
LONDON, Wednesday, 12th September 2007

CALLING ALL SKILLED MIGRANTS

Deputy Premier Kevin Foley will be calling on all potential skilled migrants in the United Kingdom to ride the wave of South Australia's defence boom and consider the job vacancies that will emerge from next year in our State.

Putting the call out at the world's largest international defence exhibition, Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEi), which is being held in London this week, Mr Foley says from next year there will be a diverse mix of jobs vacancies available in South Australia.

"South Australia is doing all it can to train locals best suited for jobs such as electrical and electronics engineers, systems applications and analyst programmers, electricians and general fabricators.

"In Adelaide opportunities are emerging that point to a change in make up of the State's skills requirements.

"And, what better place than at this conference to get the message out that if you have skills in all areas associated with ship building and defence - then we want you in South Australia," Mr Foley says

"I encourage all potential migrants to visit www.immigration.sa.gov.au for more information on migrating to South Australia.

"Another strong message coming out of the exhibition is that for the first time South Australia will be featured at this bi-annual exhibition and it is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our State as the defence capital of the nation.

"I will be visiting the exhibition with our new Governor, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and together we will be supporting our local defence companies as they take to the international stage.

"DSEi is the world's largest fully integrated international defence exhibition and attracts over 25,000 visitors with more than 1,200 companies from 53 countries on show.

"It is the only UK-based defence exhibition to cover equipment technology and systems for all three Armed Services.

"South Australian companies, such as Codan, Vipac Engineers and Scientists and Tenix Electronic Systems Division will use the opportunity to promote their capabilities, establish international relations and foster linkages into global supply chain networks.

"There is no question that the defence industry in South Australia has enormous potential and opportunities like this are essential for our local companies to tap into the global market.

“Success in this area can only mean more jobs for more South Australians and larger economic benefits for the state.

“DSEi provides the ideal forum for gaining entry into everything from small scale projects right through to major aerospace and defence acquisition programs.

“The Governor, the Premier and I recently visited Australia’s Defence + Industry 2007 conference, which was for the first time held in Adelaide, and was an enormous success.

“In London, we will be meeting with a number of international companies, including Rolls Royce, BAE Systems and UK Government and Defence officials to promote South Australia as open and ready for business.

“Many of our local experts were on show in Adelaide and I am pleased that the Governor and I have this opportunity to visit an exhibition on an international scale and take the opportunity to support and promote South Australian businesses as they market themselves to international companies.” Mr Foley says.