



AIDN NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 OF 2021

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Upcoming events in 2021

MARCH 2021

31 March

[11th Australian Space Forum, Adelaide SA](#)

APRIL 2021

19 – 20 April

[Chief of Army Symposium 2021, Brisbane QLD](#)

29 April

[AIDN NSW April Function hosted by Deco](#)

30 April

AIDN SA Breakfast event, Naval Military & Air Force Club

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LETTER TO MEMBERS FROM THE AIDN NATIONAL CEO

Welcome to all to the Autumn edition of the AIDN Newsletter. I hope that this finds you all well and hopefully doing well in your businesses.

We have once again asked for an article from the Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Melissa Price MP, so we do thank the Minister for taking the time to provide some thoughts and updates from Government.

In the interests of operating as the bi-partisan organisation that we are I have also asked Matt Keogh, the Opposition Spokesperson for Defence Industry to contribute to this newsletter.

I believe that it is important to provide you the members with insights from both the Government and the Opposition, we will make this a regular feature for this newsletter.

It continues to be busy for AIDN, as you know AIDN across multiple fronts. We are in the final stages of creating AIDN as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. We are finalising the administration and all documentation has been submitted and we are awaiting final approvals so that we can commence the transfer of employees, membership, assets and cash reserves. After this process is finalised we will be sitting down with all the states and territories to understand their financial requirements going forward and setting appropriate budgets for them to ensure that each state and territory is undertaking networking and other events.

The transition has been a long and deliberate process and it is important to thank both the current and previous boards who having recognised the advantages and power of a national entity pushed strongly. Whilst singling out individuals is not always appropriate, given the amount of work everyone has contributed, it is important to both acknowledge and thank Carl Quarterman

for his drive and focus to achieving this successful outcome.

Whilst the process to finalise the national organisation from a technical perspective we have been operating as a national organisation since I came onboard. We are at the forefront of the debate to ensure that Australian companies are being given every opportunity to succeed. AIDN is an invited contributor to all the reviews that Defence is conducting and we are a strong contributor. Reviews such as the AUSDEFCON template update and the Major Service Providers being a couple of the very important elements.

We continue to advocate for your rights and for your inclusion into all defence programs.

AIDN has advised both major parties that we will be undertaking a review into their Defence Industry policies in the lead up to the next Federal election and we will provide our analysis to the membership, as well as all members of Parliament and the media, AIDN has made it clear to all sides of the political spectrum that we will represent the needs of Australian industry via every means at our disposal.

We continue to drive the debate in this important area and hopefully you are taking the time to read the OpEds that we are producing, the last four OpEds have generated close to 15000 reviews and this is important as it demonstrates our growing influence.

There remain many challenges for all of us going forward, and there are some fundamental basics that require attention. So, during this year you should be aware that we will be advocating for a clearly defined definition of 'sovereign capability and industry', however we are not simply calling for a definition we are also calling for the plan to achieve this.

Continued on page 3

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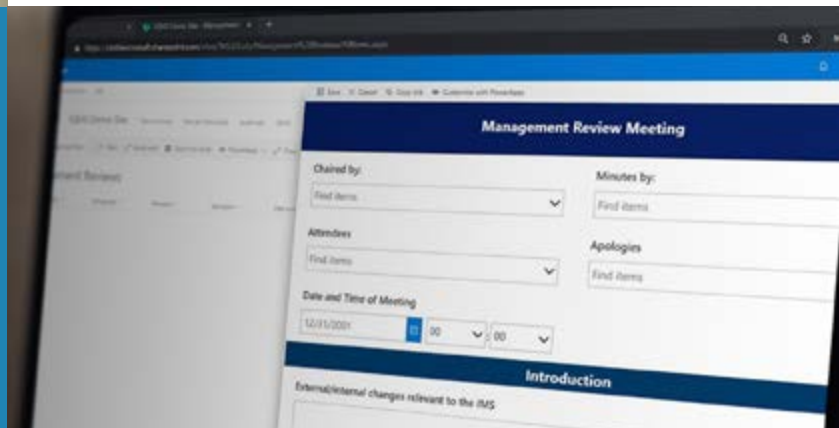
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Continued from page 1

AIDN firmly believes that if there is a sovereign industry and capability then this activity must be undertaken by an Australian controlled company. We would expect that not only are sovereign capabilities identified there must be an full analysis of requirements to achieve this, an understanding of the current capabilities of Australian controlled companies and then a roadmap produced that clearly identifies how Defence will achieve this outcome. It is not acceptable to identify a capability as being sovereign and then simple continuing to acquire this capability from foreign owned multinational companies.

AIDN will continue to push for a proper definition of an Australian company, currently Defence is operating with the following definition;

Australian business entities that perform work in Australia with Australian-based employees and have an Australian Business Number (ABN); and

New Zealand business entities that perform work in New Zealand with New Zealand-based employees (consistent with the

Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement between Australia and New Zealand) and have a New Zealand Business Number (NZBN).

Australian Industry also includes subsidiaries of overseas companies (e.g., equipment manufacturers) based in Australia or New Zealand, that meet the above criteria.

We simply do not accept that this is an appropriate definition and we will work with Government to review and hopefully update this, an Australian company must be genuinely controlled in Australia, it must have the ability to make decisions by appropriately qualified people in Australia for Australian programs, it needs to conduct research and development activities in Australia funded by the company for the benefit of Australia and it needs to be able to export that technology, with the appropriate export approvals by the Australian Government, these are some of the requirements that AIDN believes goes to the heart of defining an Australian company.

We also continue to represent your issues and concerns to the Prime Contractors and whenever we are made aware of issues and

you seek our assistance we will absolutely work to resolve the issue.

It is AIDN's responsibility to ensure that the voices of Australian Industry are heard and importantly listened to. AIDN will advocate strongly and without fear or favour to ensure that this happens.

Whilst I am sure that many of you are aware of the young achievers award, I feel that it is important to acknowledge our finalists, Guillaume Benoit Vetea Jounel, Taylor Odishoo, Priyank Menezes, Emily Jean Purnell – a very impressive group of talented individuals who will achieve great things in their careers. A very special congratulations of course goes to Grace Johnson who was the winner of the YAA, again an incredibly talented person who we should all celebrate.

Finally I should acknowledge the fine work undertaken by Mel Woon, Jenny Pitt and Alanna Mahlakolisane for the efforts organising the AIDN National dinner held 3 Feb this year, Mel in particular shouldered so much of the burden to get this great event, attended by 400 delegates over the line.



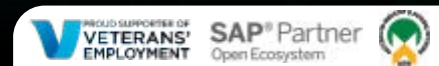
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GETTING DEFENCE READY



It has been almost two years since I became the Minister for Defence Industry. And yet I am still, to this day, finding new hurdles to overcome for Australian small and medium businesses desperate for a presence in our exciting defence industry.

