts to be let as part of the State Government's \$243 million commitment to building the infrastructure necessary at Osborne's Techport Australia facility that will be the hub of SA's new shipbuilding industry.

"I'm delighted that Rolls Royce Marine, considered a world leader in the design of shiplifts and transfer systems having installed about 230 of them worldwide, has won this important contract," Mr Rann said.

"This 156 metre-long *Syncrolift* shiplift will be built to lift ships that weigh up to 9300 tonnes.

"The ASC, next door to Techport Australia, has been using another *Syncrolift* shiplift to service the Collins Class submarines.

"Rolls Royce is one of the most respected power systems and services providers in the world in civil and defence aerospace, marine and energy - and it currently supplies more than 2000 marine customers including 70 navies across the globe.

"Rolls Royce Marine has made it clear that it is keen to team with a variety of South Australian businesses to build the shiplift.

"To get as many local contractors as possible involved in the project, Techport Australia has launched a supplier registration portal and is encouraging local companies to actively pursue opportunities that this massive project is providing.

"The shiplift will be ready to go into service in late 2009, following initial design work and a two-year fabrication and installation program which begins mid next year.

"Importantly, this new shiplift will be capable of being extended to 210 metres in future to service the giant Panamax-size ships and proposed Navy amphibious vessels.

"This investment is designed to act as a catalyst for consolidating naval shipbuilding expertise in South Australia, as well as creating a sustainable shipbuilding, repair and refit industry for the future.

“The AWD project will inject an estimated \$100 million into the State’s economy annually and create about 3000 jobs. I understand ASC has already employed more than 400 people to work on the project.

“The AWD project is one of the most exciting projects to be attracted to South Australia in many decades, but this project is not an end in itself.

“The Government’s vision is to build Techport Australia around the AWD project, and to attract leading defence companies from around the world to Adelaide and to fulfil the objectives we set ourselves in the State’s Defence Sector Plan.

“This Government also aims to double the defence sector’s contribution to Gross State Product to \$2 billion within 10 years,” Mr Rann said.

“Our aim now is to build on that momentum and bring more of the industry and jobs into our State and to achieve our target of increasing SA’s defence workforce from 16 000 to 28 000 jobs within 10 years,” Mr Rann said.

Contractors interested in exploring opportunities for work associated with the Techport infrastructure project can log onto website www.techportaustralia.icn.org.au