

Supporting Tasmania's defence industries 2025

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Tasmanian defence industry achievements

Over the last year, more than 62 defence supply contracts were awarded to Tasmanian companies with a value of more than \$190 million. About 49 new jobs have been created to support these new projects.

Tasmanian companies have signed contracts 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 one of the largest ever defence supply contracts for Tasmanian companies.

Tasmanian-based companies are also supplying other Australian Army projects including the Protected Mobile Fires – Self Propelled Howitzers, the Light Protected Mobility Vehicles and the Tactical Uncrewed Aerial System.

The following Australian maritime defence programs are being supported by Tasmanian-based companies: the 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.

Tasmanian companies were awarded major defence export contracts to supply the Royal New Zealand Navy and the United States Navy, with several new connections made by Tasmanian companies attending international defence expositions and events in the US, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea.

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 2024-25, AMC was awarded seven defence-related projects valued at over \$1.6 million and employing three additional personnel. AMC Search was awarded 11 projects valued at over \$7.5 million employing two additional people.



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

Advocating for, and promoting, Tasmania industry and our education, training and research organisations

- Representatives from the Tasmanian Government briefed national and international stakeholders on Tasmania's defence industry capabilities at the Australian Industry and Defence Network 2024 LandForces Conference in Melbourne in September 2024 and at the International Advanced Capability Industry Forum in Sydney in December 2024.
- In February 2025, the Premier of Tasmania, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, led a Tasmanian delegation to Canberra, with senior representatives from Tasmanian industry and the University of Tasmania part of the delegation. The Premier and Principal of the Australian Maritime College presented on Tasmania's defence industry capabilities at the annual Australian Defence Magazine's Congress as part of this visit.
- In February 2025, the Tasmanian Government led a delegation of nine Tasmanian entities to Western Australia, as part of a Defence Maritime Insights Tour. The delegation strengthened relationships with WA based shipbuilders and other stakeholders.
- The 2024 edition of the Defence Tasmania Industry Directory was published in September, with 11 new entities profiled.
- In the last year, Tasmanian Government representatives and Tasmania's Defence Advocate hosted or supported six inbound visits to Tasmanian companies and entities by Defence primes, Defence personnel or other key stakeholders. These visits assisted in raising awareness of Tasmanian industry capability, products and services and connected Tasmanian industry with new market opportunities.
- Two Tasmanian industry leaders are being supported to undertake the Australian Government's 2025 Defence and Industry Study Course.



Supporting collaboration, engagement and networking

- The Tasmanian Government has held more than 90 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.
- BAE Systems Australia held an industry education session in August in Burnie, with over 25 people attending. The session provided information to assist new market entrants to navigate defence.
- The Tasmanian Government continued to work with Defence's Office of Defence Industry Support, including hosting a networking event as part of ODIS' annual Tasmanian forum held in August 2024.
- The Tasmanian Government presented at a Business Northwest event in Burnie in February 2025 on Tasmania's defence industry capabilities. Opportunities were identified for collaboration across projects involving north west Tasmanian stakeholders.
- A networking event was held for Tasmanian entities attending LandForces 2024 in Melbourne in September, with Tasmanian suppliers connecting with one another and discussing upcoming projects.
- In the last year, Tasmanian Government representatives and Tasmania's Defence Advocate attended over five key Defence capability briefings and conferences including the Maritime Domain Industry Forum, an AUKUS Pillar II (Advanced Capabilities Forum), the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group's (CASG) Defence and Industry Conference, the Defence Connect Defence Industry Development Strategy Summit and the Australian Defence Science, Technology and Research.



