

Welcome to our latest quarterly newsletter



It has been a busy period for Government and the Department over the last few months.

The release of the Surface Fleet Strategy, the Defence Industry Development Strategy, the passing of the Defence Export Controls legislation, the announcement of the submarine capability partners, and we are told the release of the Defence Integrated Investment Plan, all tying together in the Governments next budget in May.

There have been some large spending announcements with approximately \$4.7 billion being sent to the US to assist with production line issues for the Virginia Submarines and \$5 billion being sent to the UK for Rolls Royce to ensure that the nuclear reactor production line is capable of supplying reactors for the SSN AUKUS submarines.

Recently released data indicates that the spend rate within our domestic market has reduced, and whilst the data indicates that Government will be operating around their stated 2% of GDP for Defence – a lot of that spend is heading directly offshore. As I pointed out in the last paragraph almost \$10 billion is going to ensure that the industrial basis of the US and UK are being maintained, and this large amount of taxpayer's money contributes to the

Government achieving their stated defence spend.

We see more SMEs working harder to achieve smaller returns in order intake, and this is reflected by my discussions with many of you.

What we need to see from Government is a clear commitment in the IIP for programs that are fully funded – Australian Industry needs certainty; with certainty our domestic industrial base can plan appropriately, consider what it needs to invest in and work to attract and maintain the workforce it needs to ensure that we are achieving the outcomes Australia the nation needs, we need a vibrant domestic industry to ensure our national strategic resilience is achieved.

The IIP will reflect the Governments ambitions as set out in the DSR, we as an industry must be ready to adapt to those requirements. The Government also needs to play its part in these endeavours by ensuring Australia's local industry is treated fairly and equitably.

The Government cannot simply send \$10 billion overseas, claim they are achieving their intent of Defence spend as a percentage of GDP, claim victory, and move on.

Australia's indigenous industry deserves to have the same amount of attention and allocation of funding to ensure that it too is viable and that it also is ready to supply into these programs.



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ASC has proven itself over many years to be a supporter of our domestic industry, this is exactly the reason why domestically owned and controlled Prime Contractors are so important.

For this JV to achieve the best possible outcome for Australia, ASC and the Federal Government need to be the majority shareholders, an Australian owned company must be the controlling entity – it

means Australia controls its own fate, rather than some foreign board in the UK. This is the only way to ensure that we achieve the maximum return on investment to the Australian taxpayer and ensure that we create an industry in Australia that can contribute to global supply chain.

We all should be watching how this develops over the next several months.

AIDN has spent the last few months working closely with Defence in providing advice on how best to ensure that our above the line contractors remain in a viable position, our SME community provides valuable services to Defence in this space and contributes to the support



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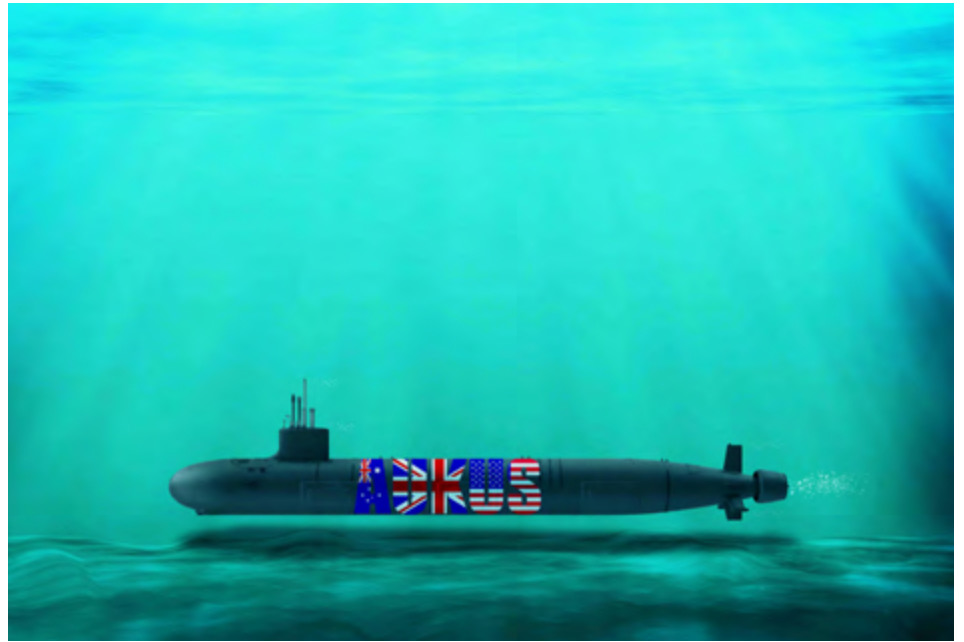
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of our veteran community by ensuring they have viable long term jobs, jobs that allow them to continue to support the ADF. This process has enabled AIDN and Defence to forge a good working relationship and this allows the voices of our ATL contractors to be considered in the decision-making process, this will be an ongoing activity and we have been supported by many of our AIDN members ensuring that Defence is hearing directly from those providing the services and operating in this environment. We will provide more regular updates on this activity going forward.

Another area of concern to AIDN is the fallout to the supply chain with the Government’s announcement of the reduction of the number of OPVs and Hunter Class surface vessels. This reduction in numbers will have a direct effect on many of your businesses. AIDN will continue to make representations to both the Department and the Government on this issue. We understand that for many of you, advanced orders were placed, contracts signed with pricing provided based on numbers of vessels and critical capability and investment made. Whilst we understand that Government will always determine the equipment it acquires based on advice from Defence, Government and Defence also need to treat these suppliers fairly when decisions are changed.

We have seen several large contracts altered or cancelled over the last few years, the Attack Class submarine, MRH 90 Helicopters, reduction in number of



\$5 billion being sent to the UK for Rolls Royce to ensure that the nuclear reactor production line is capable of supplying reactors for the SSN AUKUS submarines.

vehicles for Land 400 Ph 3, a halving of the number of OPVS and the reduction by 33% of the number of Hunter class frigates. These decisions come with consequences to our industrial base, and Government needs to ensure that our local industry is commercially looked after and wherever possible fast tracked to new programs to minimise the impact on our Australian Industry.

It is important that you as members reach out to AIDN and tell us what is happening

to your businesses; with that information we can reach directly into Government and Defence to attempt to effect change.

There is much happening, and it is important that you are aware of all these changes – AIDN will be providing a series of information webinars encompassing a broad range of topics, Export Controls, AUKUS, DISP, Cyber, and business winning, to name a few topics. I urge you to register for these events as they come up.



Inaugural
WOMEN OF AIDN CONFERENCE
Pathways to Success

 08:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday, 09 August 2024

 **RACV Royal Pines, Gold Coast**

 Master of Ceremonies:
MEL IRELAND

Key Highlights

-  Pathways to Success
-  The Importance of Women in Defence Industry
-  AI in the Workplace
-  Imposter Syndrome - a hidden epidemic

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AIDN MEMBERSHIP

AIDN is a membership-based industry association for the Defence industry operating Australia wide.

AIDN assists Australian SMEs through identifying and developing business opportunities in national and global supply chains. We facilitate defence and industry engagements relevant to current and proposed Defence and Security projects; provide supply chain development and diversification programs; research and disseminate market intelligence; support business missions and trade shows; and link industry with federal and state/territory government programs, grants in training, innovation, specialisation and export readiness.

How we help members:

- ◆ Help members in their dealings with the Australian Government, Government Departments and Defence prime contractors.
- ◆ Disseminate Australian Government & prime contractor defence policy & procurement information.
- ◆ Independently represent a consolidated Australian SME view to Federal, State/ Territory Governments & Defence Prime Contractors.
- ◆ Facilitate networking opportunities for members at tradeshows, exhibitions and conferences and between Federal, State/Territory & Regional Defence Industry bodies.
- ◆ Assist in the development of policies focused on SMEs operating in the Defence & Security sectors.
- ◆ Advocate to Federal & State/Territory Governments, Prime Contractors & Government departments.
- ◆ Inform of, and facilitate, training opportunities relevant to business needs.

