

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

September 6, 2016

South Australia hosts premier land defence event

South Australia's defence industry credentials will be on show from today, alongside the latest in defence and military hardware when global delegates converge on Adelaide for the nation's premier land defence exhibition Land Forces 2016.

Minister Hamilton-Smith will open the conference at the official Land Forces breakfast this morning.

The biennial event is being staged at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 6-8 September and is expected to inject more than \$16 million into the state's economy. Defence is a core pillar of the state economy, creating job and contributing about \$2 billion a year. It currently employs 28,500 South Australians.

Minister Hamilton-Smith said the event is a chance reinforce the state's position as the natural home for defence land programs, including the \$50 billion LAND 400 program, Australia's largest armoured fighting vehicle program since World War II.

South Australia will showcase its capabilities and commitment to the supporting the Army's Land Combat System, including the LAND 400 program. This is happening through development of a purpose-built Defence-managed Land Integration and Innovation Centre at a new Defence and industry Land Systems Precinct at Edinburgh Parks.

Fly over footage of the new precinct was showcased last night when the Premier hosted a state dinner for 165 high level delegates. See <http://www.defencesa.com/precincts/land-systems-precinct> for more.

Background

More than 460 companies are attending the event, along with thousands of military, government and industry decision-makers. It features eight major conferences and symposia, with speakers from Australia and around the world.

Defence SA is hosting 19 South Australian companies on its 'Defence State' exhibition stand and the state will be hosting a number of events and holding meetings with key industry players.

Companies based in South Australia have built more military vehicles than any other state since World War II and local companies are also currently responsible for the heavy grade repair and sustainment of all of Army's fleets of armoured fighting.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith

The defence industry is a vital part of South Australia's transition to a high tech advanced manufacturing future. South Australia is the only place in Australia which has the combination of Defence training areas, Defence scientists, operational Army armoured fighting vehicle units, supporting industry and supportive state government in one location.

LAND 400 offers South Australia the opportunity to build on our industrial and technology base and establish the state as the centre for the integration and sustainment of the Land Combat System into the future. And the future for shipbuilding in this state could not be brighter.

The state's proposal is centred around the establishment of a Land Integration and Innovation Centre, located within a Defence and industry precinct dedicated to keeping the Army's Land Combat System at the cutting edge.

Land Forces follows last week's Defence SA forum for local industry to reinforce what it takes to be involved in the defence industry and what opportunities they can tap into the future.

The South Australian Government is working to create a long-term, sustainable armoured fighting vehicle and shipbuilding industry in South Australia, maximise local industry involvement and support South Australian workers and create new jobs.