Assisting industry to become defence-ready and scale up

- Round six of the Advanced Manufacturing Accelerating Growth Grant program was launched in September 2024, with the program providing funding to assist manufacturers to purchase capital equipment linked to an off-island market driven expansion opportunity. Seventeen companies have been supported through the program with several of these companies pursuing defence markets.
- As part of the *Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan 2028*, the Productivity Grant program was launched in October 2024. The program provides funding to manufacturers to undertake a variety of productivity enhancing activities such as obtaining accreditations expert advice and developing staff and business skills. Thirteen entities have been awarded funding through the program, with several entities pursuing defence markets.
- In February 2025, the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC) and the Tasmanian Government partnered with Swinburne University's Factory of the Future to deliver statewide workshops on Industry 4.0. The workshops outlined the benefits, applications and approaches to adopting digital technologies and were attended by over 30 industry representatives.
- Eleven new entrants to defence markets were provided with assistance by the Tasmanian Government, including assistance to develop a defence marketing 'quad chart' and connections to new potential project opportunities.
- The Tasmanian Government promoted the Australian Government's Defence Industry Development Strategy grant streams, including streams relating to the sovereign industrial priorities, security, exports and skilling.
- An information session was held in August 2024 to outline assistance available for Tasmanian entities to develop Reconciliation Action Plans and to pursue other reconciliation activities, noting supporting indigenous procurement is a priority for Defence.
- The Tasmanian Government supported the TasICT's Cyber Security Conference, which was held in August 2024. The event was attended by nearly 600 people. Dr Deanna Caputo was keynote speaker – Dr Caputo is Chief Scientist for Insider Threat Research and Solutions for MITRE corporation, a not-for-profit that works to address the most complex national security challenges.

Assisting industry to attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce

- The Department of State Growth has connected with the Tasmanian branch of the Defence Industry Networking group which provides engagement opportunities for defence industry professionals and veterans in Tasmania.
- In March 2025, the Department of State Growth provided input to the Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance Defence Manufacturing Workforce Project, which aims to understand the future needs of, and challenges facing, the Australian defence manufacturing workforce.
- 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.
- The Tasmanian Government is collaborating with the Defence Science Institute to deliver undergraduate and postgraduate internship programs. These programs will place Tasmanian students in Tasmanian businesses pursuing defence projects, supporting students to gain the skills and experience needed for modern manufacturing and defence industries jobs.

Manufacturing sector

- Several actions have been implemented to support Tasmania's advanced manufacturing sector under the Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development Plan and the Advanced Manufacturing Industry Skills Compact, with the Tasmanian Government working closely with manufacturing peak bodies and education and training providers under this Skills Compact.
- The TMEC has continued to implement the Mining and Manufacturing Career Awareness Program which is a tailored program assisting with career awareness for the mining and manufacturing sectors. In 2024-25, the program reached over 471 students across 20 schools through in-class experiences and self-funded tours.
- TMEC's GEMS program (Growth, Empowerment, Management, Selfcare) has provided industry connections to assist with developing and retaining women who have stepped into non-traditional roles. Throughout 2024-25, the program had 16 participants, 13 mentors, seven panellists from industry and four board members from industry. The program closed out in early May 2025 and is scheduled to re-start in August 2025.
- The Tasmanian Women in Resources and Manufacturing Awards were launched in March 2025, with the awards scheduled for June 2025. TMEC is partnering with AusIMM Women in Mining Network Tasmania (WIMnet) to deliver the awards, which recognise and celebrate the achievements of women in Tasmania's mining, manufacturing, energy and resource industries.
- With funding provided by the Department of State Growth, TMEC delivered International Welding Inspector Basic Training. Four industry representatives completed the training with Weld Australia, which focussed on post trade welding inspection. More training is scheduled for September 2025.
- TMEC and the Department of State Growth are working on a manufacturing brand campaign which will help manufacturers to attract and retain skilled workers. The campaign will include developing new banners, flyers and maps and reprinting career cards for career awareness
- At an Australian Government level, the Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance is the Jobs and Skills Council for the manufacturing industry. One of the key projects being progressed by the alliance which will have positive outcomes in Tasmania, is the Better Manufacturing Apprenticeship Outcomes, focusing on improving completion rates of manufacturing apprenticeships and traineeships.

ICT sector

- Several actions have been implemented to support Tasmania's ICT sector under the Technology Industry Skills Compact, with the Tasmanian Government working closely with ICT peak bodies and education and training providers under this Skills Compact.
- The Australian Computer Society's (ACS) annual Digital Pulse report has consistently highlighted the national technology skills shortage. To improve awareness of the broad range of career paths and significant opportunities as the economy undergoes digital transformation, the ACS Tasmania branch's Education, Careers and Technology (EdCAT) Summit was held in April 2025. EdCAT brought together industry professionals and leaders, educators, graduates and students to promote STEM pathways, with over 360 registrations.
- The ACS Tasmania branch has been working on workforce development services as part of implementing the international benchmark 'Skills Framework for Information Age' for the cyber security workforce within all government agencies. Participants received individual skills profiles, a development roadmap and career development plan and management received skills analysis reports for their teams.
- A Tasmanian Government Digital Careers campaign and related website has been developed. The website aims to provide greater clarity for career seekers and career entrants in relation to cyber security career pathways in the Tasmanian context.