If you are interested in AIDN Membership click here:

SAVE THE DATE

Defence Industry Events For 2nd Quarter, 2024

MAY 2024

- 15 AIDN NSW Regional Engagement Featuring Alkath Group, South Nowra
- 15 AIDN VIC Networking Event with CyberCX, Melbourne
- 16-17 Industry Skills Advisory Council NT – VET Careers Expo 2024, Darwin
- 21-23 ADF Propulsion Systems Symposium, Melbourne
- 28-29 AusSpace24, Sydney
- 29 ODIS Forum, Brisbane
- 30 Women of AIDN QLD Networking Breakfast, Brisbane
- 30 Industry Skills Advisory Council NT – VET Careers Expo 2024, Alice Springs

JUNE 2024

- 1-31 Dec Defence Industry Study Course 2024
- 4 AIDN NSW Networking Event with McGrathNicol Advisory
- 4-5 JoiningFORCES: The 2024 ASPI Defence Conference, Canberra
- 4-6 RotorTech Helicopter and Uncrewed Flight Exposition, Gold Coast
- 13 AIDN QLD June Member Meeting and Mini Trade Show with DefenceX, Brisbane
- 17-21 Eurosatory, Paris
- 18-19 Warship: Future Surface Combatants, Adelaide
- 19 AOC Australia – Sydney Networking Lunch, Sydney
- 25 AIDN National Gala Dinner, Canberra

JULY 2024

- 12 AIDN SA Gala Dinner, Adelaide
- 18 AIDN QLD Gala Dinner, Brisbane
- 18 Australian Defence Industry Awards, Canberra
- 22-26 Farnborough International Airshow, UK
- 24-26 Indian Ocean Defence & Security (IODS) 2024, Perth

Veteran Employment Campaign

By **Matt Keogh MP**, Minister for Defence Personnel and Minister for Veteran’s Affairs



While the hearings for the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide have now concluded, the resolve of the Albanese Government to support veterans and families remains

undiminished, including our focus on supporting veterans’ transition to civilian life.

One of the key factors to having a successful transition is finding fulfilling civilian work post service.

I know many of you in Defence industry know this intimately – either as ex-service people yourselves, or working alongside many colleagues who have previously served in the ADF.

Defence industry by all accounts is one of the key civilian industries that veterans transition to following their lives in Defence, which leverages their unique skillset and continues to provide that sense of purpose people often strive for in joining the ADF in the first place.

At the last election the Albanese Government committed to a \$24 million veteran employment campaign. That’s now in full swing and I wanted to share with you a few ways you can get involved.

As part of this we have renewed the Veteran Employment Commitment, asking civilian organisations to more clearly demonstrate how they are supporting veterans in the workplace.

There are three tiers of this commitment – Veteran Employment Supporter, Veteran-Friendly Employer and Veteran Employer of Choice.

Organisations that sign up to the Veteran Employment Commitment will now need to demonstrate what they’re doing to support veterans into civilian employment, through



recruitment, support and leadership in the workplace.

The Commitment also includes an assurance businesses will not encourage current serving ADF members to leave service.

Ultimately this commitment seeks to assist veterans to better identify organisations that are appropriate for them, with businesses demonstrating their workplace policies and programs specifically targeted at helping veterans perform at their best.

To bring this all together, a national campaign has been launched to share the benefits of employing ex-service personnel in the civilian workplace.

The Australian Defence Force is an incredible training ground for personnel, but when they leave service, many report having difficulty translating their skills from the ADF to the civilian workplace.

Ex-service personnel can bring skills like leadership, teamwork, agility and the ability to work under pressure to the

civilian workplace, no matter the industry.

You certainly reap the benefits of this in Defence industry but the impact of this has the potential to be much wider reaching.

This new national campaign will share the stories of five ex-service personnel in the civilian workplace, in professions you might not expect.

This campaign seeks to educate employers on the diversity of skills ex-service personnel can bring to the workplace and provide advice to make sure ex-service personnel are set up to thrive in the civilian workplace.

This campaign is aimed at boosting veteran employment opportunities, as well as help businesses benefit from the diverse skill sets that veterans bring.

Nominations are also now open for the 2024 Prime Minister’s National Veteran Employment Awards, which will celebrate leading veteran employers and employees.

These awards will identify talented individuals and organisations working to ensure veterans and their partners thrive upon their transition out of the Australian Defence Force.

Veterans provide invaluable contributions to the civilian workforce and these awards highlight their achievements as well as the



Organisations that sign up to the Veteran Employment Commitment will now need to demonstrate what they’re doing to support veterans into civilian employment...

organisations that recognise and support them.

Nominations for the Awards are open now and close on 31 May 2024.

For those of you who are veterans, you're likely familiar with the convoluted and overly complex process of gaining support through the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

We're working to simplify and harmonise veterans' compensation legislation into a single Act so veterans and families can more easily access the support they're entitled to.

Consultation on the proposed legislation is now underway, you can learn more and make a submission through the DVA website before 28 April 2024.

Finally, as we approach Anzac Day, I want to acknowledge all of your contributions to the defence of our nation and your support of both our current and former serving Defence personnel.

The contributions of our Australian Defence industry now are as important as ever. The *Defence Strategic Review* observed that we are facing the most

complex strategic circumstances since the Second World War, and close partnership between Government and industry is critical.

The AUKUS technology partnership presents an unprecedented opportunity to harness innovation and invest in a generational uplift in our industrial and defence capabilities.

As we gear up to build and sustain conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines in Australia, the relationship between industry and current serving personnel is only set to grow.

This is already in train, with Australian Navy personnel undertaking training in the US to develop the skills to work on nuclear-powered submarines. This is the first time that Australians have been involved in learning and working on American conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines.

In the next year, there are plans for 100 ASC personnel to head to Pearl Harbour to also gain these skills to eventually contribute to the sustainment of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines in Australia.

Through the Skills and Training Academy in South Australia and South Metropolitan TAFE in WA, we've begun investing now, to support the workforce we will need to realise AUKUS over the coming decades.

The continued pursuit of Australia's defence and national security continues the proud tradition of the ANZACs – working alongside our friends in the interests of our values and beliefs.

This year and every year we express our gratitude to the generations of Australians who have donned a military uniform in the service of our nation.

On Anzac Day, in towns and cities across Australia and around the world, Australians will gather to acknowledge the commitment of our current and former serving personnel and all those who contribute to our nation's defence. We reflect on their sacrifices and those of the families who support them.

Lest we forget.

More information for ex-service personnel, employers and family members on the Veteran Employment program and transition to the civilian workplace can be found at www.veteranemployment.gov.au



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All ahead flank on AUKUS, and keeping a close eye as we go*

By the Hon Andrew Hastie, Shadow Minister for Defence, Shadow Minister for Defence Personnel, Shadow Minister for Defence Industry



Over the last couple of years, Australia has had to rethink our defence posture, to build our capacity to deter an adversary and to maintain our warfighting edge.

Before Easter, Parliament passed important bipartisan legislation to facilitate AUKUS, execute the plan and build out the security and regulatory framework that will bring AUKUS Pillar I and Pillar II to life.

The 2024 National Defense Authorization Act was passed by the US Congress on 15 December 2023. This has huge significance for Australia.

Specifically, it authorises the transfer of three Virginia class submarines to Australia. It also authorises the maintenance of US nuclear submarines in Australia, a critical condition for the success of the Optimal Pathway and its first key objective: Submarine Rotational Force – West. It offers opportunities for small to medium enterprises, not only but particularly in Perth, who can be part of the supply chain and deep sustainment for our US and UK partners. It will include our submarines when they pass into our hands.

The NDAA authorises Australian contractors to train in US shipyards to support the development of Australia's submarine industrial base. It also establishes a mechanism for the US to accept Australian investment to lift the capacity of the US industrial base, particularly their shipyards, which will increase the submarine delivery cadence, which must increase. The NDAA also gives Australia a national exemption from US export control licensing requirements, enabling a freer flow and transfer of controlled goods and technology between our three countries, enabling Pillar II particularly. Finally, it adds Australia

and the UK to Title 3 of the US Defense Production Act, opening new opportunities for Australian small to medium enterprises as the US production base expands. I acknowledge for many Australian defence businesses, it's not been easy, but we want it to become easier. And the NDAA, and our own legislation, are important milestones in that journey.

Understandably, academic and defence industry stakeholders have considered these developments carefully. Genuine concerns have been raised. Concerns about the regulatory burden and unintended consequences, but there has also been a recognition of the national interest, and the need to move faster. I'm counting on defence industry in particular to continue voicing your views and bringing your concerns to Government in the national interest. Where improvements can be made, let's say so.

I'm very glad as the Australian legislation was being finalised, Government agreed to the Opposition's calling for Australian defence industry stakeholders to be included in the new regulatory co-design process. The working groups should include Australian owned small- to medium-sized enterprises. It's important they have a voice and I'm glad the Government accepted that recommendation.

I should also note the Deputy Prime Minister's commitment to establishing a joint statutory committee on defence. This has been a long-term project for parliamentarians from both sides. I think that when Australians go to war we should all support our troops in the field, but there should be a forum where we can ask hard questions of our military leadership—particularly on strategy and operations. The committee also has an important role to play overseeing the 'business' of Defence, how public money is invested and spent, and what we're getting for it.