With your help, my team and I are identifying these hurdles and knocking them down one by one, to give you fair and equal opportunities to compete for Defence work.

One of the key blockers that we need to overcome is ensuring Australian SMEs are 'Defence Ready'.

I was surprised to learn that about 40 per cent of businesses that apply for Defence work have insufficient cyber measures to meet Defence standards. That's why, on 22 February, AiGroup and I launched the 'Working Securely with Defence' guide. It's a go-to guide for Australian businesses looking to improve their security practices in a bid to win Defence work. Over the past 12 months Defence, the Australian Signals Directorate, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation and the Australian Cyber Security Centre, together with AiGroup, developed this guide, drawing on deep expertise and connections across industry and Government.

The percentage of businesses missing out on Defence work due to insufficient security measures has already prompted Defence to focus on providing greater support to Defence Industry Security Program (DISP) applicants to improve their cyber security. Over the past year Defence has helped more than 600 companies to improve their security through the DISP. This program was set up to support Australian businesses in understanding and meeting their security obligations when engaging in Defence projects, contracts and tenders.

The need to make more businesses capable of overcoming this hurdle is underlined by the Morrison Government's \$15 billion commitment to cyber and information warfare capabilities over the coming decade. I want to make sure Defence works with our industry partners, especially when it comes to cyber security, so businesses can be ready and more experienced as we come back from COVID-19. I strongly encourage all businesses to read this guide to understand the security you need in place if you want to win Defence work. The guide can be found at: <https://ext.defence.gov.au/security/industry-resources>.

Getting 'Defence Ready' is more than just having the right security practices in place.

Businesses need to know how to tender correctly and most importantly, be able to compete on capability. This is why it's going to be so important to get the new delivery model of training courses and business advice in CDIC 2.0 right. As a result, a key focus for me this year is ensuring we have the right support structure and system in place to prepare Australian SMEs for life in our defence industry.

It is a long and enduring process to correctly position your business to win defence work. There is no cheap, quick or easy solution to achieving this. But our Government is working to support companies by providing the advice to chart them in the right direction. Our goal is to continue to build a strong, sovereign defence industry made up of capable SMEs and large Defence primes that can work together to deliver for the men and women of the Australian Defence Force. That's why the reformed CDIC will look to partner with industry associations to deliver an improved business advisory and training service to get you on the road to Defence readiness. Most importantly, we need to manage expectations. Not everyone can be a winner, but everyone should have a fair and equal chance to compete for Defence work once they're at the 'Defence Ready' stage. That means you have the right security practices in place, know how to correctly respond to Defence tenders, can compete on capability and have the capital to support your bid.

I certainly agree with many in the defence industry that Defence's procurement contracting templates, processes and practices are not yet fit-for-purpose and must be overhauled. That's why we are undertaking a significant review into the Australian Standard for Defence Contracting (ASDEFCON) and Defence procurement. We must reduce burdensome red-tape that is unduly placed on Australian small and medium businesses and ensure Defence has a more fit-for-purpose system that balances industry's needs as well as its own.

We must remember that at the end of the day, our troops on the ground, our pilots in the air and our sailors at sea will use the capabilities we procure for them to keep Australia safe – so tendering with Defence will not be easy. My goal and key focus for this year is to ensure the support structure and systems that we have in place allow you to put your best foot forward to win Defence work. The foundations are laid and the opportunities are vast as we invest \$270 billion in Defence capabilities over the coming decade. Over this next year, I will keep you informed of the changes that I am making to the system and how we will improve our support to you.

MEET THE PRESIDENTS

AIDN QLD



Carl Quarterman
Managing Director, Queensland Gaskets

AIDN NT



Steve Ludwig
Managing Director of Yerran Industrial

AIDN SA



Gary Bettcher
General Manager of IQMS Australasia

AIDN NSW



Anna Murray
National Territory Manager Australia, CADPRO
Systems Australia

AIDN TAS



Diane Edgerton
CEO of Direct Edge Manufacturing

AIDN WA



Kristian Constantinides
General Manager of Airflite

AIDN ACT



Stuart Althaus
CEO of SME Gateway

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2021 AIDN NATIONAL GALA DINNER

AIDN kicked off the year with a bang at the AIDN National Gala Dinner held on the 3rd of February 2021 with a sell-out event of 400 attendees, the highest number of attendees for an AIDN National Gala dinner. It was fantastic to see so many members and provide an opportunity for our members to network again (socially distanced of course!).

Guests were welcomed to the dinner by AIDN National Chairman of the Board Graham Priestnall who provided an update on AIDN National's progress. AIDN National Gala Dinner Platinum Sponsor Thales delivered an informative address on Thales activities in Australia.

Tony Fraser from CASG again presented the AIDN National Young Achiever Award for 2021, with the winner gaining a place on the DISC course for 2022. Congratulations to all of the Chapter Young Achiever Award finalists!

Due to the quarantine measures for WA, the Minister for Defence Industry was unable to appear in person and provided attendees with a video presentation outlining her commitment to the Defence Industry and SME engagement.

AIDN looks forward to hosting our next gala dinner in 2022 and hopes to see you all there!



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2021 AIDN NATIONAL GALA DINNER



2021 AIDN NATIONAL GALA DINNER



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JFD is the world leading underwater capability provider, serving the commercial and defence markets with innovative diving, submarine and hyperbaric rescue, technical/training solutions and services, allowing JFD to save and preserve the lives of those who operate undersea.

The company is at the forefront of Hyperbaric Rescue as the world's leading provider of submarine rescue capability and an established provider of submarine escape training. JFD is an awarded supplier of defence rebreathers and associated diving equipment, and also provides innovative diving solutions and saturation diving systems to the commercial diving industry.

JFD Australia operates from four sites; the RAN's premier base in Western Australia HMAS STIRLING Bibra Lake (WA), Kirrawee and Warner's Bay (NSW) and provides a fully turnkey submarine rescue service in support of the Royal Australian Navy and, maintenance upkeep and engineering services for the Australian Defence Force's complement of rebreather diving equipment, surface support breathing apparatus, recompression chambers and othersupport systems as used by the Defence diver.

In addition to maintenance and servicing, JFD Australia also enjoys world class recognition in the production of recompression and treatment chambers as built in our JFD Cowan site at Warners Bay, Newcastle, NSW.

In late 2019 JFD Australia was awarded a four year contract by the Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) to build and pressure test ring stiffened cylinders modelling submarine like hulls. JFD Australia is the prime contractor for the project and is partnering with other leading Australian defence industry companies over the duration of the contract which will focus on testing three pressure vessels to simulate a submarine hull and apply pressure to the point where the hull collapses.

