



# DEFENCE WEEK

**PREMIUM EDITION** NEWS | INTELLIGENCE | BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES | EVENTS

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## Domestic and export success for WE Platt group

Further to ADM’s previous report, Sydney-based weapon mount manufacturer W&E Platt has reached a major milestone with delivery of its 800th MR660 Mod 1 Ring Mount for the Australian Defence Force.

The MR660 Mod 1 mount equips most of the ADF’s Bushmaster 4x4 protected mobility vehicle (PMV) fleet, where it acts as the principle self-defence and platform-mounted fire support capability.

Operationally proven in Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor, ►

the MR660 Mod 1 is a lightweight and cost-effective manned weapon station fitted with either the MAG-58 7.62mm general purpose machine gun or Minimi 5.56mm light machine gun. It provides 360-degree traverse for the gunner and an integrated armoured hatch. Delivery of the 800th MR660 Mod 1 is a significant achievement for the 100 per cent Australian-owned company, which now exports weapon mount solutions to more than 13 nations.

To support its growing footprint in North America, the UK and Europe, **Plattmounts USA** and **Plattmounts Europe** have been established in recent years. This has seen the **W&E Platt** group expand to become one of Australia's most prolific defence exporters and the world's premier supplier of machine gun mounts for combat vehicles. Production facilities currently include 1,500 square metres of undercover and high security workspace in Sydney.

The company says its size, efficient work practices, highly skilled workforce and dynamic flexibility in providing turnkey weapon mount solutions for light tactical and armoured vehicles of all types enables W&E Platt to provide exceptional value for money and low technical and commercial risk – all from a supplier with a combat-proven product range. Production of the MR660 Mod 1 Ring Mount is expected to continue well into 2013.



## Boeing to support Thales Hawkei bid

**Boeing Defence Australia (BDA) will provide Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) during the next stage of development of Thales Australia's Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicle - Light prototypes.**

The contract will be delivered under Stage 2 of the Manufactured and Supported in Australia

(MSA) option for the Land 121 Phase 4 program.

Under the \$3.5 million contract, BDA will deliver ILS services to the Thales team for six Hawkei prototypes and a trailer that will be delivered to the Commonwealth for further testing. During the 16-month prototype production and testing phase, BDA will work with Thales Australia to help increase the vehicles' long-term availability and maintainability, with a view to reducing future support costs. This includes delivering development and training to operators, conducting logistics support analysis and providing logistic engineering support to the Thales design team.



## DSTO offers technologies for commercialisation

**The Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), through its Air Vehicles Division, is seeking to encourage development of Australian Defence capability, by providing an opportunity for industry to acquire its Filter Patch Wear Debris Tool technology and its Hole Rework Alignment Tool technology. DSTO has released Invitations to Register (ITRs) to seek industry interest.**

The **Filter Patch Wear Debris Tool** technology has broad market applications in military, civil and commercial industries. The instrument that has been developed enables the ▶

metallic content of a filter patch to be quantified for trending or to identify when further detailed examination is required. The instrument has also been designed to liberate and quantify ferromagnetic debris captured on a magnetic chip detector.

Similarly, the **Hole Rework Alignment Tool** technology has broad market applications in military, civil and commercial industries. The Hole Rework Alignment Tool is a hand held tool for the alignment of drills/reamers on structures requiring high dimensional tolerance and/or precise positioning of drilled features.

Industry briefs will be provided to pre-qualified organisations, who can demonstrate through their responses to the Invitations to Register Interest (ITR), that they have the capability and resources to adopt the technology and bring it to the market. Those deemed to have such capability will be invited to Industry Briefings, expected to be conducted at DSTO Melbourne, Victoria in early September 2012.

To enable DSTO to assess interested organisations eligibility to attend the Industry Briefings, organisations are required to submit a response demonstrating their capabilities.

#### Further information:

Email [FilterPatchTool@dsto.defence.gov.au](mailto:FilterPatchTool@dsto.defence.gov.au) for a copy of the ITR which provides further detail about the **Filter Patch Wear Debris Tool**, response format and associated conditions.