The new committee also sends a signal to the US and to the UK that we're serious about getting the best and the most out of Defence, by holding them accountable—that we ask the right questions but that we do it behind closed doors. Bound by secrecy provisions, constituted by the parties of government, with sensible people and serving as a training ground for future defence ministers. I welcome the Deputy Prime Minister's willingness to move at speed on this.

It's worth now highlighting some concerns about Submarine Rotational Force – West. We know that works to upgrade HMAS Stirling don't begin until 2025, so timing is tight and I urge the Government to get a move on. I'm also concerned about the housing shortage in WA. Many of us across the country feel the housing shortage; it's acute. But if we're going to have US and UK families coming to WA, it's going to be even more acute. We talk about 'social licence' for nuclear powered submarines; I think there's also a social licence required for foreign personnel living alongside Australians, particularly when there's an existing housing shortage. We need to get more houses built as fast as possible so we can welcome our friends when they arrive in 2027.

Finally, I remain deeply troubled by the recruitment and retention crisis in the ADF. We know the ADF is below strength. We know we're not hitting targets. We want to see more people in uniform serving our country. Many in defence industry have served and continue to serve in the reserves. Many former personnel have sons and daughters serving and wanting to serve. The message has to be one of patriotism, one of opportunity and one of aspiration, and we need to get cracking with this next generation.

As always, please let me know if we can work together in improving the conditions and prospects for Australian defence industry, and for supporting our defence personnel.

** This is an adapted version of Andrew Hastie's speech in Parliament on recent AUKUS legislation?*

www.andrewhastie.com.au/aukus_preparation



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Update from the office of AIDN National Chair, Carl Quarterman



The first quarter has been very busy for 2024. The recent release of the Surface Fleet review, and then subsequently the Defence Industry Development Strategy (DIDS) has given us some opportunity to see where this government is directing our attention.

There are some significant disappointments, like the definition of Sovereign Industry which is almost as broad as it can possibly be. There are also some glimmers of hope within the documents like the certainty that decisions can provide industry for investment. With all the best words in the world the implementation and delivery of the policy will provide the challenges, we, as an industry face.

During the first quarter Brent and I have met with MINDI Minister Pat Conroy, DepSecCAS-G Chris Deeble with discussion around the current impact of DSR on Industry, and I've also travelled to Perth and to Canberra meeting with members and industry participants. AIDN Board has reviewed the strategy of the organisation now that the nationalisation of AIDN has been completed and we are acting as the preeminent organisation connected with Defence through many different working groups and avenues. The advocacy and focus of the organisation could not be more important.

With huge amounts of money being sent to our global partners to develop their sovereign industries the work that AIDN

does needs to ensure Australian SMEs are part of the current discussions, and design, and consequently part of the future defence industry in Australia.

There is a need to develop Interest, Curiosity and Knowledge of what Australian SMEs can do for our defence capability so that there becomes a natural Belief in what Australia can deliver to these global partnerships.

Our state and territory volunteer committees are working hard to deliver meaningful events to our members around the nation and look forward to seeing our members at one of these events in the near future.

AIDN National Gala Dinner

AIDN and NIOA would like to invite you to join us at the 2024 AIDN National Gala Dinner.

We would be delighted to have you join us as we welcome guests from across the Australian SME community, Defence Primes, Defence Force and industry organisations for an evening of unmissable entertainment, great food and wine!

Featuring keynote and guest speakers from Defence and Industry, along with the announcement of the 2024 AIDN National Young Achiever Award, you won't want to miss this event! Confirmed VIP guests attending the 2024 AIDN National Gala include The Hon Pat Conroy MP and Mr Chris Deeble, DEPSEC CASG.

Registrations are essential. If you do not have a ticket, you will not be permitted to attend the event. Tickets are selling fast so don't hesitate to book TODAY.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Tuesday, 25th June 2024

Time: 6:30pm-11pm

Venue: QT Hotel, 1 London Circuit, Canberra, ACT, 2601

COST

AIDN MEMBERS:

Individual: \$210.00+GST*

Table of 10: \$2000.00+GST*



NON-MEMBERS:

Individual: \$300.00+GST*

Table of 10: \$3000.00+GST*

*AIDN Members please see your emails for the Access Code to unlock the discounted tickets.

*AIDN uses Humanitix for registrations and all ticket sales will incur a small additional fee.

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Primes at Australia's premier Defence Industry event?

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For more information, contact Mikki at eea@aidn.org.au

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Update from the office of AIDN QLD President, Shane Sarlin



AIDN Qld 1st Qtr Update 2024

Welcome to 2024... or Year 2 of our new Defence Strategic landscape! In the time-honoured tradition of ex-military officers everywhere, I will open my report with a couple of focusing quotes:

“Innovation is the ability to see change as an opportunity, not a threat.”
– Steve Jobs

“Victory comes from finding opportunities in problems.”
– Sun Tzu

Taking those quotes to heart, we started the year with the confirmation of your new AIDN Queensland Committee on 7 February. The new Committee consists of veteran members Shane “Buzz” Sarlin as President (Buzzworks), with Deanna Nott (Wings Public Relations) as Vice President, Frank Harrington (Intellidesign), Sandra Simpson (Elexon Electronics), Brad Geraghty (Minerco Australia), Carl Quarterman (Queensland Gaskets), Kym Cheatham (PersolKelly), Michael Clark (Boeing Defence Australia), with Priyank Menezes (Airbus) returning to the Committee. New members to the Committee this year are Chris Bush (Protonautics) and Rudraksh “Rudy” Goel (ECLIPS Logistics) who is our Young Achiever Award (YAA) Winner of the Year for 2023. [Editor’s note: this is a power-packed crew. No other Committee has 2 ex-presidents, 2 YAA winners and a Chairman of the National Board serving. Strap yourselves in!] Your new Committee has been busy, so expect to see a lot of new things coming your way this year.

The year kicked off with the long-awaited joint AmCham Australia, AIDN-QLD and Business Chamber Queensland event (postponed from 2023) held at MinterEllison with the theme ‘2024 The Year in Preview’ with more than 80 members from the three associations present. February also saw the AmCham ‘The State of National Security’ luncheon to discuss the report “Developing Australia’s defence industrial base: A time for urgency, optimism and action.” released by NIOA, Gilmour Space Technologies, Austal, Macquarie Technology Group and AIDN National. It was a great event, with some “hard truths” discussed by Rob Nioa in his keynote address and some “mind opening insights” from Steve Baxter (of Beaten Zone Venture Partners) around SME strategic industry planning in the current post-DSR landscape. Collaborations like this can be beneficial for AIDN nationally, so bring any ideas to



AIDN QLD Gala Dinner

AIDN QLD and NIOA, invite you to join us at Queensland’s premier Defence Industry event - the 2024 AIDN QLD Gala Dinner.

This highly anticipated event will bring together leaders and professionals from Defence and Defence related industries to celebrate our collective successes and take time to network and collaborate on future opportunities.

This event will feature the announcement of the 2024 AIDN QLD Young Achiever Award and some highly anticipated speakers to be announced shortly. You won’t want to miss this fantastic event!

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Thursday 18th July, 2024

Time: 1830 for canapes, pre-dinner drinks and photo opportunities

Venue: Main Auditorium, Brisbane City Hall, King George Square, BRISBANE, QLD, 4000

Dress: Black Tie or Mess Kit with Miniatures, Ladies – Formal Attire.

RSVP: 5pm, Friday 5 July 2024



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COST

MEMBERS:

Individual: \$230.00+GST pp

Table of 10: \$2070.00+GST

NON-MEMBERS:

Individual: \$280.00+GST pp

Table of 10: \$2520.00+GST

*AIDN currently uses Humanitix for registrations. All payments made through Humanitix will incur additional fees

*AIDN Members, see your emails for Access-Codes to unlock the discounted rates

SPONSORSHIPS

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Download the Sponsorship document here:

For more information, contact Alanna at aidnqld@aidn.org.au

us... and we will coordinate through AIDN National to see if it can be woven into the dynamic strategic tapestry that is our national annual calendar.

Members' meetings

Our first monthly members' meeting of the year was in late February, with a huge showing at the CyberCX-hosted February members meeting at Allan Border Field. CyberCX, who are cyber security experts, partner with enterprise and government organisations to defend against cyber threats and embrace the opportunities of cloud. With Cybersecurity forming one of the five Strategic Defence Domains, CyberCX are handy to get to know! And the first Women of AIDN (WAIDN) networking Breakfast was held at United Service Club, Brisbane where Emily Fallor of the Edmund Rice Foundation gave a stirring discussion on the foundations work in developing countries, notably East Africa.

