

News Release

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TECHPORT AUSTRALIA TAKES SHAPE

Port Adelaide's naval and defence hub is starting to take shape with the Maritime Skills Centre on the cusp of development approval.

Parliament's Public Works Committee will examine the project today.

Deputy Premier Kevin Foley says the Centre will be the first building constructed at Techport Australia.

"Late last year we awarded the ship lift contract to Rolls Royce and with the Skills Centre construction scheduled to commence in April this year, Techport Australia is really starting to take shape," Mr Foley says.

"The Skills Centre will develop trade and technical skills required for the Air Warfare Destroyer project and will also benefit the industry state wide.

"The \$6 billion Air Warfare Destroyer project is a coup for South Australia.

"The benefits to the state in terms of the economy and employment opportunities in defence and construction are enormous.

"The State Government is investing in excess of \$250 million worth of infrastructure at Techport Australia, to assist ASC (formerly the Australian Submarine Corporation) build the state of the art Air Warfare Destroyers.

"This will ensure South Australia has one of the most efficient multi-use shipbuilding facilities in the Southern Hemisphere.

"The Maritime Skills Centre will be located adjacent to ASC Shipbuilding at Techport Australia." Mr Foley says.

Referring this development to the Public Works Committee is a step in the development program.

Construction of the Skills Centre is expected to commence in April 2007 and conclude in January 2008 in readiness to commence training at the facility from February 2008.