Email [HoleReworkTool@dsto.defence.gov.au](mailto:HoleReworkTool@dsto.defence.gov.au) for a copy of the ITR which provides further detail about the **Hole Rework Alignment Tool**, response format and associated conditions.

Your emails must provide a postal address and the name of the addressee for DSTO to send the ITR documents.

DSTO intends to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) at the Industry Briefings for those interested in pursuing these opportunities further.

DSTO is not providing any funding to the organisation(s) who may take up these technologies. Though the technologies have defence applications, this activity is not linked to any Department of Defence procurement.

**ITRs for both close Wednesday 15 August 2012.** See full details in this week's Defence Tenders PDF.



## Next-Gen Jammer for Growlers

The US Navy is moving ahead with its Next Generation Jammer (NGJ) pod development effort, that hopefully will replace the not-so-good ALQ-99 jammer currently fitted to EA-18G Growlers and EA-6B Prowlers.

**But it seems that integration onto the Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) has been deferred indefinitely.**

According to reports, the USN is focusing on getting the NGJ developed and fielded onto the Boeing EA-18G Growler by 2020, the service expecting the EA-18G will be in service until at least the mid-2030s.

A 33-month technology maturation effort by **BAE Systems** teamed with **ITT Exelis**, ►

**Raytheon**, and **Northrop Grumman**, is coming to a close with full-scale prototype effort the next step in the program.

In a recent announcement Northrop Grumman says it has achieved a major milestone by successfully completing the initial Technology Maturation (TM) phase for the NGJ program, a key event being extensive in-flight demonstrations using a Gulfstream G-III Airborne Test Bed of its prototype pod and prime power generation (PPG) system. The company has also received a US\$20 million contract to further advance the critical technology development elements of its NGJ solution and mature the concept demonstrator design.

The objective of the flight demonstration was to validate aerodynamic performance of the pod and the ability of the ram air turbine (RAT) design to generate the vast amounts of power needed to meet the Navy's requirements while reducing overall risk. The Boeing and ITT Ex-ellis team successfully completed wind tunnel testing of their proposed full-scale pod observed by US Navy representatives, also demonstrating the power generation and control capability of the pod's Ram Air Turbine.

Given the sheer power of the NGJ system, there is potential for the hardware to provide a powerful surveillance capability. The USN is examining the possibilities, but there would be limitations imposed by the shape and size of the pods. The USN dropped an earlier supersonic requirement for the new NGJ pod because the performance penalty in other areas of the flight envelope were deemed to be too great. The current ALQ-99 pods are limited to Mach 0.95 even through the Super Hornet-derived E/A-18G is a supersonic airframe. The new NGJ pod will probably be optimised for subsonic speeds around Mach 0.9 or below.

Reports suggest that the US DoD is looking at alternative ways of conducting the electronic warfare mission. One of those might involve dispersed elements of the NGJ pods flying on unmanned aircraft or other platforms which are commanded via data-links. Those dispersed jamming pods could be controlled from the ground or potentially from a Growler.

## RAAF and the Growler

In an address to the RAAF Air Power Conference, **Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Geoff Brown** said the Growler was truly a game changer which the RAAF would exploit to the maximum.

The RAAF now flies 24 Super Hornets, with 12 wired during production so they can be converted to Growler configuration, an option being kept open by the purchase should the government opt to acquire this advanced system which is only operated by the US.

The Australian Government has requested the possible purchase of the kits, including 34 AN/ALQ-99F Tactical Jamming System Pods, 22 CN-1717/A Interference Cancellation Systems, 22 R-2674 Joint Tactical Terminal Receiver Systems, 30 LAU-118 Guided Missile Launchers and spare parts, training and support through the Foreign Military Sales Program.



## US Coast Guard prefers CN-235

The US Coast Guard took delivery of its 14th Ocean Sentry maritime patrol aircraft from prime contractor EADS North America this week. The Ocean Sentry is based on the Airbus Military CN235 tactical airlifter.