The Federal Government released their Defence Industry Development Strategy (DIDS)... which explains Government's new 7 Sovereign Defence Industrial Priorities (note: SDIP is the new SICP). We will be giving a



L-R: Brad Skelton and Julie Magnone of Depth Logistics at the March member meeting.

high-level brief unpacking the DIDS, SDIPs and more at our May members' meeting.

In March, Depth Logistics hosted the monthly members' meeting at their

state-of-the-art logistics node in Pinkenba, and told their amazing story of success through rapid, strategically targeted growth, working to fill critical gaps within Australia's Defence Industry supply chain. In addition, we heard from Lucien Whitten (Defence Jobs Queensland) who updated us on some recent physical security concerns, and also received a brief update on the Government's current suite of Strategic Documents, highlighting which areas of each are relevant to becoming a "strategic SME business."

Cyber-attack event

March also saw the ADF Reserves 2nd Health Battalion Exercise Vipers Walk – Immersion Day at Greenbank Training Area, and Committee and members attend the Defence Industry Suppliers Forum held by Queensland Police Service and the Security and Counter-Terrorism Network as they dived into the world of Security covering what to do in a Cyber-attack, counter-terrorism and how businesses can prepare for, and respond to, an Issue Motivated Group (IMG) protest event.



On Saturday the 9th of March, 2nd Health Battalion (2HB) facilitated an ADF Reserves & Employer Support immersion activity at Greenbank Military Training Area.

MAJ Jim Boubouras coordinated the participants to showcase the Battalion's capabilities as part of the larger Exercise



Viper Walk. The day provided valuable insight into 2HB's capability and operations, but also the important role Reservists play in providing valuable skillsets and currency of experience.

2HB is a rapidly deployable unit of the Australian Army who provide field medical support to land-based forces, including initial wound surgery, resuscitation (including surgical), medium to high intensity nursing care in the area of operations. 2HB relies heavily on their Reserve members to deliver this capability, particularly those who are medical professionals in their civilian roles.

More information on supporting Reservists with their service can be found www.reserveemployersupport.gov.au



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February Member Meeting – CyberCX



ABOVE: Members at AIDN QLD February Member Meeting hosted by CyberCX.

ABOVE LEFT: Megan Lane, Director of Communications and Government Affairs, Cyber CX.

LEFT: Colin McKenna, Assistant Secretary AUKUS Initiatives Australian Department of Defence.

Women of AIDN Networking Meeting



ABOVE: Members listening to Emily Faller, Edmund Rice Foundation.

LEFT: Emily Faller of Edmund Rice Foundation.

L-R: AIDN QLD Committee Member, Sandra Simpson of Elexon Electronics, Jenny Law of Aurora Marketing, Emily Faller of Edmund Rice Foundation, Leann Webb of Aurora Marketing, and AIDN QLD Project Officer, Alanna Mahlakolisane.

AmCham | Business Chamber Queensland Networking Event



L-R: Stuart Mansbridge, General Manager Queensland, American Chamber of Commerce, Steven Grant, Special Council, MinterEllison, Rachel Colaso, General Manager – Business Development & Member Relations, Business Chamber Queensland.



ABOVE: Stuart Mansbridge, General Manager Queensland, American Chamber of Commerce and attendees.



LEFT: AIDN QLD, AmCham and Business Chamber Queensland attendees.

March Member Meeting – Depth Logistics



L-R: AIDN National Board Chair, Carl Quarterman and AIDN QLD President, Shane Sarlin.



ABOVE: Members at the AIDN QLD February Member Meeting, AIDN QLD President, Shane Sarlin presenting.



AUKUS Pillar II Advanced Capabilities

Aligned with the recent release of the Defence Industry Development Strategy (or DIDS), Defence Jobs Queensland (DJQ), in partnership with the Queensland Defence Science Alliance and with support from the Association of Old Crows Australia, is aiming to better understand industry's interest in AUKUS Pillar II and the relevant capability existing in Queensland.

The AUKUS focus on cooperative research, development, testing and evaluation activities for Australia as well as the US and UK may lead to joint procurement efforts or other acquisition partnerships, representing an exciting opportunity for innovative and disruptive technology to rapidly find a market.

AIDN members are encouraged to complete a short business survey **click here** to help build intel on Queensland's capabilities. To accompany the survey, a description of AUKUS Pillar II capabilities has been developed **click here**. Your response will help ensure that your business is identified as forming part of Queensland's Defence innovation eco-system and assist us to better target opportunities for industry under AUKUS Pillar II as they present. Company information will not be made public without prior consent.

AUKUS Pillar II – Advanced Capabilities

- ◆ Advanced Cyber
- ◆ Artificial Intelligence and autonomy
- ◆ Quantum Technologies
- ◆ Undersea capabilities

- ◆ Hypersonic / Counter-hypersonic
- ◆ Electronic warfare
- ◆ Innovation
- ◆ Information sharing

DJQ continues to help build industry's defence business acumen and to support Queensland companies showcase their capabilities at significant events including Land Forces in 2024, and Avalon next year. New and prospective suppliers to Defence are invited to find out more about these and the other services that we offer by visiting the Defence Industry Hubs webpage: <https://www.defenceindustries.qld.gov.au/services/defence-industry-hubs>.

If you would like to meet with one of the team, please contact:

DJQ@dSDLGP.qld.gov.au



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Almost every day we are witnessing, and TA is assisting with the natural weather events that are creating havoc and destruction all over Australia. What we do as Loss Adjusters is important and affects the lives of many. Our clients expect us to produce a professional result every time they engage us. We seek out and have been joined by the industry's best and brightest.

We like to think TA is chosen by our people, which is the reason why we are chosen by our clients. Talent is unevenly distributed in this industry. We believe that **talent chooses us™**

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AIDN MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Australian Industry & Defence Network Incorporated (AIDN) is the peak industry association for small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) wishing to do business in the Defence and security sectors. Established in 1995, AIDN represents the interests of Australian SMEs in the Defence and security industry sectors by advocacy, representation and member services.

AIDN is focused on assisting SMEs to gain greater access to information, resources and key decision makers in the public and private sectors of the Australian and international Defence industries.

AIDN National assist the state based chapters to enhance business opportunities with Defence and Defence prime contractors, and initiatives which improve management skills and expertise. Our organisation maintains a regular dialogue with the Federal Government, CASG, CDIC, Policy Division, and other national organisations in the Defence industry sector.

Gain advantage now through:

- Networking
- Training and Education
- Influence
- Information
- Best Practice
- Exchange of Ideas
- Collaboration
- Relationships



Update from the office of AIDN NT President, Jim Walker



We are well into our monsoon season in the top end. We have experienced the annual isolations from all main roads and railway being cut into the Northern Territory due to flood water and wet season conditions.

Questions concerning the “toughen up” for top end transport infrastructure stated in the DSR have been raised at various recent forums, but firm details have not yet been forthcoming. On the positive outlook, we have had some federal engagement in the top end which is detailed in some of the below commentary.

AIDN NT’s member activity this year commenced with a harbour cruise with WW2 commentary about the wartime history of the harbour. Weather had the cruise delayed for a week, but once on the water an informative and relaxed networking event was enjoyed by members.

Our March networking event was sponsored by Fetch, a local business supply and service company. They used the theme



Sunset Networking Cruise.

“Thinking outside the box in the NT” which was very appropriate for the changing face of industry. Graham Priestnal spoke on

behalf of AIDN, and we had presentations from Fetch, Defence NT and ODIS.

On the 29th February we attended the

?prominence understands the strategic challenges Australia faces.

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CONSULTING

Australian Navy's Birthday event at Larrakeyah Barracks, hosted by new commanding Officer Captain David Shirvington, and enjoyed the Navy hospitality and cake cutting by ceremonial sword.

We have seen recent engagement for Defence Industry by federal and industry stakeholders. Following are a selection of the forums held in the NT;

Mid December the Defence Minister The Hon Richard Marles MP hosted a round table for Defence Industry representatives at RAAF Base Darwin. This was an opportunity for local industry to provide direct feedback to the Minister, and to raise questions concerning the direction of outcomes from the DSR in relation to local Defence Industry. Topics raised included how apprentices can be retained in the NT workforce with concessions such as return of service tax cuts, Indigenous engagement in Defence Industry and some NT businesses are committing to strategic investment to support local industry.

Early February DefenceNT hosted an industry roundtable which was attended by Defence Industry stakeholders involved in NT activities including government, primes and business leaders and industry organisations. Discussions included was there any additional funding for the NT in recent Defence announcements, the status of current VISA workers here in regards to workforce exclusions and wait times for citizenship, and Defence future projects such as the RMC.

