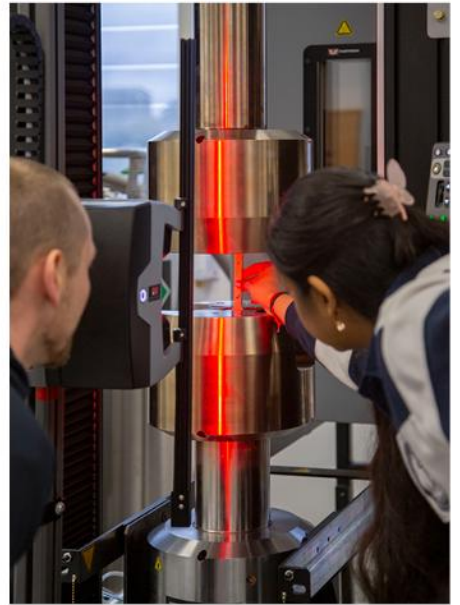


Supporting Tasmania's Defence Industries 2026



DEFENCE TASMANIA



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Tasmanian defence industry achievements

Over the last year, more than 115 supply contracts were awarded to Tasmanian companies with a value of more than \$349 million. At least 26 jobs have been created to support these new projects.

In recent years, Tasmanian companies have secured over \$420 million in contracts through the Royal Australian Navy's Hunter Class Frigate Program (SEA 5000 Phase 1). This is Tasmania's largest-ever contribution to a defence capability program in terms of contract value.

Tasmanian companies are continuing to support the Royal Australian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel Program (SEA 1180 Phase 1) and in the last year, a Tasmanian company was awarded a contract to deliver up to seven high-performance inflatable boats for Australia's elite Special Operations Forces.

Two Tasmanian companies are supplying into Hanwha Defence Australia on the Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicle Program (LAND 400 Phase 3) and three Tasmanian companies are supplying into Hanwha Defence Australia for the Protected Mobile Fires Program (LAND 8116 Phase 1), with both programs for the Australian Army.

In March 2026, the Australian Maritime College officially launched a Common User Facility. The facility is a Zone 4 secure space and has been purpose-built to support classified briefings and collaboration for up to 20 participants. The facility is fostering collaboration between Defence, industry and researchers and is one of only two facilities of its kind in Australia.

In the 2025-26 period, Tasmania's Australian Maritime College was awarded 13 defence-related projects valued at over \$9.131 million and hired three new employees. AMC Search was awarded 22 projects worth over \$8.104 million and is hiring an additional two employees



Activities undertaken to assist and promote Tasmania's defence industries

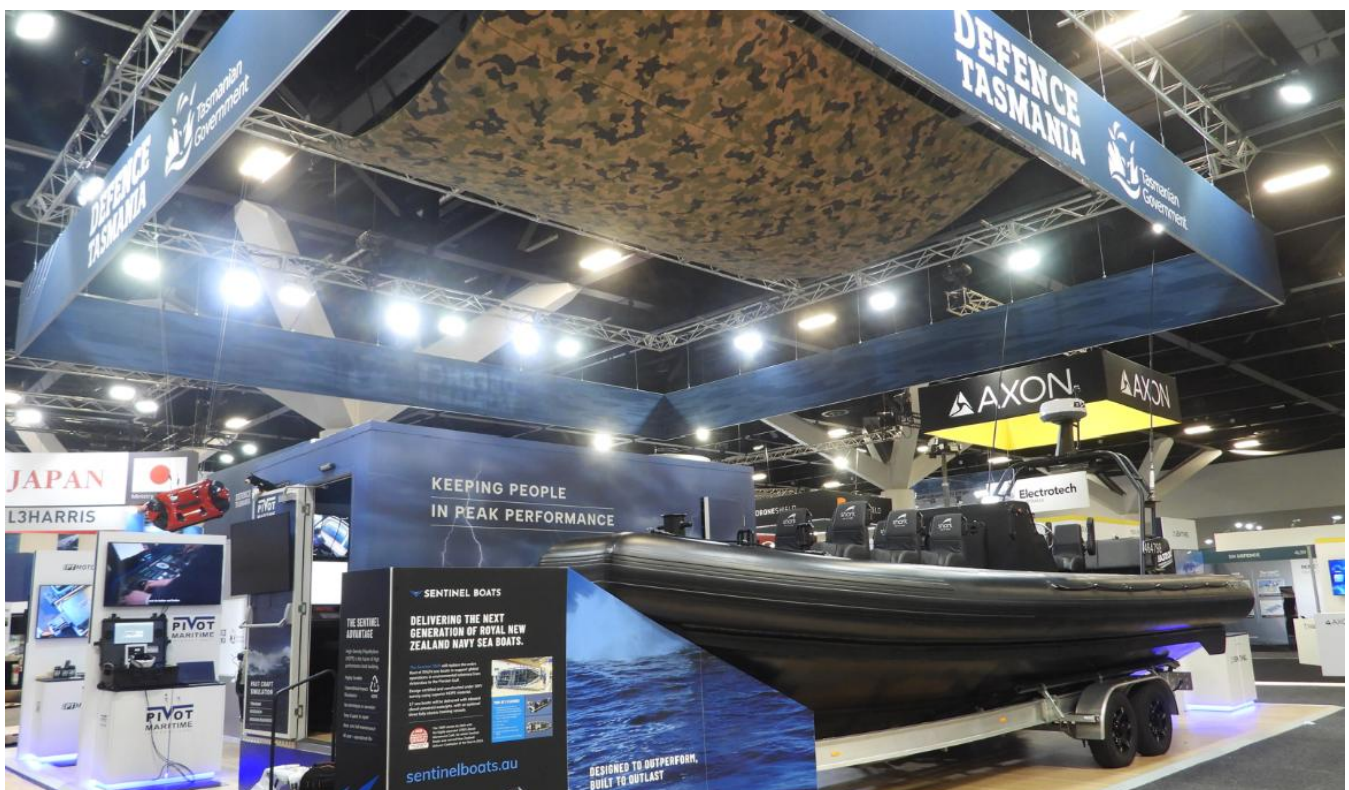
The Tasmanian Government is continuing to progress a range of actions to assist and promote Tasmania's defence industries. Specifically:

