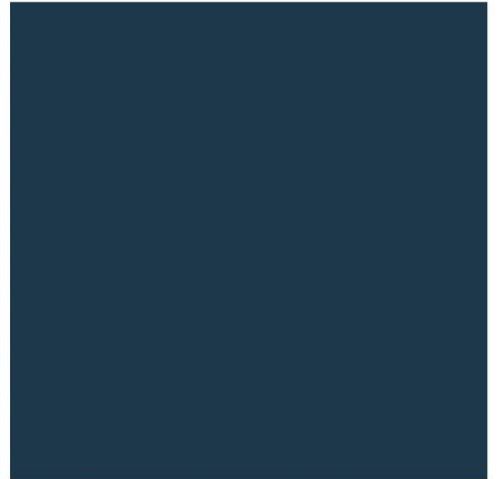


Supporting Tasmania's defence industries



Tasmanian defence industry achievements

Over the last year, more than 85 defence supply contracts were awarded to Tasmanian companies with a value of around \$32 million and resulting in several new local jobs being created.

These are strong outcomes for Tasmanian companies particularly during a period where the Australian Government's Department of Defence (Defence) paused on several contracts in the lead up to the release of the *Defence Strategic Review*.

Tasmanian companies that have been awarded major defence contracts in recent years are planning to employ over 80 new staff in future to support those projects. Another positive development is that our main defence contractors are also increasingly involving Tasmanian suppliers as part of their supply chain for these contracts.

The Tasmanian Government has supported 10 companies wishing to enter defence markets for the first time with two new entrants now providing services to defence or the defence industry.

AMC Search was awarded \$2.07 million in funding through the Australian Government's Defence Innovation Hub to develop a set of sovereign sensor modules for autonomous underwater vehicles. United Kingdom based advanced maritime technology company SubSea Craft signed an international research and development partnership with AMC Search during their second visit to Tasmania.



The Tasmanian Government, through the *Tasmanian Defence Industry Strategy 2023*, 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 70 meetings with representatives from the Australian Government's Department of Defence, the Australian Defence Force, other states and territories, major defence contractors and other key stakeholders to promote Tasmania's defence industry capability.
- Key policies have received Tasmanian Government input including the Australian Government's *Defence Strategic Review* and *Defence Industry Development Strategy*.
- Tasmania's Defence Advocate attended the Chief of Army Symposium in Adelaide in August 2022, with the Symposium incorporating a series of army innovation expositions. In April 2023, the Advocate also attended an innovation roundtable following the release of the *Defence Strategic Review*.
- In March 2023, states and territories were briefed by Defence following the announcement of the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarine optimal pathway.
- The Tasmanian Government was represented at the 2022 and 2023 Land Environment Working Group (LEWG), which is a key forum for the Australian Army's engagement with industry. Several Tasmanian industry representatives also attended the 2022 LEWG.
- A new Tasmanian Defence Industry Strategy is under development and will consider the findings of the *Defence Strategic Review* and the Australian Government's response to the Review.

Supporting the development and retention of a skilled workforce

- As part of developing an *Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development Plan*, a skills and training audit was undertaken by an independent consultant. An industry compact is being developed, which will provide the structure for government and industry to work collaboratively to address the sector's workforce needs.
- With support from the Tasmanian Government, the Tasmanian, Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council's (TMMEC) *Manufacturing and Mining Career Awareness Program* commenced in May 2022. The program utilises TMMEC's portable simulators and virtual reality technology to bring the manufacturing and mining industry into the classroom. 57 schools state-wide will take part in the program up until the end of June 2023, reaching over 1,289 students in years 8-12.
- Through a strong partnership with TasTAFE, in 2022 TMMEC provided pre-employment training for TasTAFE students in metals engineering and manufacturing and TMMEC supported TasTAFE metals and manufacturing teachers to receive their *Weld Australia* accreditation.
- Programs have continued to be implemented to assist the maritime and defence industries address skills and workforce shortage issues including the *Skills2 Manufacturing Program*, established under the Tasmanian Government's *Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan 2024*.
- The *Tasmanian ICT Workforce Action Plan 2020-2023* has been driving ongoing digital transformation of the Tasmanian economy, enhancing student engagement in ICT careers, improving employment pathways, strengthening job readiness for graduates, and increasing diversity across the state's ICT workforce.
- The inaugural *Australian Defence Magazine (ADM) Defence Skilling Summit* was held in Hobart on 9 November 2022 and attended by over 100 delegates. Representatives from Defence, defence industry and education and training providers spoke about the strategies and initiatives they are adopting to address current and future skills requirements for their organisations. The Summit is returning to Hobart in September 2023.
- Engagement has commenced with the newly established *National Naval Shipbuilding and Sustainment Enterprise Headquarters*, with several workforce development initiatives being explored.

