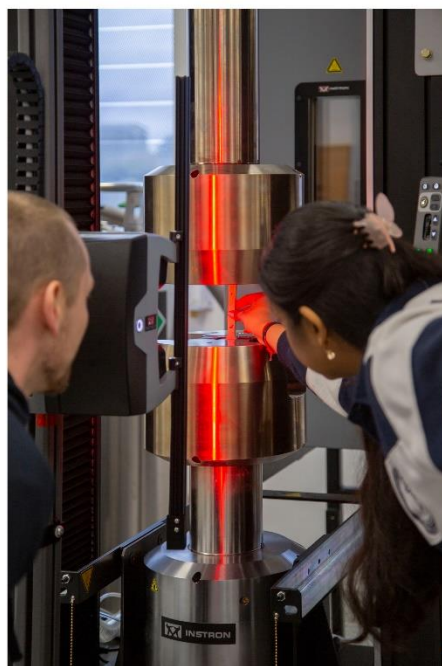


# Supporting Tasmania's defence industries

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## Tasmanian defence industry achievements

Over the last year, more than 89 defence supply contracts were awarded to Tasmanian companies with a value of around \$199 million. These contracts resulted in several new local jobs being created, with many more jobs expected as businesses ramp up delivery of these contracts.

Tasmanian companies are now partnering with Hanwha Defence Australia to deliver the Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicle for the Australian Army as part of the multi-billion-dollar LAND 400 Phase 3 project.

This is expected to be the largest ever defence supply contract for Tasmanian companies. It will employ around 30 new staff and keep 28 staff employed through to the end of 2028, with those existing staff working on other defence projects.

Tasmanian-based companies are also supplying Australian maritime defence programs including initial phases of the Australian maritime Hunter Class Frigate Program, the Offshore Patrol Vessel Program, the Evolved Cape Class Patrol Boat Program and the Guardian Class Patrol Boat Program for Pacific Island nations.

The University of Tasmania's Australian Maritime College (AMC) and AMC Search are supporting Defence with research, education and training in areas such as autonomous maritime systems, advanced navigation training and hydrodynamics.

In 2023-24, AMC was awarded six defence-related projects valued over \$2.5 million and employing two personnel. AMC Search was awarded 27 projects valued over \$14 million employing another two people.



The Tasmanian Government is continuing to progress a range of actions to assist and promote Tasmania's defence industries. Specifically:

## Increasing the visibility, awareness and reputation of Tasmanian defence industry capability across all subsectors

- The Tasmanian Government has held more than 85 meetings with representatives from the Australian Government's Department of Defence (Defence), the Australian Defence Force, major defence contractors and other key stakeholders and officials to promote Tasmania's defence industry capability.
- Engagement and collaboration has increased between the Tasmanian Government and the Australian Defence and Industry Network (AIDN), particularly following the establishment of a Tasmanian-based AIDN project officer in June 2024. This has further enhanced AIDN's representation of Tasmanian small-medium enterprises pursuing defence markets.
- The Defence Science Institute, with support from the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania, coordinated a briefing in Tasmania by Defence's newly established Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA), in November 2023.
- In May 2024, the Defence Science Institute, with support from the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania, coordinated a virtual briefing for Tasmanian stakeholders to provide input into Defence's new Defence Innovation, Science and Technology Strategy.

## Supporting the development and retention of a skilled workforce

- The Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development Plan was finalised in April 2023, providing a collaborative pathway for the Tasmanian Government and industry to transform the capability and productivity of the advanced manufacturing sector to fuel business growth. The Plan outlines actions through until 2026 to grow and upskill the workforce while connecting industry ecosystems.
- Key actions in the Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development Plan led to the development of the Advanced Manufacturing Industry Skills Compact, signed by parties in September 2023. Industry Compacts are an agreed framework between industry and government to work collaboratively to deliver a sustainable and highly skilled current and future workforce in Tasmania. The Advanced Manufacturing Industry Skills Compact identifies priority actions relating to training facilities and resources, trainers and supervisors, as well as workforce recruitment and retention.
- Informed by the industry consultation that underpinned the Workforce Development Plan and Industry Skills Compact, in early 2024, TasTAFE and the Tasmanian, Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC) partnered to install a new Computer Numerical Control (CNC) simulator at TasTAFE's Bender Drive training facility in Derwent Park in Southern Tasmania. The CNC simulator allows students to train on fit for purpose equipment that aligns to current future industry training demand. Students can get exposure to the set-up, programming and operation of CNCs without the need for an actual machine.
- TMEC also received funding to operate the Tasmanian Manufacturing Centre of Excellence and maintain skills development programs for the sector until the new Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan is released later in 2024.
- TMEC provided training in non-destructive testing, which is a process inspecting, testing or evaluating materials, components or assemblies for defects or differences in characteristics without destroying the part. Non-destructive testing is critical to several of Tasmania's defence industry companies.
- Six grants were awarded under the Skills 2 Manufacturing Program, which was established under the Tasmanian Government's *Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan 2024* to provide funding for advanced manufacturers to develop their workforce through non-accredited training.