Advocating for, and promoting, Tasmanian industry and education and research entities

- The 2025 edition of the Defence Tasmania Industry Directory was published in October with six new entities profiled and 71 entities profiled in the Directory. The Tasmanian Maritime Prospectus was updated in November 2025, with an increased emphasis on Tasmania's capability in naval engineering and design, and uncrewed, autonomous and underwater capabilities.
- In the last year, Tasmanian Government representatives hosted or supported eight inbound visits to Tasmanian companies and entities by the Australian Government Department of Defence (Defence) personnel, defence prime contractors and other key stakeholders. These visits helped raise awareness of the capabilities, products, and services offered by Tasmanian industry and connected local industry with new market opportunities.
- A representative from the Australian Maritime College is being supported to undertake the Australian Government's 2026 Defence and Industry Study Course.
- The Tasmanian Government increased collaboration between Western Australian (WA) and Tasmanian maritime and defence industry stakeholders, as the Henderson Defence Precinct in Western Australia is the focal point for Australia's continuous naval shipbuilding program and a critical industrial hub and precinct that will support the AUKUS partnership. AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- In March 2026, the Tasmanian Government hosted a WA based Henderson Alliance board member for a week-long tour of Tasmanian maritime and defence businesses and entities, with the Board Member also attending a meeting of the Tasmania Maritime Network. Then in May 2026, the new Tasmanian Defence Industry Advocate led a Tasmanian industry delegation to Western Australia. The delegation attended the Indian Ocean Defence and Security Conference and Exposition and met with key shipbuilders and defence primes.
- In April 2026, the Tasmanian Government provided a submission to the Inquiry established by the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade into the Management of Defence estate assets. The submission addressed matters relating to Defence estate in Tasmania.
- Michelle Campbell AM was appointed as Tasmanian new Defence Industry Advocate in May 2026 and will continue the work commenced by former Advocate Rear Admiral (Rtd) Steve Gilmore to promote and connect Tasmania's defence industry in the pursuit of market opportunities.

Supporting collaboration, engagement and networking

- The Tasmanian Government has held more than 65 meetings with representatives from Defence, major defence contractors and other key stakeholders and officials to promote Tasmania's defence industry capability.
- The Tasmanian Government collaborated with the Australian Industry and Defence Network (AIDN) Tasmania to host a networking event in September 2025. The event coincided with the Office of Defence Industry Support's annual Tasmanian Forum held in Launceston.
- A networking event was held for Tasmanian entities attending IndoPacific 2025 in Sydney in November 2025, with Tasmanian suppliers connecting and discussing upcoming projects.
- The Tasmanian Government assisted Naval Headquarters Tasmania to arrange for local industry stakeholders to receive tours of two visiting Royal Australian Navy vessels while they visited Hobart.
- The Australian Maritime College and several Hobart-based businesses exhibited at Anglesea Barracks in March 2026, as part of Anglesea Barracks Open Day and the Army and Navy's 125th birthday celebrations.
- The New Zealand Taranaki Business Alliance Group invited the Tasmanian Government to engage with them and other local NZ stakeholders to share approaches and learnings on growing and promoting local defence industries.
- The Tasmanian Government participated in consultation sessions with the Australian Government's Department of Defence, as part of Defence's reform of capability development and delivery systems.
- The Tasmanian Government presented to the 2026 Defence and Industry Study Course in May 2026 on Tasmania's defence and maritime capabilities and Tasmania's strategy to grow and promote our sector.