Search "Black Carillon 2019" on YouTube for the video of our yearly exercise with the Royal Australian Navy, which tests our rescue system in a series of scenarios designed to replicate a real-life submarine rescue.

JFD was honoured to be a silver sponsor at the recent AIDN National Gala Dinner and was represented by our non-executive Australia Chair, Rear Admiral Allan du Toit, RAN, AM (Retired).





YAA Finalists for 2020



YAA Winner 2020

2020 AIDN NATIONAL YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD

Each year the AIDN Young Achiever Award (YAA) showcases the talents of Australia's future Defence Industry leaders by recognising the important contribution they make to the Australian Defence Industry.

On the 3rd of February, more than 400 government and defence representatives and manufacturing industry guests joined AIDN to celebrate the achievements of 5

finalists from across the country at the 2020 AIDN National Gala Dinner in Canberra.

AIDN congratulates all 5 State Finalists for 2020:

- Grace Johnson - Palantir Technologies Australia
- Guillaume Benoit Vetea Jounel - DroneShield Ltd
- Emily Jean Prunnell - Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd
- Taylor Odishoo - Thales Australia
- Priyank Menezes - Airbus Australia Pacific

The highlight of the Award program was the announcement of the 2020 National YAA Winner, Ms Grace Johnson of Palantir Technologies Australia.

As a Deployment Strategist, Grace demonstrates a keen interest in the Defence Industry and works closely with clients ensuring alignment of end user systems through provision of advice, proof-of-concept programs, and design workshops. Grace also participates in Palantir Technologies' artificial intelligence and machine learning capability programs with a prime focus on taking direct field experiences and aligning them with Australian and global business strategies.

AIDN would like to thank all member organisations who encouraged their young achievers to apply for the 2020 program and we look forward to another successful program for 2021.

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OpEd from Matt Keogh



We are a country that punches well above our weight in so many things.

We traditionally finish in the top 5 in the Olympics, despite being so much smaller than our competition.

We invented WiFi, the Blackbox, spray on skin and the cochlear implant.

We are world leaders in mining and sub-sea oil and gas.

We have handled the COVID crisis better than most of the world.

In World War II we made the Boomerang fighter aircraft and just now it is Australia that is leading the world in autonomous aircraft with the Loyal Wingman.

So why is it that we so are doubtful about the potential of our defence industry and our own capability.

We are competitive with other nations on so many things, we have the skills, resources, and the thirst for work but the simple fact is, we as a nation don't back ourselves in our defence industry.

The Australian Defence Force is a fantastic customer of the global defence industry supply chain.

But why can't we – Australia - be their primary supplier instead?

This is the crux of a conversation I had recently with a successful Australian defence industry business.

They're doing well, participating on some major international defence projects, which benefit our ADF but are largely for foreign primes and forces overseas.

But they have the capacity for so much more.

In my discussions with defence industry more broadly, I'm told the same thing

time, and time again – they look for export tenders and contracts overseas in order to be deemed "legit" by our own Department of Defence.

At the same time, they are fighting for those overseas contracts with one hand tied behind their back because they can't point to contracts with our own ADF.

We need a paradigm shift.

We need our Government and Department of Defence to back our Australian defence industry businesses as a necessary and important strategic capability, right up there with our naval, land and air platforms themselves.

While this means taking on the risk that comes with fostering local companies, so we can embrace the reward, we know full well that overseas designed and built equipment presents many other risks in any event.

Ultimately, we – our Government - need to back ourselves.

Already through the COVID-19 pandemic, not only have we been well down the list when it comes to sourcing PPE and commencing our vaccine rollout, we've been victims of "vaccine nationalism" where countries have prioritised their own interests over their international export contracts.

Why would we expect this to be any different in a conflict situation?

The Aussie spirit of mateship is alive and well in our defence industry and beyond. When we need something to happen, we pull together and make it so.

We saw this during the response to the Bushfires of Christmas 2019 where the HMAS Canberra and Adelaide were deployed to the New South Wales South

Coast, fully stocked in a matter of hours due to the fact that local companies pulled together to get sh** done.

We know we can do what's needed when it's required, and this is the mindset we need for all our defence industry projects.

Australian defence companies don't want to be just building to-spec parts off a ship blueprint developed decades prior or come from overseas.

There's no strategic or sovereign capability development in that, in fact it leads to the use of old and obsolete technology and a deskilling of our industrial base.

We should instead be commissioning Australian companies on an outcomes basis.

If we need something for our defence kit, Australian companies should have the opportunity to put forward unique solutions.

This provides the opportunity for research, development and innovation in the sector.

In order to enable this, the Commonwealth must put skin in the game.

It's not enough to put out a tender contract and let international prime companies get away with "best endeavours" provisions, only to advise that Australian companies don't have the capacity or capability to undertake specific work, favouring their existing, often international, supply chain.

The Australian defence industry needs to be enabled by the Commonwealth.

From the Defence Minister down there must be a new approach.

The "A" in AIC should be about home-grown and Australian owned, Australian registered businesses.

The "C" in AIC must truly be about our sovereign capability, not just content, which under the current Government's guidelines could mean hotels, travel agents and language classes just as equally as building ships and designing new technology.

That means building and developing things here in Australia should be our priority.

If we don't have the specific capability here, we must nurture and build that capability strategically.

We must develop and foster our current mid-tier defence industry businesses from which we can grow indigenous prime defence contractors.

There is no reason that Australia can't be a world leader in defence manufacturing.

If undertaken effectively, home grown prime defence contractors will be enabled to take the lead on projects.

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

No longer simply subcontracting to foreign lead contractors, rather working directly with Defence to provide new capabilities to our ADF.

Similarly, we should be using Australian shipbuilders in all future shipbuilding programs – not just providing shipbuilding labour, but also in the design, engineering, drafting and integration work.

Ultimately, this means continually investing in the development of our industry and our overall capability here at home.

This is why Labor has already committed to implementing concrete rules to maximise

local content and create local jobs in Defence acquisitions.

This means negotiating appropriate, specific, enforceable and audited AIC commitments into the contractual arrangements for all major defence materiel procurements and local defence contracts. The disclosure of these commitments must be public and transparent.

It is up to the Federal Government to implement contractual requirements that compel defence primes to do the work here in Australia, and to work with local companies now and put in place the mechanism to grow our Australian defence

industry from SMEs to primes. Requiring minimum levels that are only met at the end of a project with no transparency is not good enough.

Australian companies need to be factored into the defence project supply chain from the very beginning of a project and continue that through the life of the platform.

We must share the risk, put skin in the game and back ourselves in defence like we do in the Olympics.

Matt Keogh MP is the Shadow Minister for Defence Industry.

