
LONDON UK, Friday 23 May 2008

DEFENCE GIANT ULTRA ELECTRONICS LOOKS TO SA

Premier Mike Rann has welcomed plans by world-leading aerospace and defence electronics company Ultra Electronics to establish its Australian head office in Adelaide.

Premier Rann today met with Ultra Electronics Chief Executive Mr Doug Caster and Board Member Andy Hammett to discuss Ultra Electronics strategy to establish Australian headquarters in South Australia.

The company has recently developed a market entry strategy to establish a presence for its Sonar and Communications Division in Adelaide.

Premier Rann said Ultra Electronics has responded positively to State Government efforts to an increasing international defence industry presence within SA.

“By basing its Australian head office in Adelaide, Ultra Electronics will be well positioned to win lucrative supply contracts for ship sonar systems, torpedo defence and countermeasures systems on the Air Warfare Destroyer,” Mr Rann said.

“Furthermore, Ultra Electronics has suggested it may invest in developing an underwater systems research and development centre in Adelaide if they are successful in securing equipment supply contracts on future naval acquisition programs.

“By making this move, Ultra Electronics is backing the State Government’s commitment to securing Adelaide as a defence industry hub within the Asia Pacific region.”

Ultra Electronics employs 3000 people in the United Kingdom and North America. Ultra’s products and services are used on aircraft, ships, submarines, armoured vehicles, and surveillance and communication systems around the world.

Ultra plays an important role in supporting prime contractors by undertaking specialist system and sub-system integration.

“Adelaide is a logical choice for Ultra because of its strong defence industry and science and technology capability,” Premier Rann said.