

Hon Jay Weatherill MP

Premier

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries
Minister for Investment and Trade

Tuesday, December 20 2016

DCNS to set up new Australian headquarters in Keswick

South Australia's \$50 billion Future Submarine Program continues to move ahead with French company DCNS establishing its Australian headquarters in Keswick.

French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian is in Adelaide for this morning's site foundation ceremony, also attended by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Premier Jay Weatherill.

Operational from early 2017, the new DCNS headquarters will be dedicated to delivering the Future Submarine Program and will open with a workforce of 50.

Minister Le Drian will also meet separately with the Premier and Defence Industries Minister Hamilton-Smith to discuss the State Government's work with the Department of Defence, industry, DCNS and educational institutions to grow the skills base of the predominately local workforce.

Background

South Australia and France are continuing to develop close ties since the selection of DCNS as the preferred design partner for the Future Submarine Program.

Opportunities for collaboration and strengthening of ties between South Australia and France have been occurring more broadly across a range of sectors including education and investment.

South Australian engineers will soon travel to Cherbourg-en-Cotentin in Normandy while members of the French supply chain will re-locate to Adelaide to undertake preliminary work on the program.

Recently the Premier and French Ambassador Christophe Lecourtier signed a Memorandum of Understanding to make way for two-way investment and economic ties between the two regions.

Earlier this month the Mayor of Port Adelaide Enfield Gary Johanson and Mayor of the City of Cherbourg-en-Cotentin in Normandy Benoît Arrivé signed a letter of intent that paves the way towards a sister-city relationship focusing on economic and port industry development.

Quotes attributable to the Premier Jay Weatherill

A strong defence industry is a vital part of South Australia's high-tech advanced manufacturing future.

We are committed to working closely with France to provide all the support and assistance it will take to successfully deliver the \$50 billion Future Submarine program.

This project will deliver thousands of direct jobs in South Australia in shipbuilding, at the DCNS headquarters officially opening today, supply chain jobs and further positions in combat system integration.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith

A strong and vibrant defence industry is a vital part of South Australia's high-tech advanced manufacturing future.

This new local presence for DCNS represents the commitment by our French partners to support our strong track record of delivering Australia's most complex defence systems integration projects in recent history.

Our connection with DCNS opens significant opportunities for South Australian industry to enter the French, and potentially wider European, markets.

Quotes attributable to DCNS Australia Chief Executive Officer Sean Costello

This is an important initial milestone in DCNS' decades long commitment to the design and construction of 12 regionally superior submarines in Adelaide.

The facility will become operational in early 2017 to support our activities around Australia. This will include transferring technology from France to Australia, the development of the Australian supply chain and the design of a new shipyard in Adelaide.

We are planning from the beginning to maximize the participation of Australian business in this \$50 billion project. As an indication of local enthusiasm, just two weeks ago over 450 Australian companies, R&D institutions and educational organisations attended a Future Submarine Program briefing event in Adelaide.

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