The latest aircraft will join a fleet of Ocean Sentries performing in a range of different roles. The Coast Guard service utilises Ocean Sentry's 10-hour endurance and advanced sensors for missions including search and rescue, drug and migrant interdiction, cargo and personnel transport, intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance, and disaster relief.



The Coast Guard plans for a fleet of 36 Ocean Sentries. The latest aircraft delivery is the last of three HC-144As delivered under a base contract awarded to EADS North America in August 2010. The Coast Guard exercised options for three additional aircraft within the last year, calling for delivery of the 15th HC-144A in 2013, and aircraft 16 and 17 in 2014. The service can exercise options for up to three additional Ocean Sentries during the next two years.

Since it began service in 2008, the HC-144A has gained notoriety in high-profile missions ranging from responding to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and 2010 Haiti earthquake to interdicting narcotics smugglers in “drug sub” semi-submersibles. EADS North America delivers the turboprop HC-144A with a search radar, electro-optical and infrared cameras, an Automatic Identification System for data collection from vessels at sea, and a communications suite. The aircraft’s rear cargo ramp enables easy loading and unloading of the Coast Guard’s palletized mission system. During airlift, cargo, and MEDEVAC missions, the mission system can be removed and the cabin easily reconfigured. The rear ramp also can be opened in flight to deploy search-and-rescue equipment. —*Defpro*



## Hi-res airborne ground surveillance radar

EADS Cassidian has developed an airborne ground surveillance radar that, through use of the newest ultra-high-resolution radar technology, can

**monitor wide areas with stationary targets while at the same time detecting and tracking moving targets at great distances. Rapid adaptation to new operational requirements through simple, configurable firmware and software together with a variable cooling design make the SmartRadar (Smart = Scalable Modular Aerospace Radar Technology) suited to a wide range of manned and unmanned platforms.**

“Our SmartRadar offers higher reconnaissance performance in less time than other airborne surveillance radars currently available and can be rapidly adapted to various customer requirements and platforms,” Cassidian’s Elmar Compans, said. “The sensor’s real-time information needed today for protecting our troops and combating possible threats is unsurpassed in its quality and low latency.”

The high performance of the radar is largely due to state-of-the-art AESA technology which uses a large number of transmitter and receiver modules in the antenna. These modules, which are made from special HF-capable materials, are developed and manufactured by Cassidian in its own facility, known as the “Microwave Factory”.

Cassidian delivers similar T/R modules for the TerraSAR earth observation satellite, the radars of the German Navy’s new F125-class frigates and the SPEXER 2000 border surveillance radar, among others.

The novel technological design has already undergone various successful tests on behalf of the German Federal Office of Defense Technology and Procurement (BWB). Recently, outstanding reconnaissance results were obtained during airborne testing at Goose Bay, Canada. One version of Cassidian’s SmartRadar is integrated into a pod equipped with an autonomous cooling system, making possible immediate adaptation to various mission aircraft. — *Defpro*





## More bandwidth for some WGS satellites

Boeing has received a US\$338.7 million contract modification from the USAF to produce and launch a 10th

**Wideband Global Satcom (WGS) satellite. The authorisation includes production, launch site activities, initial orbital operations and checkout.**

Boeing is working with the Air Force on potential cost-effective upgrades that would further increase the WGS satellites' capacity and operational flexibility. In June, Boeing was contracted to implement an enhanced Wideband Digital Channeliser upgrade that provides a 90 per cent improvement in satellite bandwidth - with no additional cost to the government. The new channeliser will be included on satellites WGS-8 and beyond.

The WGS payload architecture can accept the Wideband Digital Channelizer upgrade with minimal impact. Boeing will continue to work with the Air Force to develop WGS enhancements that can unlock additional bandwidth and capacity.

The contract announcement comes six months after Congress provided funding for the Air Force in fiscal year 2012 to purchase WGS-10. This additional order is part of the WGS Block II follow-on contract, under which Boeing had previously been authorised for production and launch of WGS-7 through WGS-9.