- The Tasmanian Government is continuing to strengthen Tasmania’s cyber security defences and build a skilled workforce. The \$3.3 million Cyber Hubs Initiative has established a new cyber security operating model across government, ensuring safe handling of data and systems. The initiative also supports TasTAFE's Cyber Innovation Training Hub, which provides education and training in cyber security for students and professionals.
- In late 2024, the TasTAFE Cyber Security Industry Experts Pilot Program commenced. Through the program, 19 local cyber security industry experts volunteered to engage with TasTAFE staff and learners.
- Consultation has occurred to inform the development of 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.
- At an Australian Government level, the Future Skills Organisation is the Jobs and Skills Council tasked with focusing on advancing skills in the finance, technology, and business sectors in Australia. In 2024-25 initiatives progressed have included a needs and gaps analysis of the current ICT training package to inform updating of ICT qualifications to improve quality and industry relevance.

Assisting industry to secure defence market opportunities and investment

- The Tasmanian Government is continuing to work with Tasmanian entities to identify key Defence capability programs that these entities have the capability to supply into, and to make connections with these programs.
- The Defence Industry Tender Support Grant program was launched in February 2025, as part of the new *Tasmanian Defence Industry Strategy 2029*. The program provides funding to manufacturers and technology-based entities to engage professional bid and tender writing services to prepare defence tenders.
- Ten Tasmanian companies and the Australian Maritime College exhibited at the LandForces 2025 International Land Defence Exposition in Melbourne in September with 15 additional Tasmanian entities attending as trade visitors.
- Five Tasmanian companies and the University of Tasmania exhibited at the Avalon 2025 Australian International Airshow and Trade Show in Geelong in March, with seven additional Tasmanian entities attending as trade visitors.
- Over 40 meetings were arranged at LandForces 2024 and Avalon 2025 with senior Defence buyers and decision makers, and several connections were made linked to new business opportunities for attending entities.
- In October, the Premier led a Tasmanian delegation visit to the USA, which included signing a Strategic Cooperation Agreement between Washington State and the Tasmanian Government. The Tasmania Maritime Network and Washington Maritime Blue also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on offshore wind and maritime workforce initiatives. These agreements will strengthen relationships between the two states and enable pursuit of mutually beneficial projects and opportunities.

- The Tasmanian Government supported Tasmanian entities that attended the following international defence expositions over the last year: the US Sea Air Space Expo in April 2025, the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exposition in Malaysia in May 2025 and the Defence and Security International in Japan in May 2025.
- In September 2024, the national entity Industry Capability Network (ICN) Limited signed a three-year Data as a Service contract with CASG, as part of CASG's industrial intelligence capability program. ICN Tasmania is providing services as part of this national contract.
- As part of the Tasmanian Government's enhanced focus on defence space related areas, engagement has been strengthened with the Space Industry Association of Australia and Tasmania will be exhibiting at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Sydney later in 2025.

Enhancing defence related research, development and innovation

- In October 2024, the Australian Maritime College and Navantia Australia announced that a new Naval Research Centre will be established at the Australian Maritime College. The Naval Research Centre will combine the AMC's cutting-edge research facilities with Navantia's extensive experience in naval ship design and will officially begin operations in early 2025.
- In July 2024, the Tasmanian Government joined the Australian Defence Science and Universities Network (ADSUN), for a pilot period of two years. ADSUN is a collective of state government funded Defence research and innovation nodes. It connects Defence with state governments, universities and industry in each state. Tasmania's enhanced involvement in ADSUN is occurring through the Defence Science Institute, which is the Victorian / Tasmanian node of ADSUN.
- The Defence Science Institute is providing defence research facilitation and engagement services to Tasmanian stakeholders and the Tasmanian Government. Through the Defence Science Institute collaboration, Tasmanian businesses can access funding to facilitate collaborative research between industry and Australian research organisations.
- 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 underwater collision, hydrodynamics and autonomous maritime systems.





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