AIDN NEWS

AIDN QLD

February Monthly Members Meeting

On Thursday 18 February, AIDN QLD, together with AIDN QLD Member, Minecorp, hosted the February Monthly Members Meeting at Minecorp's Acacia Ridge facility.

The February meeting was the first for 2021 and saw more than 60 AIDN QLD members gather to listen to guest speakers from Defence Jobs Queensland (DJQ), AIDN QLD members Minecorp and IntelliDesign as well as the CDIC.

Topics of discussion included an update on the Queensland Government's Key Initiatives for Defence, upcoming events and their commitment to Land Forces, IntelliDesign's overview of their business initiatives and Defence Market Strategy and the CIDCs outline of their program including a Case Study with Minecorp to assist members seeking CDIC funding.

Our host, Minecorp, provided members with an overview of their facilities in Australia and around the world and their investment in product design, research and development along with their experience with the CDIC application process. After the formalities, Minecorp treated attendees to a tour of their facilities and a delicious Woodfire Pizza supper.

AIDN QLD holds member meetings such as these each month and invites all AIDN QLD members to attend their next meeting to be held on March 18, 2021.

AIDN SA

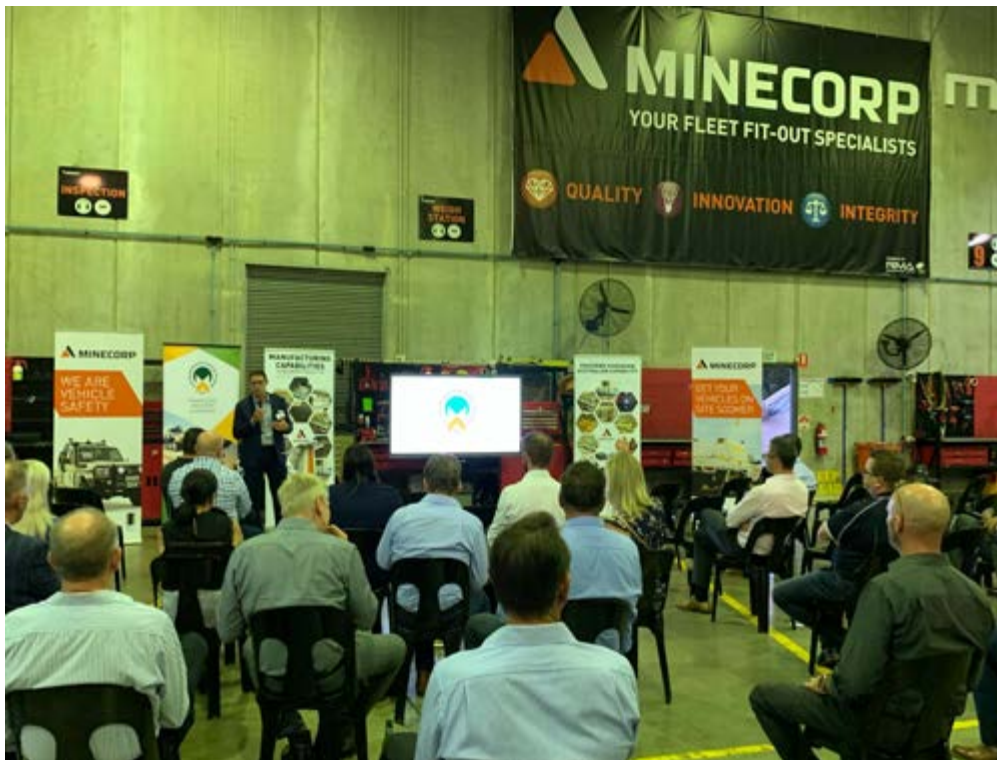
Members Only Cocktail Event

On Thursday 4th March, about a third of the AIDN SA Membership participated in a Members Only Cocktail Event in order to meet and engage with Brent Clark, CEO of AIDN National.

The event commenced with 30 minutes of networking which was beneficial to all attendees, including three new member company representatives. Brent Clark then briefly addressed the attendees and provided an overview of his career in uniform as well as his experience working in SMEs and Primes since finishing uniformed service. Brent outlined the status of the Transition Process for AIDN Chapters and the benefits of being "One Voice" with consistent and powerful messages to Government, Opposition and CASG from a national organisation with over 1,000 defence and security industry members, representing over 70,000 direct employees. Brent then extended his comments to explain his proactive approach to advocating for SMEs in the defence and security sectors and provided some recent examples of issues and topics that he has either raised or been involved in.

The attendees were able to ask Brent Clark a number of detailed questions which were responded to under Chatham House Rules. Good discussion and debate was held amongst members after Brent Clark left the event, and the feedback received in the final networking session was very positive from attendees about the whole event.

The AIDN SA Management Committee also utilised the event to gain member feedback on the type of events and topics of interest that they would gain value from. The results from the feedback process will be incorporated into future event planning for 2021.



Land Systems Division and Rheinmetall Defence Systems

AIDN NT Member Event – 2nd March 2021

The AIDN NSW February Function was held on Thursday 25th February at Karsten's Conference Centre, 111 Harrington St, The Rocks. The event was also livestreamed via teams to online participants. After a networking breakfast, NSW President Anna Murray opened the function with a welcome to attendees and presenters and an "Acknowledgement of Country". Anna then handed over to MAJGEN Andrew Bottrell CDC and Bar, DSM, Head of Land Systems Division, who gave an in-depth presentation on the opportunities for engagement and the extensive projects being undertaken by Land Systems Division. Neil Fitzpatrick, Manager – GSC/AIC, Rheinmetall Defence Systems then gave a presentation on the Rheinmetall MILVEHCOE facility and the impressive capacity it has to meet their manufacturing and sustainment capabilities. Chris Jenkins, CEO, Thales Australia then gave a quick update on the launch of the Defence Security Working Guide. Further networking then ensued.



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Logistics in the North

AIDN NT Member Event – 2nd March 2021

AIDN-NT members were briefed by LtCol Ed Stokes, CO JLUN on the changing landscape of logistics nationally and in the Northern Region. This provided local members with key advice on the changing Strategic Environment within Defence to support complex platforms and a reminder that

being more agile and comfortable with uncertainty will help them to survive. Other Senior Defence representatives from E&IG, RAN, RAAF and Dept of Defence stayed on with local members to enjoy some great networking afterwards.



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We're proud to connect with businesses in the defence industry and we look forward to seeing you at Land Forces 2021.

Contact our defence specialists

Helen Catalano
📞 0407 284 932

Rob Di Carlo
📞 0434 609 828

✉ defence@westpac.com.au

NSM delivering maximum capability for Navy's LHD fleet



The final bulkhead upgrade for the Landing Helicopter Dock Landing Craft (LLC) has recently been completed by NSM, as HMAS Canberra leaves the dock at Garden Island ready to receive them.

