

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Thursday, 3 August 2017

South Australia aims to lead the nation in cyber resilience

Defence sector firms and supply chain businesses must be cyber business ready, cyber capable and cyber prepared in order to win more defence sector work.

Ahead of this morning's cyber security industry forum Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith said cybercrime is now the seventh biggest global economic threat and will cost Australia an estimated A\$16 billion over the next decade and US\$294 billion globally.

A mock cyber attack at this morning's forum being held at UniSA's City West Campus will demonstrate the real and present threat to national security, defence, financial and administrative systems.

Defence SA and Defence Teaming Centre will stage the mock attack as part of its industry forum aimed at improving the cyber resilience and capabilities of South Australian companies bidding for work in the lucrative defence industry.

The forum, the third in a series, will include practical demonstrations of cyber-attacks and threats, including phishing emails, malware and computer scams that allow hackers to steal files, access sensitive information and paralyse entire systems. It will also update industry on other new threats and protective cyber initiatives.

Background

The third cyber forum, being held at the University of South Australia on Thursday 3 August, follows two highly successful previous sessions and will continue to build cyber awareness and security among South Australian companies.

The forum will include a live demonstration by cyber security companies OpSys and Fire Eye, a presentation on the importance of cyber security for South Australian businesses working in defence supply chains by Lockheed Martin's Guy Webber, along with a panel discussion featuring five local cyber-aware companies. Attendees include RAAF Airwarfare Centre; Cyber Ops; Redarc; Lockheed Martin and the EPA.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith

In an increasingly technologically-advanced society, it is important our companies are armed with cyber-ready capabilities to give themselves a competitive edge to win supply chain work for upcoming defence programs. South Australia has the expertise and capabilities to be a real leader in fighting the cyber threat.

Cyber vulnerability is a serious and evolving threat across all industries, including the high-tech multi-billion-dollar defence industry. Cyber-attacks on large Australian companies and government agencies happen daily, and can have devastating impacts, so it is vital we protect ourselves and our information.

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South Australia is home to some of the world's most complex and sophisticated defence projects, so it is important to ensure that the industries supporting defence are protected against cyber threats. The South Australian Government is committed to building the state as a natural cyber hub and create the best possible future for our defence industry.

Earlier this year global technology giant NEC Australia opened its \$4.38 million Global Security Intelligence Centre (GSIC) in Adelaide to address growing global demand for cyber security. A 2016 Lloyd's-Cambridge Study found that cybercrime is now the seventh biggest global economic threat and will cost Australia an estimated A\$16 billion over the next decade and US\$294 billion globally.

Australia features prominently as a target for cyber-attacks due to our rapid adoption of technology and relative global wealth – yet another reason to be ahead of the game.

Live demonstration

Media are invited to attend the live cyber-attack demonstration during the third defence industry cyber forum.

Where: University of South Australia City West Campus
Bradley Forum, level 5, Hawke Building

When: Thursday, August 3
8.30am – cyber demonstration
9.05-9.25am – Minister to speak on cyber security