

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Tuesday, April 11 2017

South Australian Government welcomes ASC Shipbuilding partnership

The SA Government has welcomed today's announcement that ASC will partner with Perth-based Forgacs Marine and Defence Pty Ltd to offer a shipbuilding solution for the Offshore Patrol Vessel Program.

Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith said the Federal Government has promised and guaranteed that OPVs will be built in SA until such time the frigate build commences.

It is highly likely that more than two OPV builds in SA will be needed to cover that gap, as was stated at last week's Senate inquiry into the future of naval shipbuilding.

Background

Last October the Australian Government referred an inquiry into the future sustainability of Australia's strategically vital naval shipbuilding industry to the Senate Economics References Committee. Among key points, the inquiry considered: development of contracts relating to naval ship and submarine building; design, management and implementation of naval shipbuilding and submarine defence procurement projects in Australia and use of local content and supply chains.

The South Australian Government's submission to the Committee addresses the use of local content and supply chains; the integration of offshore design work and supply chains in Australia and opportunities for flow-on benefits to local jobs and the economy.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith

We must now see Federal Government's ship building plan and program of work.

At a recent naval expo in Malaysia called LIMA 2017, at which I spoke to Chiefs of Navy throughout ASEAN, Techport SA was identified as the future major naval shipbuilding hub in the southern hemisphere.

SA is the place where ships should be built, as the Senate hearing into the future of Australian shipbuilding held in Adelaide last week heard. WA and NSW are the places where the fleet will be based and sustained, with support from industry and workers from around the country.

We must now see a detailed program of work from the Commonwealth as the Valley of Death is well and truly upon us. The Commonwealth needs to clarify in its Shipbuilding Plan over the coming weeks what percentage of Australian industry content will be delivered.

Media Contact: Catherine Bauer 0478 855 367