LLC 4410 was the twelfth and final landing craft to receive the upgrade, concluding the 30-month project, eight of which were part of NSM's support to the Royal Australian Navy through the ACPC program.

It was the exceptional effort of the team based at Garden Island, in collaboration with Sydney City Marine, that has resulted in the delivery of these landing craft ahead of schedule and under budget.

NSM Operations Director, Gavin Stewart said:

"It's been a pleasure to witness the continued dedication of this team over the past few years. Their focus on delivering the best for Navy has been clear, and they should be proud watching the final landing craft head out of dock ahead of schedule."

Two of the upgraded landing craft are now on board the Royal Australian Navy's flagship, HMAS Canberra, with LLC 4410 scheduled to be the third craft loaded once it has completed final acceptance checks.

To get HMAS Canberra ready to receive these craft and prepare it for continued operations, the LHD Enterprise team (ACSSPO, AASGRP and NSM as prime contractor) has been hard at work delivering

the vessel's first deep level maintenance since her commissioning in 2014.

Australia's first LHD to enter service was welcomed back to its home port of Garden Island in September last year, and since then has been undergoing extensive maintenance. The team installed a new propeller design, replaced both propulsion pods and are applying upgrades to the bow thruster among other works.

But sustaining the Navy's largest and most complex asset is not something that happens by good luck or chance. It takes an extraordinary effort from an aligned and committed team, something that ACPC and the wider Enterprise are growing in to.

Managing Director, Joe Smith says NSM is continuing to prove its value:

"Since signing as Asset Class Prime Contractor in 2018, NSM has continued to show its commitment to supporting this critical capability for Navy.

"The recent docking of HMAS Canberra for its five-year deep level maintenance is the latest milestone in providing the highest quality sustainment, ensuring the men and women on board have the best tools available to protect our nation."

Delivering and installing the 120 tonne propulsion pods, worth a combined \$32.5m, was one of many first of class upgrades completed during Canberra's stay in the dock. The level of engineering

and supply support inputs for the loading, transportation and installation of these pods was unprecedented.

A large number of support structures needed to be designed and constructed locally to aid the installation of these massive pods and other maintenance activities:

- New A-frames and double beams were designed and constructed to support the weight of the propellers and pods during installation.
- A Self-Propelled Modular Transporter was procured to move the pods and frames into position on the dock floor.
- New auxiliary cradles were designed to support the bulkier propellers, constructed using Australian steel.
- A 400 tonne crawler crane to allow reach and lifting capabilities.
- Various jacking arrangements for adjustment of the pods during installation.

While replacing both propulsion pods – which has never been done before in Australia – is an amazing achievement, there was so much more that went into this effort :

- The maintenance team oversaw more than 190,000 working hours across 50+ Australian industry repair agents.
- Moving international suppliers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic saw clear guidance from NSM filter through the Health, Safety & Environment team, who then worked with the customer and border force to meet the need.
- International engineering support from Siemens was required on site, and when additional support from Germany was needed our local team utilised HoloLens goggle technology to remain in contact with the engineers and complete the maintenance.
- A complete colour change of the LHD platform using more than 60,000 litres of paint included the full refurbishment of the underwater coating system with DSTO supported anti-fouling trials.
- Bow thruster upgrades required after hours and weekend support throughout the set-to-work window as first of class install issues were resolved.

On Friday 19 February, HMAS Canberra successfully undocked and is now preparing for sea trials, where the new pod and propellers will be put through their paces. Meanwhile, the NSM team is already preparing for her sister ship, HMAS Adelaide, to enter dock in May later this year.

Undertaking this monumental effort, having delivered the ship back to Navy on schedule while working within the restrictions of a COVID-19 environment, required dedication and perseverance above and beyond expectations. A prime example of what a collaborative and inclusive defence industry can deliver.

Sustaining a real advantage

As Australia's first and only dedicated naval sustainment company, we're committed to advancing Australia's maritime sustainment capability through innovation, collaboration and long-term partnerships.

Discover the NSM difference at nsm-aust.com.au

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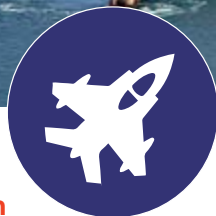
The Northern Territory At the frontline of Australia's national security



Strategic location

The Northern Territory has a long history as a strategic location for Australia's defence from which to mount, deploy and sustain military operations.

More broadly, Northern Australia has played an important role in the defence of Australia given its geographic location and support of the 'Forward Defence' policy – there is scope for great strategic collaboration across the north.



Next generation defence technology and equipment

With the introduction of next generation defence technology and equipment, such as the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter and MQ-4C Triton, Northern Australia will remain the 'tip of the spear' to ensure a safe and secure Australia.



Supporting defence and national security

The Northern Territory will support these security requirements by growing a professional workforce, nurturing a cutting-edge STEM ecosystem, delivering world-class maritime maintenance and sustainment through our Marine Industry Park and sovereign ship lift capability, developing a space industry across the north and supporting enhanced training range requirements.

The Territory is positioned as a digital hub in the Indo-Pacific region, able to support defence and national security data requirements.

The Northern Territory – tip of the strategic spear



The final bulkhead upgrade for the Landing The strategic importance of Australia's north to the nation's defence has long been recognized by government and policy makers. Since World War II, northern Australia has been a critical aspect of Australia's defence and a key stakeholder in the region's security architecture.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has a significant presence in the Northern Territory comprising operational bases, training facilities, intelligence, and surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. Investments into future warfighting capabilities include 72 F-35A Lightning II aircraft, MQ-4C Triton unmanned aerial systems, manned P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and anti-submarine aircraft. Many of these will be based in or operate from the Territory.

As the global geopolitical environment becomes more complex, so too does warfare. The introduction of fifth-generation capabilities is likely to see potential combat spread across all the domains of land, sea, air, space and cyber. The 2020 Australian Defence Strategic Update and ongoing focus on maximising Australian industry involvement in Defence capability projects will create new opportunities in the Northern Territory over the coming decade and beyond.

The Australia-US Alliance will continue to remain the bedrock of Australia's defence and national security policies, with the Northern Territory as a key aspect of the United States Force Posture Initiatives (USFPI). The USFI supports enhanced US engagement in the region and provides the ADF with improved training opportunities including closer interoperability with US forces.

Additionally, as the US and other regional partners move towards smaller, agile platforms throughout the Asia-Pacific, this brings with it the requirement for enhanced supporting infrastructure in

northern Australia such as the US-funded, commercially-operated strategic military fuel reserve in Darwin.

US policy shifts towards Asia could also increase the significance of the north in the coming years. The *Indo-Pacific Deterrence Initiative* will see more US troop training, increased equipment prepositioning, enhanced missile defence capabilities and new ISR assets in the region.