Michael Slattery Consulting from South Australia hosted a Defence Infrastructure Collaboration Seminar on the 5th March 2024. Michael is a past AIDN SA president whose consultancy involves SMEs working in the Defence Industry. There were 15 businesses from SA attending, all of which had backgrounds in working with Defence Industry. The concept being explored was how collaboration between the SA businesses could look to develop collaborations and partnerships with businesses in the NT to enhance skill levels and introduce innovative or seasoned



Fetch Owner Terri presenting.



Defence services to build on the sovereign capability of the NT Defence Industry, with mutual benefit to both SA and NT enterprises. The forum also facilitated presentations from Defence NT,

ABOVE: The Administrator of the Northern Territory, Honourable Hugh Heggie AO PSM and guests at the Navy Birthday.

LEFT: Captain David Shirvington, CO HMAS Coonawarra conducts The Birthday Address.

Master Builders Association, Defence SA and AIDN NT.

Upcoming events

Please see the promotion pages for the call for nominations for NT Awards in Defence Industry and the AIDN NT Gala Dinner and Awards Night.

DO YOU HAVE ANY 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.

Contact

If you would like any further information or require any assistance with defence industry issues, please contact AIDN at: info@aidn.org.au





Update from the office of AIDN SA President, Graham Priestnall



Dear AIDN-SA members and friends, welcome to the first quarterly report for 2024. The first quarter this year has been a busy time for the AIDN-SA Chapter.

In February the 2024 AIDN-SA Committee nomination and election was scheduled. As nine candidates nominated for 10 Committee positions and election was not held. The Committee is seeking additional candidates to serve in 2024. I congratulate our 2024 Committee and thank them for volunteering their time. Your 2024 AIDN-SA Committee representatives are: Matt Neagle, Vice President, Rian Whitby, Secretary, Gary Bettcher, Committee Member, Leith Biddell, Committee Member, Abe Chandra, Committee Member, Mike Holmes, Committee Member, David Searles, Committee Member, Michael Slattery, Committee Member and me, Graham Priestnall, President. Jonathon Hedger, the 2023 AIDN-SA winner has been appointed to the Committee and we welcome his contribution.

At the first Committee meeting the office holders were appointed and individual tenures agreed. Five of the Committee will serve a two-year term and the remainder a one-year term. This means that half the Committee positions will be contested at the next annual election, in early 2025. This will enable the Committee both retain corporate knowledge and provide the opportunity for 'new ideas' as half the Committee positions will be available for election.

Functions

On 1 February AIDN-SA, the DTC and Defence SA co-hosted the SA Australian Naval Nuclear Power Supply Bill roundtable at Lot 14. The roundtable was attended by AIDN-SA members and other industry representatives. Those attending were provided with an update from senior Defence representatives on the development of the Bill, its purpose and scope. Industry representatives asked questions and provided feedback to the Defence team.

The first networking function this year was held at the Naval Military and Air Force Club on 22 February. This breakfast function was very popular with 60 registrations.



AIDN SA 'Women in Defence Industry Event'. Panel members: L-R: Dr Daysi Ruvalcaba, System Engineer, Acacia Systems, Major Sarah Vandeeper, Practicing Artist Australian Defence Force – Army, Kerryn Smith, CEO Legacy Club of South Australia and Broken Hill and David Searles of Citadel Secure.

Judy Dennison from the Office of Defence Industry Support (ODIS) provided an excellent presentation, detailing changes within CASG and the role of ODIS and its support to defence industry. Judy answered members questions and we thank her for supporting AIDN-SA. We also received a detailed update from the AIDN-SA Project Manager, Kayla McKenna on the 2024 function program, including the inaugural AIDN-SA Annual dinner in July.

At the time of writing preparations for the first Women in Defence networking event on 21 March are well advanced. This event is being held at Luigi's Café in Franklin St, Adelaide, it features a VIP guest and a panel of three women who have significant experience in Defence, defence industry and related associations, who will share their stories. This is the first of four similar events scheduled for 2024.

AIDN Young Achiever Awards (YAA)

Nominations for YAA are now open to those in the defence industry who are under 30 years of age on 1 January 2024. The nomination period closes on 23 May 2024. AIDN is very proud of this award, which is now in its 18th year. The YAA recognises the outstanding young professionals in defence industry by showcasing their leadership,

technical ability and achievements. AIDN-SA requests that all candidates who qualify consider nominating. Last year we had 11 nominations which was an outstanding achievement. The AIDN-SA winner, Jonathan Hedger, will attend the AIDN National dinner in June with the other AIDN Chapter finalists were the AIDN National YAA winner will be announced.

On 21 February I represented AIDN at the Enhanced Lethality Surface Fleet Industry Roundtable with Deputy PM Marles and Minister Conroy. I sent a summary of this meeting to AIDN National and you would have seen the media release and quotes from AIDN National CEO, Brent Clark. On the 29 February the Government released the Defence Industry Development Strategy (DIDS), which AIDN National is analysing and consolidating a response on behalf of members. I had the pleasure of representing AIDN National at the very successful AIDN-NT networking on 6 March. It was a great opportunity to meet members from another AIDN Chapter, who share similar interests and concerns on the defence industry environment with AIDN-SA members.

Finally, after a hiatus the government released several major policy documents, which should be followed by increased capital acquisition and sustainment activity and, hopefully more work for AIDN-SA members. This indicates that AIDN-SA and our members are in for a busy 2024.



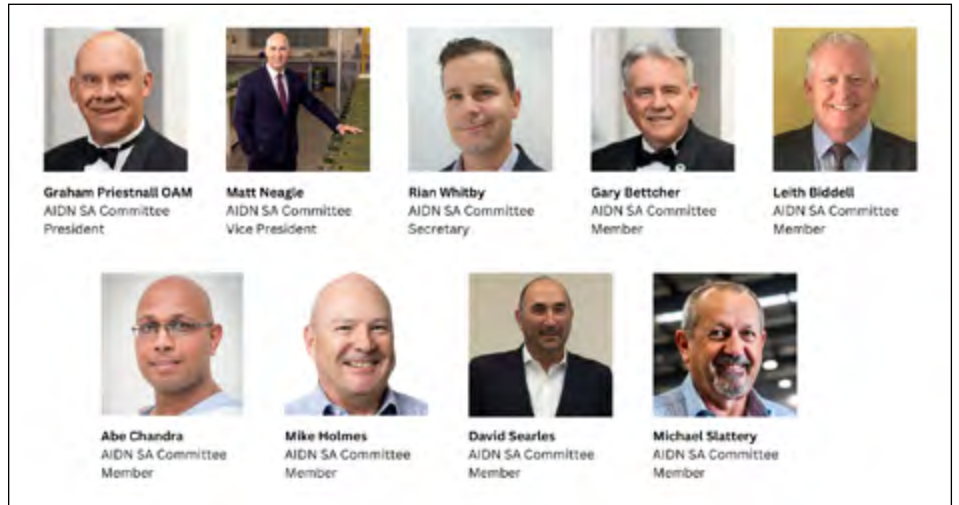
Nominations for YAA are now open to those in the defence industry who are under 30 years of age on 1 January 2024

Introducing AIDN SA Committee

AIDN SA are thrilled to announce the new AIDN SA Committee for 2024/25

Re-elected Committee Members:

- ◆ Graham Priestnall OAM – Committee President
- ◆ Matt Neagle of Australian Public Affairs – Committee Vice President
- ◆ Rian Whitby of DEWC Services – Committee Secretary
- ◆ Gary Bettcher of Leadership Management Australia – Committee Member
- ◆ Leith Biddell of Babcock – Committee Member
- ◆ Abe Chandra of SABRN Tech – Committee Member
- ◆ Mike Holmes of Aurizn – Committee Member
- ◆ David Searles of Citadel Secure – Committee Member



- ◆ Michael Slattery of Michael Slattery Consultancy – Committee Member
- ◆ AIDN would like to congratulate the newly formed committee for this wonderful achievement.

We are confident that the SA Members

will be represented by a strong, dedicated committee who will be a voice on local and national Defence Industry issues to AIDN National, Defence and Government this year.

AIDN SA Gala Dinner 2024

The AIDN SA Team and Platinum Sponsor, BAE Systems Australia, invite AIDN Members to the 2024 AIDN SA Gala Dinner.

Also housing the 2024 AIDN SA Young Achievers Awards, Sponsored by Defence SA, this year marks the first instance of AIDN SA are hosting a Gala Dinner. A testament to the growing infrastructure surrounding Defence operations here in South Australia. Interstate, the AIDN Gala Dinner is a highly respected and anticipated event, bringing together people across the Defence Industry, to celebrate their collective achievements and to acknowledge the meaningful contributions the industry's young achievers are making.