The Block II program also is proceeding well. WGS-4, the first in the Block II series, was launched in January and handed over to the Air Force in April. The launches of WGS-5 and WGS-6 are scheduled for 2013. WGS-6, which will not be equipped with the bandwidth mods is being paid for by Australia while Canada, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and NZ have jointly agreed to contribute US\$620 million toward development and launch of the 9th WGS satellite, in return for access to the system.



## Pentagon's precision weapons review

US Defense Department leaders have commissioned a sweeping review of the US military's precision weapons portfolio, an assessment that could affect a broad range of Army programs, according to officials. The move comes in preparation for a post-Iraq

**and post-Afghanistan future and America's future role being defined largely by events and threats in the Asia Pacific region, to include China. The Middle East will continue play a key role as well, according to the Obama administration's strategic guidance.**

Common to both theatres is an expectation that future adversaries will be proficient at keeping US forces at bay from a distance. The concept - dubbed "anti-access and area denial," or A2/AD - has begun to drive significant budget and policy decisions.

According to an official not authorised to speak on the record, the Joint Staff is reviewing munitions with an eye to A2/AD capabilities — *Inside Defense*





## Review of the US military's posture

The Pentagon has sent to Congress an independent review of the US military's posture in the Asia-Pacific region, marking a major step in the Obama administration's efforts to redefine national security goals.

The report has not been publicly released, but a summary obtained by *InsideDefense.com* claims that the review supports key elements of the Pentagon's efforts to strengthen alliances and partnerships in the region, even while Defense Secretary Panetta disagrees with some of the study's recommendations on Guam and US forces in

South Korea, according to the summary.

"The Defense Strategic Guidance recognises that U.S. economic and security interests are inextricably linked to the Asia-Pacific region, and directs that DOD rebalance its efforts to place greater emphasis on the region," says DOD's summary of Panetta's comments on the report.

## Forthcoming Events:

### ADM's Defence Support Services Summit

**7-8 August 2012, The Langham Hotel, Melbourne**

Inaugural event in association with the Defence Support Group. This event will enable industry to engage fully with Defence Support on current and future collaborative partnerships. It's an event not to be missed!

**Further Information:** ADM Events - Jamie Burrage, Ph: 02 9080 4321;  
Email: [jamie.burrage@informa.com.au](mailto:jamie.burrage@informa.com.au) Web: [www.admevents.com.au](http://www.admevents.com.au)

### ADM's Defence Workforce Participation Summit

**27 – 28 September 2012, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra**

ADM's annual Defence Skilling Summit is an important event examining the issues of training and maintaining a skilled workforce for Australia's defence industry. It's an event not to be missed!

**Further Information:** ADM Events - Jamie Burrage, Ph: 02 9080 4321;  
Email: [jamie.burrage@informa.com.au](mailto:jamie.burrage@informa.com.au) Web: [www.admevents.com.au](http://www.admevents.com.au)

### UAV Challenge

**1-3 October 2012, Kingaroy, Qld**

The UAV Challenge - Outback Rescue has been developed to promote UAV's significance to Australia. The UAV Challenge is a joint initiative between the Queensland Government, the Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation (ARCAA, a partnership between QUT and CSIRO), Aviation Development Australia Limited and AUVS-Australia - a prime example of government, industry and research organisations working together.

**Further Information:** [www.uavoutbackchallenge.com.au](http://www.uavoutbackchallenge.com.au)



## **New Zealand Defence Industry Association Forum**

**16-17 October 2012, Wellington New Zealand**

At the forum you can join with other defence industry companies from New Zealand and overseas, and with key members of the New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Defence to gain greater understanding of the defence procurement processes and hear about future defence procurement plans.