The Territory also has unique characteristics that supports the basing, forward operating, training and sustainment activities for the ADF, US and other partner nations in this new environment. These include, but are not limited to, established electronic and traditional warfare training ranges, very low to nil electromagnetic interference, proximity to Asia and the equator, energy sources and a large, sparsely populated land mass.

These characteristics underpin the Northern Territory's intention to lead the development of world-class, networked training ranges in the Indo-Pacific. This may be through upgrades to existing training ranges or the establishment of bespoke ranges for specific capabilities, such as drones and autonomous vehicles. These enhanced ranges would satisfy US and other partner's requirements and provide the ability to test 5th generation platforms and systems over specialised ranges located far from population centres.

The Northern Territory Government is also leading other initiatives to support Australia's bilateral and multilateral defence and security requirements in this part of the world.

In the maritime domain, there is potential to establish an *Indo-Pacific Maritime Law Enforcement Centre* in Darwin complementing the Australian Government's *Pacific Fusion Centre initiative* under Pacific Step-up. This Centre will be a single point for regional partners to advance maritime law enforcement capabilities through

professional development and encourage regional cooperation and partnerships.

Preparations for the construction of the largest shiplift in northern Australia is also well-underway. The Darwin Shiplift facility will be a sovereign maritime sustainment capability within the *Darwin Marine Industry Park*. The Park will support the offshore oil and gas and fishing sector as well as the maintenance and servicing of Royal Australian Navy and Australian Border Force vessels including commercial vessels operating the region. Additionally, Darwin has the potential to become a future regional hub for Australia's patrol boat fleet and part of the Pacific Patrol Boat training program.

In the digital domain, Darwin intends to transform into a digital leader in the region through the development of a highly secure, high speed terabit network to support the needs of government and Defence. A planned fibre link that will span the Indo-Pacific regions, will provide the first subsea route to directly connect Darwin, Singapore, Indonesia and the United States. This infrastructure will be complemented by data centres and dedicated Defence and national security digital test labs.

Another rapidly emerging sector is space, and the Northern Territory has natural advantages that are well-suited to advances in this sector.

All of these developments require large-scale, clean energy supply. In addition to substantial gas reserves, the Sun Cable project will become the Southern Hemisphere's biggest solar farm, providing energy to both the Territory and Singapore.

In an era of great uncertainty, the Northern Territory again steps up in the support of Australia's defence and national security interests. Opportunity awaits those who want to work with the ADF and Australia's allies and partners, and the best place for this is Darwin, the tip of the spear.

Why to make Upskilling a part of your COVID-19 recovery plan

By Carl Spruce, Director of the Outsource Group ([Outsource Institute \(AUS\)](#)) and the [Australian Retail College](#).



Education enables upward socioeconomic mobility, which is why, in my opinion, when the recent Australian Budget was handed down there was a substantial commitment within it from the Australian Government to support education and training across Australia. The government knows the importance of a skills-based recovery for Australia.

Did you know? Recognition of the need for skills by the Australian Government in 2020, has resulted in \$1.2 billion funding to support 100,000 new apprenticeships and traineeships that augments a \$2.8 billion commitment made earlier this year to support the work of existing apprentices. There is also \$500 million, matched by the states and territories, to fund around 340,000 short courses in the sector too.

The message has never been clearer "to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 crisis, companies should start reskilling their workforces now!" Being involved in the education sector for several decades, time and time again I have bear witness to government backed incentives to drive economic outcomes. The reason why I share this information with passion today is in my years of experience it has become all too apparent to me just how little awareness within industry there is around government funding which may be available to assist businesses with upskilling their workforces and subsequently increasing their competitiveness, something that has never been more vital given the current uncertainty of the COVID-19 landscape.

To address current skill shortages within Australia, Governments are providing a variety of funding options and incentives directed to minimise skills shortages, focus on training for jobs that are in demand in our critical industries, and increase the number of individuals with formal post-school qualifications.

I read an article recently online, titled "The Importance of Upskilling During Economic Downturns" which really struck a chord with me, it shared the following; When the Economy Is Down, Choose to Look Up, Upskilling is a definitive comment on a company's belief in and commitment to a better future. Seeing an economic downturn for the opportunities it affords is difficult. But choosing to find those opportunities is a winning strategy for businesses and their workforces.

Two, of our clients and fellow AIDN-QLD members, share their experiences and how they partnered with Outsource Institute (AUS) to take advantage of upskilling opportunities that have provided a winning strategy for their businesses and their workforces.

Brendon - National Manager Modifications at Royal Wolf

Brendon was made aware of funding opportunities available to Royal Wolf after a conversation with our Training and Development Specialists. Brendon shared that he chose to upskill his workforce with Outsource Institute (AUS) because we offered flexible delivery of the learning material, which kept his staff on site and therefore at work. Brendon expressed that he believes that education makes all of us smarter, provides more efficient employees and playfully adds that education has been medically proven that it cannot do you any harm! When asked what Brendon, thinks about government funding and whether he feels that is has been beneficial in supporting the upskilling of his workforce he voiced, "Absolutely. Training of apprentices and trainees created the backbone of our workforce. These staff finish training and move into senior roles, become our new leaders, mentor our new apprentices and strengthen our business."

Carl Quarterman - Managing Director at Queensland Gaskets

Carl gained knowledge of the government funding available to Queensland Gaskets through AIDN meetings with Outsource Institute which then eventuated into a training relationship being formed between both organisations. Carl chose

Outsource Institute (AUS) to upskill his workforce, because of the support that was provided and the steady understanding that Outsource Institute (AUS) had of Queensland Gaskets requirements. Carl made the decision to invest in upskilling his workforce due to their focus on demonstrating further capabilities to their customers, particularly the Defence market.

Carl was aware that the defence sector requires high-quality products manufactured with precision. To ensure all staff had the required skills to meet project requirements to maintain Queensland Gasket's high-quality standard expected of defence suppliers he invested in the training of his team. Queensland Gasket has a reputation of retaining staff for many years, some have been with the company for 30+ years. As some recently transitioned into retirement, they were at risk of losing some of the skills. Carl once again identified that that training was needed to upskill their younger staff to maintain a multi-skilled workforce.

Carl stated that the government funding available has helped Queensland Gaskets to take the time to train their staff and back fill where required and or spend the money for appropriate supplies for training. Carl concluded by saying that training has always been a part of their commitment to employees and is embedded in future plans for Queensland Gaskets. Lean Manufacturing, Environmental Standards and material and products training are of particular interest for the further upskilling of their workforce.