- The *Tasmanian ICT Workforce Action Plan 2020-2023* continued to drive the digital transformation of the Tasmanian economy. The Action Plan was finalised in late 2023.
- A Technology Industry Skills Compact was developed and signed by parties in May 2024. The Technology Industry Skills Compact identifies priority actions relating to training and skills pipeline, trainers and supervisors and workforce recruitment and retention
- One of the key projects relating to the Tasmanian ICT sector workforce is the government's commitment under the *2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future* to establish an Advanced Technology Industries Strategy. This strategy will drive development of a skilled workforce and is part of the Tasmanian Government's broader efforts to strengthen the state's credentials in cutting-edge science and technology, future-proofing our economy and strengthening our key industries.
- Additionally, the Tasmanian Government has supported initiatives such as TasICT's Cyber Security Conference and workforce development programs, alongside major infrastructure projects such as the \$3.3 million Cyber Hubs Initiative which enhances the state's cybersecurity defences.
- The ADM Defence Skilling Summit was held in Hobart on 19 September 2023, attracting approximately 75 delegates from Defence, defence industry participants, media, and Australian and state government officials. Presenters shared the strategies they are adopting to address current and future skills requirements for their organisations
- Engagement is ongoing with the Australian Government's Department of Employment and Workplace Relationships Defence Skills Taskforce (AUKUS) and with the Australian Submarine Agency, regarding skills and workforce requirements for delivering Australia's conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarine capability for Australia, via the AUKUS partnership.

## Assisting to build capability, capacity and confidence

- The Tasmanian Defence Industry Advisory Committee is continuing to provide advice and guidance for ongoing defence industry activities.
- Approximately 64 Tasmanian-based companies and organisations have been routinely supported over the last year through various programs, services and initiatives that grow and develop Tasmania's defence industries.
- The 2023 Defence Tasmania Industry Directory was released in November of that year with seven companies added to that edition.
- The Tasmanian Government provided a financial subsidy to two Tasmanian industry leaders to participate in Defence's 2023 Defence and Industry Study Course (DISC).
- Under the Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan (AMAP) 2024, in the first half of 2024, the fifth and final round of the Accelerating Growth Grant Program was launched, providing financial support to manufacturers for purchasing new capital equipment and expanding market opportunities. Other grant programs under AMAP 2024 also provided Tasmanian businesses with financial support to tender for Defence contracts and support to become 'Defence Ready', including gaining ISO certifications.
- The Tasmanian Government continued to work with Defence's Office of Defence Industry Support, including through its annual Tasmanian Forum held in August 2024.

## Connecting Tasmanian industry with defence market opportunities

- In the last year, Tasmanian Government representatives and Tasmania's Defence Advocate hosted or supported seven inbound visits to Tasmanian companies and entities by Defence primes, Defence personnel, or other key stakeholders. These visits assisted to raise awareness of Tasmanian industry capability, products and services and connected Tasmanian industry with new market opportunities.

- Ocean Infinity, world leader in marine remote and robotic technology, was one of the organisations that visited Tasmania. Following their visit, Ocean Infinity announced they will establish their new Australian ship operations centre in Hobart.
- In September 2023, a UK Tasmanian Trade and Investment Mission took place with a Defence and Maritime Stream, coinciding with the UK Defence and Security Equipment International Exposition. AMC Search and five Tasmanian companies attended the Exposition as part of the Team Defence Australia (TDA) stand.
- In April 2024, a US Trade and Investment Mission took place, with a Maritime and Defence Stream. Four Tasmanian companies then attended the US Sea Air Space Exposition as part of the Team Defence Australia (TDA) stand, with support provided by the Tasmanian Defence Advocate and the Department of State Growth
- Six Tasmanian companies and the Australian Maritime Collage (AMC) exhibited at the Indo Pacific International Maritime Exposition 2023, which was held in Sydney in November 2023. At least nine Tasmanian companies also attended as trade visitors. Over 30 meetings were arranged with senior Defence buyers and decision makers, and several connections made linked to new business opportunities.

## Supporting the development of research, education and training capabilities

- In late November 2023, the AMC hosted the International Conference on Maritime Autonomy and Remote Navigation 23 (ICMAR Nav 23), with the Conference addressing the theme 'Driving Forward Autonomy in the Maritime Industry'. Global leaders in maritime autonomy attended ICMAR Nav 23 where presenters shared breakthroughs, challenges, and progression of autonomous systems in the maritime industry.
- AMC and AMC Search hosted Winterfest 23 in late November and early December at the AMC's Beauty Point campus. Winterfest 23 enabled robotics and autonomous maritime systems users to come together to collaborate, build relationships and progress individual and collective capabilities in a relaxed and friendly environment.
- Defence, through the Defence Science and Technology Group, continues making investments in the University of Tasmania's Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct. Investments have been made in research, test and evaluation capabilities in areas such as autonomous underwater vehicles, cavitation and turbulent flows and power and energy.

## Attracting defence related investment and ADF activities

- The Australasian Hydrographic Society (AHS) annual conference was held in Hobart for the first time in April 2024. The conference focussed on the future of hydrography and emerging developments and techniques. Over 150 delegates attended the conference, including RAN hydrographic personnel, with AMC and several Tasmanian based companies exhibiting.
- Numerous Royal Australian Navy vessels visited Tasmania including an ANZAC class frigate and minehunter coastal vessels, undertaking port visits and exercises.
- Several senior officials visited Tasmania over the last year including the RAN's Commander Training, the inaugural Chief of Personnel in the Australian Defence Force and the Commander of the Australian Army's 4th Brigade (which includes Tasmania's Army Reserve Units).

# Leveraging Tasmania's unique position as Australia's Antarctic and Southern Ocean gateway

- The *Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway Strategy 2022-2027* is being implemented, with an announcement made in May 2024 that Hobart Airport will begin multi-million-dollar runway works to enable it to accommodate wide-body aircraft, unlocking further opportunities in the Antarctic sector.
- International polar vessels that visited Tasmania over the last year include the US Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Polar Star, France's Antarctic resupply vessel L'Astrolabe, Germany's research icebreaker RV Polarstern, Japan's training and research vessel Umitaka Maru, and the Chinese icebreaker Xue Long.
- The Tasmanian Government is committed to providing safe and efficient wharf and refuelling infrastructure for the Port of Hobart. The prospect of an agile refuelling solution may provide opportunity for further attraction to our Antarctic gateway.



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