

## Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith

Minister for Defence Industries

Monday, 15 June, 2015

### German giant scoping South Australian defence manufacturing capabilities

South Australia's world-class capabilities in defence-related advanced manufacturing will be showcased when international defence supplier Rheinmetall Defence Australia visits Adelaide today.

Defence Industries Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith said Rheinmetall executives are in Adelaide to explore opportunities for supply-chain partners for to its Land 400 bid.

'This is an important opportunity for South Australia to present our strong credentials as an armoured fighting vehicle manufacturing and sustainment hub,' Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

Land 400 is the Australian Army's \$10+ billion land combat vehicle procurement program, the largest armoured fighting vehicle program to be undertaken in Australia since World War II. It requires as many as 800 vehicles over the next decade.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia - part of the global defence and automotive Rheinmetall Group - is tendering for the Land 400 Phase 2 contract, with its Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle the basis of its bid. Tenders close on 6 August.

Mr Hamilton-Smith said our track record of having successfully built more armoured fighting vehicles than any other state in recent history speaks for itself.

'We have the skills, knowledge, experience and innovative, future-focused manufacturing expertise to support Rheinmetall in delivering this nation's next-generation armoured fighting vehicles from right here in South Australia.'

During Rheinmetall's visit 50 registered suppliers will hear project details from the company's Australian and German executives, and then showcase their capabilities in one-on-one discussions.

'I am confident Rheinmetall will be impressed with what local industry has to offer.

'South Australia is committed to securing Land 400. It could provide 35 years of advanced manufacturing and sustainment work for South Australian businesses and workers.

'We have a vision to create a Land Combat System precinct in northern Adelaide, bringing together all the Federal, State and industry infrastructure and workforce needed to deliver Land 400, and future related projects,' Mr Hamilton Smith said.

Defence remains a central pillar of South Australia's economy, employing 28,500 South Australians and contributing about \$2 billion to the economy each year.