**Further Information:** Sue Peck Email: [sue@spconferences.co.nz](mailto:sue@spconferences.co.nz) [www.nzdia.co.nz](http://www.nzdia.co.nz)

## **Land Warfare Conference 2012**

**29 October – 2 November 2012, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne**

The Land Warfare Conference is a major event for users, providers, academics, designers and manufacturers to meet, present, share and exchange new and visionary ideas on Land Systems. Academics, commercial organisations, defence research institutions, and military are encouraged to attend and/or offer papers in the field of Land Warfare and related disciplines. An Exhibitor Booth Registration Form and Floor Plan are now available online.

**Further Information:** Land Warfare Conference Admin Support Office,  
Phone: 08 7389 5455; Fax: 08 7389 5196; Email: [lwcc@dsto.defence.gov.au](mailto:lwcc@dsto.defence.gov.au)  
Web: <http://www.dsto.defence.gov.au/lwc2012/>

## **MilCIS 2012**

**6 – 8 November 2012, National Convention Centre, Canberra**

MilCIS is an annual conference aimed at attendees from military and government organisations, academia, and defence industry, who contribute to key decisions in investments in communications and information systems. In addition to keynote presentations, technical presentations, panel discussions and tutorials, MilCIS features an exposition that provides an opportunity for exhibitors to demonstrate new technologies and promote their products and services to attendees. MilCIS is the only Australian conference focussing directly on the crucial technologies, products, systems and services associated with military communications and information systems.

**Further Information:** Consec – Conference Management, Phone: 02 6251 0675; Fax: 02 6251 0672; Email: [milcis2012@consec.com.au](mailto:milcis2012@consec.com.au); Web: <http://www.milcis.com.au/>

## **6th Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA) Biennial Conference 2012**

**14-15 November 2012, The Shine Dome, Canberra**

2012 will be a pivotal year for decisions concerning submarines. With the recent announcement of \$214m in funding for the Future Submarine Program and a significant boost in Sustainment funding for the Collins class, the SIA is grasping the opportunity to present powerful arguments to contribute to the development of the 2013 Defence White Paper against the most challenging budgetary circumstances for Defence since 1938. Delegates to the 6th Biennial Conference will hear from a range of influential speakers from Government, overseas and both the Public and Private sectors as they discuss the pivotal considerations for Australia's submarine capability.

**Further Information:** Mr David Nicholls (Executive Manager),  
Email [execmgr@submarineinstitute.com](mailto:execmgr@submarineinstitute.com) Phone: +61 413 133 391 Fax: +61 2 6260 5416

## **ADM's Social Media in the Defence Environment**

**5-6 December 2012, Hotel Realm, Canberra**

Inaugural event! More details soon.

**Further Information:** ADM Events - Jamie Burrage, Ph: 02 9080 4321;  
Email: [jamie.burrage@informa.com.au](mailto:jamie.burrage@informa.com.au) Web: [www.admevents.com.au](http://www.admevents.com.au)



## **ADM2013: 10th Annual ADM Defence/Industry Congress**

**12 – 13 February 2013, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra**

The annual ADM Congress has evolved into a pivotal event in the Defence calendar, attracting senior officials from all areas of the Defence Force and Defence Industry.

It is a critical forum for any organisation operating within the defence business sector.

Also do not miss the ADM Awards Dinner. The dinner is the perfect opportunity for you to continue networking with colleagues and new contacts made at the Congress.

More details to be released closer to the date

**Further Information:** ADM Events - Jamie Burrage, Ph: 02 9080 4321;

Email: Jamie.burrage@informa.com.au Web: www.admevents.com.au

## **Avalon 2013: Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition**

**26 February - 03 March 2013, Avalon Airport, Geelong**

The Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition is the essential aviation, aerospace and defence event for the Asia Pacific.

Industry-only trade sessions will be held Tuesday to Thursday (all day) and Friday will be both a trade and public day. The exposition will open each day from 9am until 5pm. Associated industry and technology conferences, seminars and symposia will be held at Avalon and in Melbourne and Geelong during show week.

Further Information: Aerospace Maritime Defence Association Ph 03 5282 0500; Email: airshow@amda.com.au; Web: <http://www.airshow.net.au>

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