If like Royal Wolf & Queensland Gaskets, you are ready to commit to a better future and are interested in learning about what funding and training opportunities exist to get you there, please contact our Training and Development Specialists:

- Engineering training related enquiries call Outsource Institute (AUS) on 1300 136 904
- Retail and Business training related enquiries call Australian Retail College on 1800 644 332





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Saab Australia

Saab Australia (Saab) is a Defence and Security solutions provider specialising in the development and integration of command and control systems. Our rapidly growing Australian workforce of more than 570 experienced staff and a reputation for achieving complex systems integration projects, we have proven our capabilities for more than 30 years.

Through close collaboration with suppliers and customers all over the globe, we have forged a reputation as a national leader in technological product development and a company recognised for our committed to strengthening Australian Industry Capability

A core element of Saab's expertise is our unparalleled history as an Australian Combat System specialist organisation who has successfully developed and integrated Combat Systems across the Royal Australian Navy's fleet. Saab's Combat Management Systems (CMS) are currently integrated into Australian surface fleet classes – ANZAC, CANBERRA, and soon SUPPLY and ARAFURA and the Australian Interface, based on the Next Generation CMS, will be integrated into the Hobart and Hunter class platforms.

While we specialise in software integration, we have broadened our expertise in recent years, expanding into hardware engineering

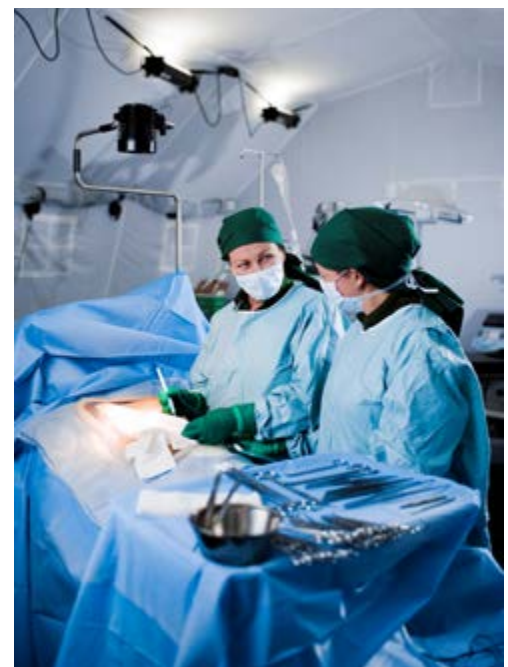
through the design, development and build of our Modular Multifunctional Consoles (mMFCs). In partnership with Australian SME, SAGE Automation (SAGE), the mMFCs were designed, constructed and assembled in South Australia. This partnership entailed SAGE assembling more than 50 consoles that will be used by the Royal Australian Navy across a range of surface vessel classes as the user interface for Saab's CMS.

Historically this capability has been imported into Australia, however, the successful construction of Saab's mMFCs has expanded our hardware engineering expertise and opens doors for further development in this domain.

We believe that supporting Australian Industry Capability is more than just awarding contracts to Australian companies, rather we focus our efforts on establishing an enduring Australian sovereign industrial base which provides the Australian Defence Force with world-leading capability.

This strategic focus is highlighted in our role as Prime contractor delivering a life-saving deployable health capability to the Australian Defence Force. With strategic partners, Aspen Medical, Philips Healthcare Australia & NZ, Broadspectrum and Marshall Land Systems, and a range of Australian SMEs,

we will deliver more than 550 deployable medical modules to the Australian Department of Defence. Together with more than 70 Australian businesses, the nation's deployable health capability will leverage the expertise and products of local businesses, further growing Australia's industrial supply chain and enhancing sovereign capability.





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Forge Advisory - Trusted Project and Program Partners

Forge Advisory is an Australian defence and infrastructure advisory firm established since 2017. Headquartered in Canberra, our team has footprints in Brisbane, Newcastle, Sydney and the United States.

Our highly qualified professionals deliver projects of local and national significance for both government and private industry. Through the purposeful work we deliver we are extremely proud of the direct contribution we make to the defence of Australia and the betterment of the built environment, continually improving the lives of Australians.

Forge prides itself as an ethically and socially responsible organisation, with a focus on giving back to the communities which support our staff. Further, as a veteran owned organisation we are passionate about supporting fellow veterans, evidenced by a track record of providing transition and career pathways for ex-defence personnel.

Since our inception Forge has embraced flexible working arrangements and operated as a distributed workforce, with the option to work from their preferred location with flexible engagement options. This modern approach enables our staff to strike a healthy balance between work and personal life, resulting in staff who are fully focussed and able to deliver world class services to our clients.

Our first preference will always be to work in-person with our clients, supplemented with our distributed workforce and balanced by remote working where suitable. As a result our clients have the ability to seamlessly leverage the full breadth and depth of the Forge team's specialist skills and experience through our collaborative technology, regardless of location.

With a distributed workforce we understand the importance of getting together in person. In addition to weekly team meetings and professional development sessions we use events such as the recent AIDN Gala Dinner in Canberra to bring the team together.

The benefits of our distributed workforce model, underpinned by the latest technology, came to bear as the impacts of COVID-19 escalated. Forge rapidly adapted to overcome the unpredictable impacts of a world-wide pandemic with full business continuity and minimal disruption. We attribute our resilience and continued success throughout this challenging period to the world class systems we adopt and the mettle of our high-calibre team.



'Everything We Do Must Benefit the Customer'



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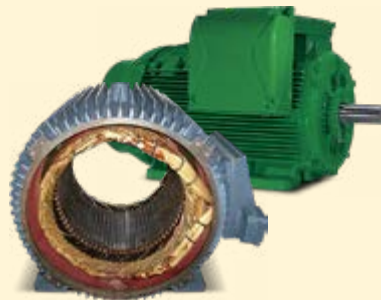
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Leonardo

Leonardo is committed to the advancement of an Australian industry that not only delivers world-class capability but also offers tangible benefits to the Australian economy through domestic and international growth. In Australia Leonardo continues to grow through acquisitions, utilisation of local skills base and leveraging leading edge technology and capability of Leonardo worldwide. Leonardo has an extensive global network and through its various sectors, divisions and subsidiaries continue to actively identify technologies and solutions to deliver advanced capability to the Australian Navy, Defence Forces, Emergency Services and wider Australian industry.

The experience and knowledge gained on the Royal Australian Navy's Project SEA 1442 Ph4 program places Leonardo in a prime position for all future maritime programs.

Leonardo's successful communications upgrade aims to progress the modernisation of maritime communications by acquiring and supporting an enhanced voice and data communications and information exchange capability, referred to as the New Generation Maritime Communications System (NewGen MCS). The purpose of the NewGen MCS is to deliver an enhanced external RF communication system for the ANZAC Class Frigates (FFH) through the replacement of ageing equipment and the provision of a High Data Rate Line of Sight (HDR LOS) bearer capability and a Communications Management System (CMS).