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.
- More than 55 Tasmanian based companies and organisations have been routinely supported over the last year through various programs, services and initiatives that promote and develop Tasmania's defence industries.
- The department has supported 10 companies wishing to enter defence markets for the first time. Two new defence market entrants have been successful in being awarded new defence contracts.
- Two Tasmanian defence industry leaders have been supported to take part in the Department of Defence's national Defence and Industry Study Course 2023, providing invaluable networking and promotional opportunities for their companies.
- DMTC's 'Smart Enough Factory' program commenced in Tasmania in June 2022 and was completed in December 2022. The department provided funding to assist defence industry companies to implement Industry 4.0 initiatives through the program with most of the companies involved reporting immediate gains in efficiency.
- Under the *Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan 2024*, several grants' programs have assisted several Tasmanian companies to improve their defence industry capabilities and improve their business operations. The grants have also helped companies to better meet the requirements and standards of defence industry customers and access assistance to tender for several major contracts.
- The department continued to work with Defence's Office of Defence Industry Support to support Tasmanian's defence industry, including through its annual Tasmanian Forum held in May 2023.

Connecting Tasmanian industry with defence market opportunities

- Two familiarisation tours were hosted for international defence industry representatives, two were hosted for national defence industry representatives and one was hosted for the Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness with the US Washington State Department of Commerce. These familiarisation tours enabled the visitors to see first-hand our unique facilities, capabilities and specialised systems and allowed companies to explore new market opportunities.
- Eight Tasmanian companies exhibited on the Defence Tasmania stand at the LAND FORCES Exposition in Brisbane in October 2022, with more than 20 meetings held with senior Defence buyers and decision makers, and several connections made linked to new business opportunities.
- Representatives from the Tasmanian Government attended the Avalon Air Show and Exposition 2023 to scope out the potential of having a 'Defence Tasmania' stand at the Avalon Air Show 2025. Five Tasmanian companies attended, either exhibiting on the stand of their partners or as trade visitors.
- With the support of the Tasmanian Government and in collaboration with our USA Trade Advocate, three Tasmanian companies participated in the United States Sea Air Space Exposition held in Washington in early April 2023 with several connections made with potential for new market opportunities.
- The Tasmanian Government also assisted defence and maritime companies and organisations in the overseas markets of New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, South Korea and Japan through a range of Trade Missions and international visits held in the last year.

Supporting the development of research, education and training capabilities

- The University of Tasmania's Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct continued to partner with Defence and the defence industry to enable utilisation of the precinct's unique facilities and expertise.
- AMC Search provided various maritime courses and consultancies to Defence for small and large vessel training, autonomous maritime systems training, autonomous underwater vehicle optimisation and simulation projects.
- The Tasmanian Government assisted industry to provide input via the Defence Science and Technology Group to inform the establishment of the new Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator, which was announced at the end of April 2023.

Attracting defence related investment and ADF activities

- The Tasmanian Government promoted Australian Government defence industry grants, with several Tasmanian companies being successful in being awarded these grants over the last year. The grants will assist Tasmanian companies to be more globally competitive and to develop sovereign industrial capability.
- Several senior Defence officials visited Tasmania over the last year including the Chief of Army, the Head of Land Systems, senior staff of Director General Platforms, staff from the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) Training Authority – Maritime Warfare and the Air Commander.
- Numerous RAN vessels visited Tasmania including submarines, amphibious assault ships and guided missile destroyers. The vessels undertook exercises and visited ports across the north-west, north and south of Tasmania. International naval vessels that visited Tasmania over the last year include the Amphibious Assault Ship USS Tripoli.
- The 2022 Annual Conference of the Australasian Military Medicine Association (AMMA) was held in Hobart with tours provided of the Royal Hobart Hospital's Department of Diving, Hyperbaric and Aerospace Medicine, including the Southern Hemisphere's only human-rated dual-function hyperbaric / hypobaric chamber.
- The Australian Army Reserves held the annual conference of its national 8th Brigade (Training Brigade) in Hobart.

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

- A new Tasmanian Antarctic Gateway Strategy 2022-2027 was released in November 2022, with the Tasmanian Government committing to Hobart becoming the world's top Antarctic gateway city. Headline infrastructure priorities include upgrades in the Port of Hobart and supporting the Hobart Airport Runway.
- Tasmania's inaugural Antarctic Advocate Ms Karen Rees was appointed at the beginning of 2023. Mrs Rees will grow and support partnerships with other Antarctic nations, explore the feasibility of an International Antarctic Office for visiting Antarctic programs and increase opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups in Antarctic workplaces.
- Interaction is continuing to occur between the Tasmania Maritime Network and the Tasmanian Polar Network to promote Tasmanian industry capability
- International polar vessels that visited Tasmania over the last year include the US Coast Guard Cutter USCGC *Polar Star* and the French Antarctic resupply vessel the *L'Astrolabe*



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