Assisting industry to become defence-ready and scale up

- In September 2025 the Tasmanian Government hosted cyber security breakfast events providing tips and guidance to Tasmania's manufacturing sector on how to enhance their cyber security.
- The 2025-26 round of the Advanced Manufacturing Productivity Program was launched in November 2025, with funding for manufacturers to undertake a variety of activities such as obtaining accreditations, expert advice and developing staff and business skills. Sixteen entities have been awarded funding through the program up until June 2026, with several pursuing defence markets.
- Six new entrants to defence markets were provided with Tasmanian Government assistance, including 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 those relating to sovereign industrial priorities, security, exports and skilling.
- The Tasmanian Government supported TasICT's and Australian Information Security Association's (AISA) Cyber Security Conference, held in August 2025. Lieutenant General Michelle McGuinness, National Cyber Security Coordinator, spoke at the conference, with over 685 registrations from students and industry,
- The Tasmanian Government has ongoing engagement with representatives from the Defence Industry Security Program (DISP) and refers DISP personnel onto Tasmanian defence industry stakeholders as required.

Assisting industry to attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce

- In July 2025, the Tasmanian Government promoted the Defence Industry Partnership Program to several Tasmanian businesses interested in hosting interns. Four undergraduate interns were placed in three Tasmanian businesses, with two interns gaining employment in these businesses post internship.
- The Tasmanian Government and the Defence Science Institute (DSI) continue to collaborate to deliver undergraduate and postgraduate internship programs as part of the DSI Tasmania Pilot Project. These programs are placing local students in Tasmanian businesses pursuing defence projects, to gain the skills and experience needed for modern manufacturing and defence industries jobs.
 - Four undergraduate students from the University of Tasmania and one from Victoria University have been placed. An additional Tasmanian business will participate in the program when a suitable undergraduate student is identified.
 - One postgraduate student from University of Tasmania is taking part in the Defence Science Institute sponsored APR.intern program and working with a Tasmanian business on their research project.
- There is ongoing engagement with the Department of Defence on the development of an Australian Defence Industry Workforce Plan.

Manufacturing sector

- Several actions have been implemented under the Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development Plan 2028 and the Advanced Manufacturing Industry Skills Compact. The Tasmanian Government working closely with manufacturing peak bodies and education and training providers under this Skills Compact.
- Representatives from the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC) and the Tasmanian Government have participated in career expos and other sessions organised by various Jobs Hubs statewide wide, including the Glenorchy Jobs Hub and the North Employment Business Hub.
- Between May and June 2025, TMEC and atWork Australia partnered to deliver a pilot pre-employment Industry Pathway Program. atWork Australia is a Workforce Australia provider, providing one-on-one support to help jobseekers look for work and get job-ready. The program aimed to assist long-term and underemployed clients, particularly women along the north west coast of Tasmania, to gain a comprehensive understanding of different workplaces, daily operations, potential career paths, and understand the potential workplace hazards and risks. Six clients participated in the program and visited a range of businesses across multiple industries.
- The Tasmania Weld Australia state committee was established in 2025 and includes TMEC, TasTAFE and several Tasmanian manufacturing businesses. The committee and Weld Australia hosted a mechanised and automated welding educational webinar in Tasmania in October 2025
- TMEC has promoted an online training course for members called 'Respectful Workplaces Blueprint'. The course provides information and resources to increase workforce diversity.
- TMEC and the Tasmanian Government are developing a campaign to help manufacturers attract and retain skilled workers which will include new collateral and career cards.
- At a national level, the Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance (MISA) is the Jobs and Skills Council for the manufacturing industry.
 - MISA's 'Better Manufacturing Apprenticeship Outcomes' project analysed the causes of low apprenticeship and traineeship completion rates in manufacturing and identified evidence-based strategies to improve commencements, completions, system coordination, and long-term workforce resilience.
 - TMEC attended MISA's industry forum in December 2025, providing data and industry profile and information sharing across jurisdictions. TMEC assisted MISA to identify businesses to facilitate workshop on training
 - TMEC assisted MISA with their 'Make it Manufacturing' career campaign, piloted across Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania.

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.
- The Australian Computer Society's (ACS) annual Digital Pulse report focused on the importance of digital skills and capabilities for the entire workforce, (not just technology workers), and identified that most workers lack the digital skills they need. It provided a comprehensive assessment of the state of digital skills among the workforce and explored various pathways to build national capabilities.

