

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence and Space Industries

Tuesday, 3 October 2017

SA defence companies on show at Pacific 2017

South Australian defence businesses will promote their capabilities to some of the world's leading defence companies at the three-day Pacific Maritime Exhibition in Sydney, starting today.

Defence and Space Industries Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith, joined by 26 local companies, research organisations and educational institutes, will attend the international exhibition to explore opportunities for supply chain work in upcoming shipbuilding projects.

South Australian Government representatives will connect with nine of Europe's top 10 defence companies, attending 10 international business networking events and 20 meetings with major defence organisations across the three days.

In addition to presenting on the State Government's *Defence State* stand, SA companies will network with visiting French delegates on Wednesday, with Minister Hamilton-Smith hosting a French Industry Engagement breakfast, attended by new French Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency, Christophe Penot.

Background

The exhibition will include a number of Defence SA-hosted networking events, including the International Industry Networking breakfast, VIP dinner and *Defence State* 'Networking Hour', with Defence SA's activities expected to attract around 500 delegates.

Minister Hamilton-Smith said the exhibition is a perfect chance to showcase South Australia's defence and shipbuilding capabilities and create opportunities for collaboration within the maritime sector.

Pacific 2017 will also provide an opportunity to strengthen South Australia's ties with France to maximise industry involvement opportunities for local suppliers in the Future Submarine Program, and to attract French companies to South Australia.

Quotes attributable to Defence and Space Industries Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith

Pacific is a critical opportunity for South Australian industry to connect with defence companies in the global supply chain for upcoming Future Frigate, Future Submarine and Offshore Patrol Vessel programs.

South Australia's world-class defence industry has a proven track record of successfully delivering some of the most complex projects in Australia's history, and is fully capable of delivering the nation's shipbuilding plan.

We must ensure that Australian companies and workers have the chance to participate in these projects as partners in the supply chain and the construction and integration. Australian industry content must be delivered in the contracts to ensure that our industry can grow and deliver sovereign capability for the nation.

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