AIDN National CEO, Brent Clark, is scheduled to attend and deliver a speech on the current climate surrounding the Australian Defence Industry and provide insight into AIDN's perspective on the matter.

EVENT DETAILS

Location: Hall K, Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide 5000

Date: Friday, 12 July 2024

Time: 6:30pm – 10:00pm

RSVP: Friday, 5 July 2024



COST

AIDN Members: \$170 + GST*

Non-AIDN Members: \$200 + GST*

*AIDN Members please see your emails for the Promo Code to unlock the discounted tickets.

*AIDN uses Humanitix for registrations and all ticket sales will incur a small additional fee.

PURCHASE TICKETS:

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in sponsoring?

There are still many opportunities left for your company to sponsor the AIDN SA 2024 Gala Dinner. Please view the updated Sponsorship Package Inclusions document by clicking the button below.

Sponsorship Opportunities Remaining:

- ◆ Silver Sponsorship x2
- ◆ Pre-Dinner Drinks Sponsorship

Contact Kayla McKenna at aidnsa@aidn.org.au for more details.

AIDN SA Welcome to 2024 Breakfast



ABOVE: AIDN SA President, Graham Priestnall.

RIGHT: Members attending the AIDN SA 'Welcome to 2024' breakfast.



L-R: AIDN SA President, Graham Priestnall and Judy Denison CSM, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Defence Industry Support.



AIDN SA Women in Defence Industry Event



Panel members: L-R: Dr Daysi Ruvalcaba, System Engineer, Acacia Systems, Major Sarah Vandeeper, Practicing Artist Australian Defence Force – Army, Kerryn Smith, CEO Legacy Club of South Australia and Broken Hill and David Searles of Citadel Secure.



ABOVE: L-R: Kerryn Smith, CEO Legacy Club of South Australia and Broken Hill, Dr Daysi Ruvalcaba, System Engineer, Acacia Systems, Libby Day, CEO Defence Teaming Centre, AIDN SA Committee Vice President Matt Neagle of H/Advisors, APA, Major Sarah Vandeeper, Practicing Artist Australian Defence Force – Army, AIDN SA Committee Member David Searles of Citadel Secure.



LEFT: Members attending the AIDN SA 'Women in Defence Industry Event'.

Defence State ready to deliver continuous shipbuilding

With the release of the Australian Government's long-anticipated Surface Fleet Review, South Australia has been confirmed as the home of major surface combatants.

The review into the Royal Australian Navy's surface fleet requirements revealed that while the number of Hunter class frigates would be reduced from nine to six, the build of the replacement vessel for the Hobart class destroyer will immediately follow at the Osborne Naval Shipyard.

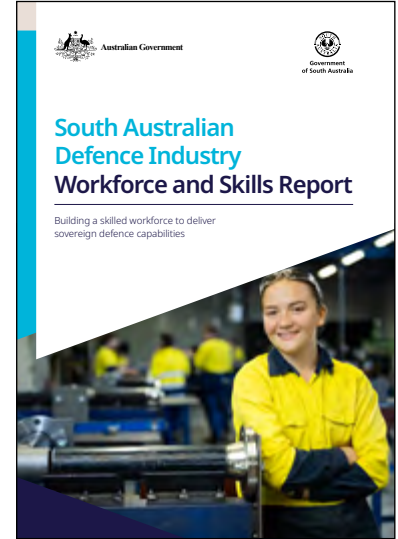
Under the new plans, the construction of the Hunter class frigates will sustain at least 2,000 South Australian jobs and create at least 500 new jobs over the next decade. This is in addition to the estimated 4,000 jobs to build the new Submarine Construction Yard at Osborne and the more than 4,000 direct jobs to build the nuclear-powered submarines.

The work program for the Osborne shipyard now includes:

- ◆ construction of Hunter class frigates
- ◆ construction of SSN AUKUS submarines
- ◆ construction of Air Warfare Destroyer replacement
- ◆ upgrades to the current Air Warfare Destroyers
- ◆ sustainment and Life of Type Extension of the Collins Class submarines.

With the announcement shoring up continuous shipbuilding in Adelaide for decades to come, the South Australian Government has reaffirmed its focus on ensuring the state has the workforce ready to adopt these secure, highly skilled, well-paid careers.

The *South Australian Defence Industry Workforce and Skills Report* will provide the



blueprint for how South Australia delivers the skilled workforce required for the mammoth task ahead.

WE'RE TRANSFORMING OUR STATE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION AND BEYOND.



South Australia is supporting the Australian Defence Force to achieve the biggest step forward in Australia's defence capability – the nuclear-powered SSN-AUKUS submarines.

The SA-built submarines will deliver a world-class capability for Australia that will see our nation become one of only 7 countries to operate nuclear-powered submarines.

The South Australian Government is committed to seizing this opportunity and the work starts now. We'll be designing and building a new shipyard, delivering tailored education and training to meet our workforce needs, and uplifting the capability and capacity of our industry.

We are the Defence State and we're making history.

Defence SA welcomes new Director Maritime

Defence SA has announced the appointment of Mel Slater as Director Maritime, responsible for developing and delivering activities that grow the state's sovereign shipbuilding and sustainment capability.

With over 35 years' experience in shipbuilding construction, Mel has experience across engineering, major project and significant subcontracts and senior management positions.

Prior to joining Defence SA, Mel worked on major projects including the Attack class submarine program and AIR6500, responsible for aspects of sourcing within the supply chain through market solicitations, evaluations, subcontract negotiations and executions, with overall cost and schedule responsibilities.

Mel has also worked on other key Defence projects, including the design and construction of the Collins class submarines, construction of the Hobart class Air Warfare Destroyers, and projects within the land and air domains.



Mel Slater, Director Maritime, DefenceSA.

Mercury: Threat Aware and Mission Focussed Cyber Security.

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- Cloud security assessments

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Update from the office of **AIDN WA President, Richard Baker**



Sunny Fremantle became the destination of choice for the Defence Industry Briefing hosted by the Commonwealth and Defence West and supported by AIDN National.

Rear Admiral Wendy Malcolm, AM, CSM, RAN – Head, Patrol Boats and Specialist Ships; Rear Admiral Matthew Buckley, CSC, RAN – Head, Nuclear-Powered Submarine Capability; and Linda Dawson Deputy DG ISI-JTSI put forward updates on the recently released Surface Combatant Fleet Review, the DSR and AUKUS. A discussion panel was moderated by WA Defence Advocate Philip Spedding. DSC, AM.

AIDN WA Defence Industry Briefing

AIDN WA was delighted to host the networking event following the *Defence Industry Briefing on Wednesday 21 February*, where close to 400 guests joined us. See photos in the WA Photo Gallery on page 28.

AIDN National Chair Carl Quarterman thanked Defence Industry Briefing speakers and spoke about the need for preparedness, how AIDN represents our members, and the important role members play within AIDN. Carl also thanked our sponsors BidWrite, Energy Power Systems Australia, TIREL Defence & Executive Consultancy, and The System Company Auditor/Consultant for their continued support. AIDN National Deputy Chair Sarah Pavillard from NSW and Perth based AIDN National Board Member Joel Nevin were also in attendance during Carl's visit.

It was wonderful to have *AIDN National Chair Carl Quarterman visit WA* and we kept him as busy as we could with events and meetings. During this time members and guests enjoyed a *relaxed catch up with Carl at Little Creatures in Fremantle* following the Defence Industry Briefing and AIDN Networking event at the Esplanade Hotel. AIDN National Deputy Chair Sarah Pavillard and AIDN Board Member Joel Nevin also joined members in a relaxed evening, the smiles spoke volumes! See photos in the WA Photo Gallery on page 28.



Panel moderator Philip Spedding. Panel members: DSC, AM; Rear Admiral Matthew Buckley, CSC, RAN; Rear Admiral Wendy Malcolm, AM, CSM, RAN; Linda Dawson Deputy DG ISI-JTSI.



ABOVE: AIDN National Chair Carl Quarterman at the Defence Industry Briefing on Wednesday 21 February.

RIGHT: Photo of AIDN WA President Richard Baker and Michele Clements JTIS.



WA breakfast at the Bistro Café

On the 26th of Feb Western Australia showed it is the state that keeps on giving; it was yet another stunning summers morning for our *AIDN WA breakfast at the Bistro Café in Fremantle*.

Beautiful weather and delicious food enhanced insightful conversations. Our

casual breakfast was a great opportunity for nominees and guests to relax and talk about WA Defence Industry and how the AIDN WA Chapter Committee provides representation for AIDN Members in Western Australia, as well as what is involved in the role of being on the committee.