Currently, a range of training activities in cyber security and Electronic Warfare (EW) domains are being evaluated.

As part of Leonardo's ongoing commitment to organic growth pathways in Australia and the Oceania region, Leonardo is establishing a helicopter main gearbox Maintenance Repair and Overhaul Facility (MROF) in Melbourne, Australia. The MROF will



further complement Leonardo's local industry commitments within our AIR 9000 support contracts for the Australian Army's 41 and RAN's 6 MRH-90 helicopters. Additionally, the MROF will complement Leonardo's support of the New Zealand Air Force NH90 helicopter line and significant fleet of AW139 throughout the civil sector in the region. The MROF has strategically been located adjacent to the Commonwealth of Australia's Defence Science and Technology Group, as they are a key stakeholder in the development of the local capability. This state-of-the-art technology will place Australia at the forefront of aerospace dynamics support capability and will create high-level technology-based employment for Victoria and its aerospace industry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2021

6 May

[AIDN NSW dinner](#)

7 – 21 May

[Special Operation Forces Industry Conference \(SOFIC\), Tampa Florida USA](#)

20 May

[AIDN NSW May Function – Sydney TBA](#)

JUNE 2021

1– 3 June

[Land Forces 2021, Brisbane QLD](#)

15 -17 June

[Rotortech 2020 Helicopter and Unmanned Flight Systems, Brisbane QLD](#)

25 June 2021

AIDN SA Breakfast event, Naval Military & Air Force Club Adelaide SA (registration link TBA)

SEPTEMBER 2021

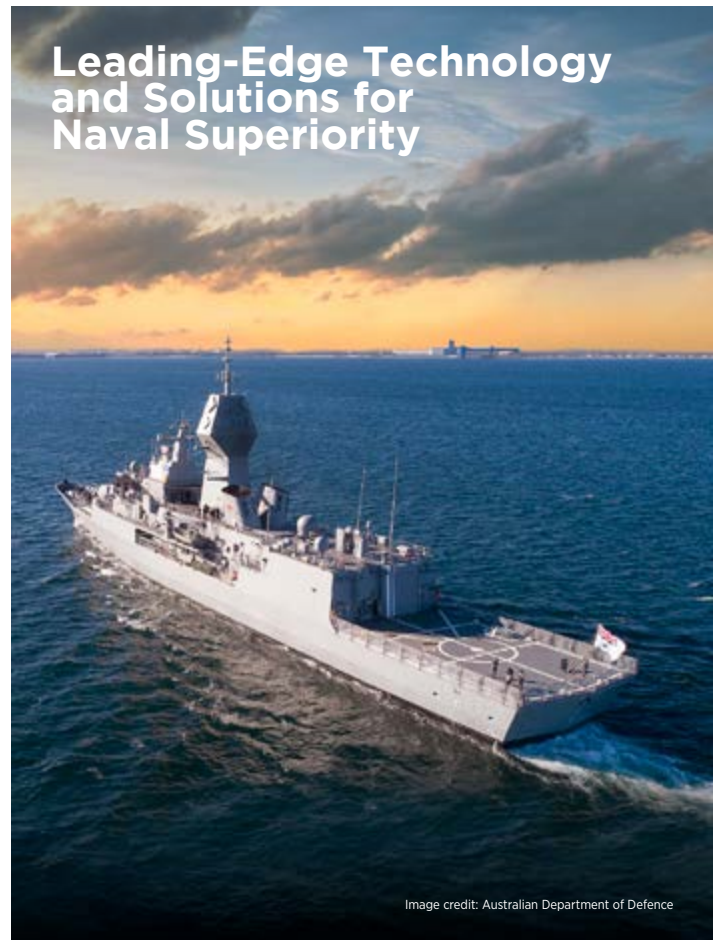
24 September

AIDN SA Breakfast event, Naval Military & Air Force Club Adelaide SA (registration link TBA)

NOVEMBER 2021

26 November




AIDN SA Breakfast event, Naval Military & Air Force Club Adelaide SA (registration link TBA)








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Introducing Defence Bank

Chances are if you have served in the ADF you may already heard of Defence Bank. They commenced operations in March 1975 as Defence Force Credit Union Limited (Defcredit) before changing their name to Defence Bank in 2012.

Today, Defence Bank is one of Australia's larger member-owned banks serving not only the Australian Defence Force but the broader Defence Community as well, including staff in Commonwealth Department agencies and defence industry partners. They've been in operation for over 45 years and have 80,000 members around Australia, with over \$2.8 billion in assets and 33 branches with the majority being on Army, Navy and Air Force bases.

What's the difference between Defence Bank and other banks?

As a member-owned bank they put their Members first, not shareholders. In contrast to publicly listed banks who maximise profits to pay shareholders, Defence Bank instead puts its profits back into providing better rates, fairer fees and service.

Their products and services.

Members of Defence Bank enjoy a full service digital offering that includes, a fully featured award-winning banking app; ability to make convenient and fast payments through Osko and PayID and access to the full suite of digital pays - Apple, Google, Fitbit, Garmin and Samsung.

The Bank is at the vanguard of digital banking services with Members accessing these services well in advance of the majority of Big 4 Banks. Their strong digital offering is supported by an Australian-based Call Centre and 33 on-base branch locations across Australia.

Defence Bank provides a full range of innovative and tailored products to its core ADF customer segment and has a long history of working effectively with government agencies such as the Department of Defence and Department of Veterans' Affairs in facilitating home ownership in Australia.

For over 10 years, they have been one of only three incumbent Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme (DHOAS) panel

lenders. They are also a participant on the panel of residential mortgage lenders who offer guarantees under the First Home Loan Deposit Scheme (FHLDS).

Introducing Member +

The Member + initiative is an everyday banking package designed by Defence Bank for Defence Industry Partners, (such as those in the Australian Industry and Defence Network) that are seeking to embed greater value as an employer into their employee value proposition.

It is easily customised to suit the needs of your company and the offer has significant breadth and depth to offer appeal across your entire employee base.

You can now bank where the defence community banks with access to some of Australia's best everyday banking products and services, usually only available to those serving in the ADF. So whether you wear camo, yellow safety vests, or business suits, if you're a company in Defence, the bank is ready and standing by to serve you and your employees.

To find out more.

Speak to one of Defence Banks dedicated Partner Relationship Managers who will be happy to outline the benefits available.

Emma Dalglish

Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

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Do you have news?

Share your recent success stories, products or services with us!

We'd love to tell our Member Companies and people with an interest in the defence, security and aerospace sector.

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Contact

If you would like any further information or require any assistance with defence industry issues, please contact the AIDN National Executive Officer at:

administration@aidn.org.au.

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 Contact us