- The ACS Tasmania branch continued to raise awareness of the broad range of career paths and opportunities arising from digital transformation. They held their third Education, Careers and Technology (EdCAT) Summit in April 2026 to promote STEM pathways, with 560 attendees including industry professionals and leaders, educators, graduates and students. A highlight was the keynote address by 2026 Australian of the Year and Australia's first astronaut, Katherine Bennell-Pegg explaining her STEM career journey.
- The ACS Tasmania branch also continued their workforce development services in implementing the international benchmark 'Skills Framework for Information Age' for the cyber security workforce in all government agencies. Participants received individual skills profiles, a development roadmap and career development plan, and managers received skills analysis reports for their teams.
- The Tasmanian Government supported TasICT to hold Tech Fest 2026 in March 2026, which promoted Tasmanian technology companies and solutions and attracted 485 attendees.
- TasICT Tech Jobs Showcase sessions were also supported by the Tasmanian Government in May 2026. The sessions explored how Tasmanian ICT businesses can modernise employment practices, embrace the skills framework for the information age and create real pathways into tech careers for the growing tech workforce.
- The Tasmanian Government's \$3.3 million Cyber Hubs Initiative has continued to strengthen Tasmania's cyber security defences and build a skilled workforce. The initiative has embedded 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.
- The TasTAFE Cyber Security Industry Experts Pilot Program continued throughout 2025. Around 19 local cyber-security industry experts engaged with TasTAFE staff and learners through presentations, Q&A sessions, mentoring and co-delivery. The program also provides a way for industry professionals to explore teaching in the VET sector, aligning teaching with current industry skill requirements and real-world challenges.
- In March 2026, the Tasmanian Government released the *Tasmanian Advanced Technology Strategy*. This strategy aims to accelerate technology adoption, innovation and capability across Tasmania's economy to improve productivity, competitiveness and economic diversification. Workforce and capability development is one of the strategy's four core priorities. Supporting the EdCAT Summit (referred to earlier) is an immediate action under this strategy.
- Also in March 2026, the Tasmanian Government released the *Digital Tasmania Strategy 2026-31*. This strategy establishes a statewide framework for growing Tasmania's digital capability, digital inclusion, innovation and digital government services so all Tasmanians can participate in the digital economy and society. Skills and capabilities is one of the four key priority areas and 'capability and workforce development' will help the strategy to be delivered.
- Nationally 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. Key activities undertaken include dashboards that bring together relevant national and state/territory data across occupations, workforce composition, migration and enrolments and completion data for relevant VET (Domestic students only) and Higher Education qualifications.

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.
- The Tasmanian Government supported eight entities to attend the International Astronautical Conference (IAC) 2025 in Sydney in October 2025, where Tasmania's space-related capabilities were promoted to a global audience. More than 1,000 personnel attended the event and over 100 qualified business leads were generated.
- Eleven Tasmanian companies and the Australian Maritime College exhibited at the Indo-Pacific Maritime Exhibition in Sydney in November 2025, with 15 additional Tasmanian entities attending as trade visitors. Over 40 meetings were organised during the event and 30+ new connections were made that could lead to a new business opportunity.
- In November 2025, the Deputy Premier led a Tasmanian trade mission to Japan, with a maritime and defence stream led by the Chair of the Tasmania Maritime Network Dr Jeff Hawkins. Meetings were held with Japan shipbuilders and Japanese officials, strengthening relationships between both stakeholders.
- In April 2026, the Deputy Premier led a Tasmanian trade mission to Singapore and Indonesia. Meetings and engagements were held with defence industry and maritime stakeholders in both countries and in Indonesia there was also engagement with the mining sector. The trade mission presented several opportunities for participating businesses which are being pursued.
- SGS Economics and Planning was engaged late 2025 to survey Tasmania's defence industry and provide an updated economic analysis of Tasmania's defence and national security sectors.



Enhancing defence related research, development and innovation

- In November 2025, the Australian Maritime College (AMC) and UK based SubSea Craft announced that they would partner to establish a new R&D, innovation and testing facility at the AMC Beauty Point Campus in northern Tasmania. The facility will enable SubSea Craft to accelerate the development and validation of its next-generation maritime products and systems in collaboration with Australian Maritime College's world-class autonomous maritime research and testing facilities.
- The AMC and ASSIST Maritime formed a partnership in November 2025 and have established a hub for maritime engineering and innovation. The hub is bringing together researchers, industry and government to improve ship maintenance, technology development and workforce training, with the aim of strengthening Australia's maritime infrastructure.
- The Defence Science Institute is continuing to provide defence research facilitation and engagement services to Tasmanian stakeholders and the Tasmanian Government, through the Defence Science Institute Tasmania Pilot Project.
- Through the Defence Science Institute Tasmania Pilot Project, Tasmanian businesses can access funding for collaborative research projects, with one Tasmanian business already in collaboration with the University of South Australia.
 - Through the same pilot project, Research Higher Degree student grants are available to students working on defence related research projects at the University of Tasmania. Once of these grants has been awarded to a student working on a project with Navantia Australia.





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