This was an informative morning of discussion between members, guests, AIDN National Chair Carl Quarterman, AIDN National Deputy Chair Sarah Pavillard, AIDN National Board Member Joel Nevin, as well as AIDN National / WA Project Officer Sarah Burke. As part of her role, being based in Perth WA, Sarah is the conduit to AIDN National and supports the AIDN WA Chapter President and Committee during



It was wonderful to have AIDN National Chair Carl Quarterman visit WA and we kept him as busy as we could with events and meetings

their tenure in 2024.

- Our brekky guest List (also in photo):
 Carl Quarterman – AIDN National Chair of the Board
 Sarah Pavillard – AIDN National Board Deputy Chair
 Joel Nevin – AIDN National Board Member
 Toff Idrus – TiREL Defence & Executive Consultancy
 Adrian Wiseman – babcock
 Rodney Brown (Rod) Brown – ALARP Solutions
 Sudesh Ranasinghe – LokuSe
 Mike von Bertouch – innovaero
 Reena Strehle – QED Environmental Services
 Jerome MONTEIRO – Profluid
 Andrew Reed – EPTec
 Fred (Firdause)
 Behramkamdin, MIEAust, MAIPM, RegPM
 CPPM – Energy Power Systems Australia
 Carlos Fortuna – BAE Systems Australia
 Cam Dumesny – TraumaSim
 Tim Speer – Austal
 Paul Haynes – 2023 AIDN WA YAA – innovaero
 Sarah Burke – AIDN National and AIDN WA Project Officer




AIDN WA breakfast at the Bistro Café in Fremantle.

ODIS Defence Forum

Our newly elected AIDN WA President Richard Baker has been busy representing AIDN WA. On Wednesday the 6th of March *Minister Pat Conroy & Rear Admiral Wendy Malcolm Hosted an Industry Round Table with WA Defence Industry leaders and SME representatives.* Where the Surface Flot










Review, Defence Industry Development Strategy (DIDS) and the Defence Industry Vendor qualification Program were discussed.

The *ODIS Defence Forum* was held on the 19th and 20th of March and Richard discussed the AUKUS implications both for Defence and defence Industry.



**AIDN WA CHAPTER
2024
COMMITTEE**

www.aidn.org.au

 Richard Baker AIDN WA Committee President	 Adrian Wiseman AIDN WA Committee Vice President	 Cam Dumesny AIDN WA Committee Member
 Tim Speer AIDN WA Committee Member	 Rod Brown AIDN WA Committee Member	 Andrew Reed AIDN WA Committee Member
 Mike von Bertouch AIDN WA Committee Member	 Frank Sear AIDN WA Committee Member	 Carlos Fortuna AIDN WA Committee Member

AIDN WA's newly elected Chapter Committee members bring with them a vast amount of experience working in the Australian Defence Industry sector. AIDN is confident that the WA Members will be represented by a strong, dedicated committee who will be a clear voice on State issues to AIDN National this year.

The structure of the committee was finalised on the 5th of March 2024, and

it is our pleasure to announce the newly formed committee members to the membership:

PRESIDENT:
Richard Baker MBA, GAICD of Red Piranha

VICE PRESIDENT:
Adrian Wiseman of Babcock Australia & New Zealand

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
 Cam Dumesny of TraumaSim Group
 Rodney Brown of ALARP Solutions
 Tim Speer of Austal Australia
 Mike von Bertouch of Innovaero
 Frank S. of Omni Executive Pty Ltd
 Andrew Reed of Eptec Group
 Carlos Fortuna of BAE Systems Australia

Held in Rockingham on the 26th of March the *Western Australian Defence Advisory Forum (DAF)* featured premium speakers and thought leaders. This insightful line up of speakers included newly elected AIDN WA President Richard Baker who spoke on behalf of AIDN WA. During the Forum guests were given invaluable insight into the evolving landscape of defence industry and security in Western Australia.

On the 11th of April Richard was invited to meet the Indian Shipbuilding Defence Delegation.

Putting the AI into Tendering

Hosted by BidWrite the *AIDN WA April Member Event ‘Putting the AI into Tendering’* was highly informative and enjoyed by all who attended. David Lunn facilitated an informative evening and engaged all present allowing the discussion of aspects that were important to our guests.

One participant enjoyed the presentation as it was “Domain specific information regarding important aspects / phases of bid writing with respect to AI”

AIDN WA would like to thank David Lunn, Christine Jordan and the BidWrite team for hosting our members at the event. The feedback has been great “My first AIDN event and was a great exposure, pleasure to meet people from a network perspective” and the AIDN team in WA are looking forward to a great year of AIDN WA Member Host Events!



AIDN WA April Member Event ‘Putting the AI into Tendering’
Front row: Ben Hicks (Thales), Carlos Fortuna (BAE Systems), Bruce Swan (Dobbie), Brian Lee (Anchoram Consulting), Farhad Mobarra (TBH), Hansika Abeywardener (TBH), and Michael Fazio (Thales).

Standing: David Lunn (Bid Write our presenter for the evening), Richard Baker (AIDN WA President), Frank Sear (Omni).



LEFT: Members and ADF Personnel at ‘Putting the AI into Tendering’.



AIDN MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Australian Industry & Defence Network Incorporated (AIDN) is the peak industry association for small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) wishing to do business in the Defence and security sectors. Established in 1995, AIDN represents the interests of Australian SMEs in the Defence and security industry sectors by advocacy, representation and member services.

AIDN is focused on assisting SMEs to gain greater access to information, resources and key decision makers in the public and private sectors of the Australian and international Defence industries.

AIDN National assist the state based chapters to enhance business opportunities with Defence and Defence prime contractors, and initiatives which improve management skills and expertise. Our organisation maintains a regular dialogue with the Federal Government, CASG,

CDIC, Policy Division, and other national organisations in the Defence industry sector.

Gain advantage now through:

- Networking
- Training and Education
- Influence
- Information
- Best Practice
- Exchange of Ideas
- Collaboration
- Relationships

Defence Industry Briefing on Wednesday 21 February



ABOVE: Members and ADF Personnel at AIDN WA Defence Industry Briefing.

AIDN Networking event at the Esplanade Hotel



ABOVE: Members and ADF Personnel at Little Creatures, Fremantle.



AIDN National Chair Carl Quarterman with Matt McFarland and Kathleen Smith from ADCC.



Update from the office of AIDN NSW President, Anna Murray



Promoting collaboration, exchanging insights, and collectively addressing challenges are critical for progress in the constantly evolving realm of the Defence industry.

On 27 February of this year, the AIDN NSW 2024 Kick-off and Networking event was hosted by Jenkins Engineering Systems (JEDS). The occasion observed a remarkable level of attendance, which served as an indication of the industry's eagerness and dedication to establish connections and collaborate. AIDN NSW shared valuable insights into our plans for the year, while Sarah Pavillard, as AIDN National Deputy Chair, updated us on important industry developments. Peter Jenkins OAM, JEDS Managing Director and AIDN NSW Vice President, shared how AIDN has added significant value to their business and highlighted new capabilities at JEDS. The event also included an insightful tour of the JEDS facility, providing a glimpse into their cutting-edge capabilities.

Fast forward to the eve of International Women's Day, 7th of March 2024, and AIDN NSW hosted a pivotal event entitled "Strategic Solutions for a Diverse Defence Workforce." The event was very well attended and the audience was thoroughly engaged, reflecting the collective resolve to address challenges and promote inclusivity within the Defence Industry workforce. The venue buzzed with energy as attendees engaged in thought-provoking discussions and actively participated in shaping the dialogue. Panellists including Dr. Susan McGinty (Aya Leadership), Sarah Pavillard (ADROITA), Mai Le (Investment NSW), Margarita Klianov (CSIRO), and Rachael Sharp (TBH) shared their expertise and insights, offering diverse perspectives on workforce development and inclusion.

AIDN NSW continues to grow and welcomes member input and feedback on Defence and Defence industry issues. We have been excited by the engagement of the membership and the number of members willing to host events and showcase their capability.

Looking ahead, the momentum continues to build towards a future in the Defence industry. We look forward to your attendance at the following upcoming events in New South Wales:



AIDN NSW President, Anna Murray and Panel at Strategic Discussion: Solutions for a Diverse and Robust Defence Workforce to Deliver the Defence Strategic Review Priorities.

Upcoming events in NSW

AIDN NSW Networking Event with Industry Insights from McGrathNicol Advisory (Link not yet available, to be published soon)

Location: L11 44 Martin Place CBD Sydney, NSW 2000

Date: Tuesday, 4 June 2024

Time: 3:30pm – 5:30pm (Registration starts at 3:00pm AEST)

RSVP: 5:00pm, 24 May 2024

AIDN NSW Members Spotlight feat. Coregas (Link not yet available, to be published soon)

Location: 66 Loftus Road, Yennora NSW 2161

Date: Wednesday, 19 June 2024

Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (Registration starts at 3:30 PM)

29th Annual AIDN NSW Gala Dinner & Young Achiever Awards

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for this year's highly anticipated event in NSW, the AIDN NSW 29th Annual Gala Dinner and Young Achievers Awards.

