

## Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Wednesday 23 November 2016

### **South Australian firms showcase defence capability**

Starting today, Defence SA will host a three-day series of meetings between the local defence industry and LAND 400 Phase Two bidders, BAE Systems Australia and Rheinmetall Defence Australia.

Sixty three South Australian companies will take part in the workshops, designed to give local businesses an opportunity to showcase their capabilities to the LAND 400 bidders, with a view to joining the supply chain for the \$5 billion second phase of the program.

Phase Two of the program involves producing up to 225 combat reconnaissance vehicles plus up to 35 years of sustainment and upgrade work.

### **Background**

LAND 400 aims to enhance the mounted close combat capability of the Australian Army's Land Force by providing armoured fighting vehicles with improved firepower, protection, mobility and communication characteristics.

The meetings form part of the Department of Defence's nation-wide LAND 400 Phase Two workshop program. Each company will have five minutes to pitch to the two LAND 400 bidders, plus five minutes of question time. The workshops will be held around the country, starting last week in Geelong and finishing in Hobart in December.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith**

In South Australia we have long campaigned for maximum Australian industry involvement in key Defence programs and are fully supportive of this opportunity for our local industry to showcase their capabilities to the LAND 400 Phase Two bidders.

A program of the complexity of LAND 400 Phase Two will draw on companies across Australia as part of the supply chain. We have some terrific local companies who are energised and ready to be involved in the program, as shown by the 63 companies involved in these workshops.

South Australia is the natural home for the LAND 400 Phase Two program. We have the skilled workforce with a track record of delivering the most complex defence projects ever undertaken in this country.

We are already building the industrial ecosystem to support the LAND 400 program. Our unique combination of a significant army presence, the RAAF Edinburgh 'Super Base', the largest DST Group establishment and the most extensive and capable exercise and testing ranges makes South Australia the best location for the program.

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