This distinguished event is a highlight of our annual calendar, commemorating the extraordinary achievements of the Defence Industry, especially the young professionals making important contributions to the industry.

Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze sponsorship levels are available.

Secure your spot early to maximize your promotional benefits! Each tier offers excellent promotional opportunities and includes tickets.

A detailed breakdown of benefits for each sponsorship level is included in the link below.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Venue: Sydney Town Hall, 483 George St., Sydney, NSW, 2000

Dress: Black Tie or Mess Kit with Miniatures, Ladies – Formal Attire.

For more information contact Divine on aidnnew@aidn.org.au

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2024

Time: Pre-Dinner Drinks and Registration starts at 6:30pm AEST



BECOME ISO CERTIFIED TODAY AND DISCOVER NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR BUSINESS.

The System Company is a trusted provider of **management system consulting services** in Western Australia. Their expertise lies in helping businesses achieve and maintain **International Standard Certifications**. The key aspects of their service includes:

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The company specializes in collaborating with, and assisting clients to develop, operate and maintain a suitable and sustainable quality management system to meet the required outcomes within their industry. Using professional consultation processes and extensive knowledge across various industries and organizational sizes, **The System Company** tailor their services to meet the unique requirements of each business and ISO standard.



Business Consulting:

The System Company also offers **business consulting** services with their consultants helping businesses improve efficiency and streamline processes. Whether it's enhancing operational workflows or optimizing resource utilization, they provide valuable insights.

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Auditing is a critical component of maintaining management system compliance. **Quality internal audits** can be conducted to assess adherence to standards. Their experienced auditors identify areas for improvement and ensure ongoing compliance.

Customized '3Sixty Services' Solution :

The System Company has teamed up with 3Sixty Services to 'complete the circle' from audit findings to action closure. With Trainer Assessors and qualified personnel, their expertise helps businesses respond to actions in real time. This service includes, performing verification of competence (VOC's), periodic lifting and working at heights inspect and tag, fire equipment inspect and tag and electrical test and tag.



The System Company plays a crucial role in supporting businesses across Western Australia in their pursuit of excellence through certifications and efficient management systems. Whether you're a small enterprise or a large corporation, their tailored services can help you achieve your quality and compliance goals.

AIDN NSW 2024 Kick Off and Networking Event



LEFT: AIDN NSW President, Anna Murray.

ABOVE: Peter Jenkins OAM, Managing Director, Jenkins Engineering Defence Systems (JEDS).

Strategic Discussion: Solutions for a Diverse & Robust Defence Workforce to Deliver the Defence Strategic Review Priorities



ABOVE LEFT:

L-R: Dr Susan McGinty, CEO and Founder Aya Leadership, Rachel Sharp, Senior Consultant TBH Consultancy, Anna Murray, AIDN NSW President, Maggie Klianev, Generation STEM Project Officer, CSIRO, Mai Le, Associate Director Industry Development, Investment NSW and Sarah Pavillard, Founder and CEO of ADROITA.



Update from the office of AIDN ACT President, Emma Pilbeam



The AIDN ACT Committee has stepped into the new year with vigour, hosting two successful members events and a productive round table with various organisations providing Defence industry support services in the ACT and surrounding region. Read on to find out more!

2024 Kick Off Event – Pre- ADM Congress Networking

To kick off 2024, AIDN ACT hosted a networking event on Tuesday 20 February at Walt and Burley on the Kingston Foreshore, prior to the ADM Congress. The event enabled new and old AIDN ACT members to mingle, create new connections and welcome interstate visiting members. With amazing catering and great weather, it was a fantastic way to start what looks to be a trying year for most. Thank you to Megan O’Neill for organising!

Bringing AIDN, the Office of Defence Industry Support (ODIS) and the ACT Government Together

On 23 February AIDN ACT Committee members (Prue Rhodes, Emma Pilbeam, and Richard Campbell) participated in an ODIS-chaired round table of organisations ‘providing services to Defence’ at their offices in Brindabella Park. The activity was hosted by the ODIS Assistant Director Industry Engagement Team NSW and ACT, Ms Alison Everett and included several of their staff, ACT Defence Industry Support and Advocacy representative, Ms Karen Schilling, and the COO of the Canberra Cyber Hub, Ms Michelle Fulton. Other attendees included NSW Regions and



AIDN ACT Committee and Kayla, From Left to right. Richard Campbell, Sarah Cullens, Megan O’Neill, Emma Pilbeam (President), Meagan Hungerford, Kayla McKenna, Prue Rhodes, Alisha Hand, Andrew Cullens.

NSW Investment, ACT Government and AusIndustry.

The round table focused on deconflicting roles and responsibilities, better coordinating efforts in the Capital Region to support local industry, establishing networks for new and current representatives; and sharing information to build a common understanding of local industry needs and required services. Much of the meeting focused on how, as a collective, the different support services could better provide targeted support to Capital Region businesses to meet Defence short and longterm needs and to increase their competitiveness for Defence tenders. ODIS appears very committed to improving engagement with Defence Industry in

line with DSR priority objectives. Planning is underway on a series of events to be delivered in the latter half of 2024, more information will be provided in future AIDN-ACT Newsletters and the ODIS Update.

International Women’s Day – Count Her In: Invest in Women

On Thursday 7th March, AIDN ACT hosted an International Women’s Day panel and networking event at the BAE Systems Australia office in Barton. Our panellists, MAJGEN Sue Graham, Prue Rhodes GAICD, Bec Dyson, MAIPM CPPM and Sian Wrigley engaged in a thought-provoking conversation regarding this year’s International Women’s Day theme: Count Her In: Invest in Women. The panel brought their wealth of knowledge, experience, and perspectives to the conversation on the importance of empowering, motivating and mentoring women across their career journey and the Defence sector. The event attracted a large crowd of AIDN ACT members and non-members and resulted in interesting post-panel networking chat. Thank you to all our event sponsors, Forge Advisory, P Rhodes Advisory and Synergy Group. A big thank you also to Alisha Hand for organising!

There is plenty more to come from AIDN ACT in 2024, so keep an eye out for future events. If you have any suggestions on event types and themes you’d like to see or would be interested in hosting reach out to eea@aidn.org.au or presidentact@aidn.org.au



AIDN ACT Women in Defence Industry Event. Panelist from Left to Right. MAJGEN Sue Graham, Prue Rhodes, Bec Dyson, Sian Wrigley and Alisha Hand.

AIDN ACT 2024 Kick Off Networking Event



International Women’s Day – Count Her In: Invest in Women





Update from the office of
AIDN VIC President, Adam Evans



AIDN VIC Gala Dinner

AIDN VIC is pleased to invite you to join us as a Sponsor at this year's AIDN VIC Gala Dinner.

The Gala Dinner is one of our most anticipated events of the year, bringing together leaders and professionals from various industries, especially those related to Defence. To celebrate our collective successes and to network and collaborate on future opportunities. We believe that the evening will be an unforgettable experience for all attendees. This highly anticipated event will be held in Melbourne on the 3rd of October 2024, where we will present the AIDN annual National Young Achiever Award.

Information on where and how to purchase your ticket to attend the 2024 AIDN VIC Gala Dinner will be announced at a later date.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Thursday 3 October, 2024

Time: 6:30pm for Check-in, canapes, pre-dinner drinks and photo opportunities

Venue: Rydges Melbourne, 186 Exhibition Street, VIC 3000

Dress: Black Tie or Mess Kit with Miniatures, Ladies – Formal Attire.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Why not join us and promote your business to like-minded Defence Industry businesses, Government, and Defence Primes at Australia's premier Defence Industry event?

Choose from Gold, Silver and Bronze level sponsorships. All categories include fantastic promotional opportunities and tickets, so why not get in early (click "SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES" button below) to maximise your promotional exposure today!

Download the Sponsorship document here:

For more information contact Merreilli on aidnvic@aidn.org.au

Inaugural
WOMEN OF AIDN CONFERENCE
"Pathways to Success"

 08:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday, 09 August 2024

 RACV Royal Pines, Gold Coast

Master of Ceremonies: MEL IRELAND

Key Highlights

-  Pathways to Success
-  AI in the Workplace
-  The Importance of Women in Defence Industry
-  Imposter Syndrome - a hidden epidemic



EARLY BIRD TICKETS OUT NOW!!