



DEFENCE WEEK

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New rifle for New Zealand defence

Julian Kerr

NZ's Ministry of Defence (MoD) is assessing responses to a Request of Information (RFI) on possible replacements for the NZ Defence Force's (NZDF's) 13,000 Steyr assault rifles.

The RFI, which closed on 4 October, says the 25-year-old Steyrs, manufactured by the then **ADI** (now **Thales Australia**) at Lithgow, are near the end of their economic life and the capability no longer meets operational needs.

If approved by government, the new weapons could be acquired between 2014 and 2018.

A 2011 MoD report said operations in Afghanistan had identified a need "to be able to conduct precision engagements at ranges greater than can be achieved with the current in-service weapon."

The report stated that the Steyrs were not powerful enough to accurately identify adversaries and were ineffective at ranges greater than 200 metres.

According to the RFI, the replacement weapon "will offer consistency in fire from close quarter situations to more deliberate fire at around 500 metres by day and half this distance in low light conditions.

"It is to provide open architecture modularity in order to easily attach/detach sights, accessories or ancillaries to suit mission, or task, and mitigate risk of collateral damage or non-combatant casualties".

The weapon must also be capable of operations for prolonged periods in alpine and marine conditions and readily useable by personnel wearing a wide range of equipment, including body armour, Arctic gloves, and respirators.



The NZDF intends retaining the standard **NATO 5.56mm x 45 calibre ammunition** used in the Steyr.

An NZDF tender for 3,000 upgraded Steyrs was cancelled late last year. The tender sought either new-build or enhanced Steyrs with a new sighting system featuring 4 x rather than the current 1.5 x magnification, together with the ability to fit thermal sighting and other ancillary systems.



HMAS Tobruk loaded with Army vehicles and ready for Exercise Talisman Sabre. [Photo:Defence]

Amphibious training to be certified by Talisman Sabre 2017

Tom Muir

Under the HQJOC Joint and Combined Training CONOPS, the Australian Amphibious Concept (AAC) describes what the ADF aspires to in the development, acquisition, training and employment of Australia's future amphibious warfare capability.

Specifically, the AAC focuses in particular on the **Amphibious Deployment and Sustainment (ADAS) System** under JP2048. The delivery of an expeditionary amphibious capability is seen as a significant undertaking, requiring the synchronisation and coordination of numerous Defence projects and separate single service concept of operations.

Between 2012 and 2017, a series of exercises will build upon the AAC and

single service lines, developing into a joint force for final certification on **Ex Talisman Sabre 2017**. Those forces in-training last year were assigned to HQ JOC for the conduct of joint and combined training in a series of progressively more capable amphibious support exercises. The AAC provided the framework for these exercises, set within a Talisman Sabre war fighting scenario, with Joint Doctrine used to guide the interaction of joint and combined forces and where necessary modified and updated before the next Biennial certification activity.

Single service CONOPS will be enhanced and modified for their role in the AAC and exercised as each service moves towards the attainment of a common joint understanding on their role in the AAC, with HQ JAAF taking the lead in development of the Amphibious capability for Defence.

As successive DCP amphibious capability is realised, HQ **Joint Australian Amphibious**



Forces (JAAF) takes a greater and expanded role in the synchronisation. Since the ADF intends to fight in a Joint/Coalition/Multi and Interagency environment, training must be based on realistic conditions and standards and include Live, Virtual or Constructive forces to replicate the expected operational environment. Training is to resemble the conditions of actual operations to the maximum extent possible and use operational information networks, such as **CENTRIX** or equivalent systems.

The Joint and Combined Training Centre is assisting HQ JAAF achieve their training outcomes through enhanced, live, virtual and constructive training. JCTC will build on and strengthen existing MOUs with regional coalition partners, especially US PACOM, who will assist in the conduct of certification for HQ JAAF and HQ JOC.

The end-state for the Training and Certification CONOPS for HQJOC is that the AAC and HQ JAAF develop the ADF's Amphibious capability, in line with DCP capability and strategic guidance, nested within a biennial certification activity conducted during the Ex Talisman Sabre series, assisted by specialist staff from US PACOM where necessary.

This end state will involve the single services identifying and managing their respective certification activities between 2012 and 2017 for the development of a joint and combined certification activity in Talisman Sabre 2017.



The hull of the first of the Royal Australian Navy's two new LHDs [Photo:Defence]

An Australian sovereign amphibious training doctrine?

Tom Muir

As the Chief of Army has pointed out, the ability to deploy offshore is crucial and Plan Beersheba will tie in with existing programs to improve the Australian Defence

Force's amphibious capability. As noted in the article above the Army's Deployable Joint Force Headquarters will foster and develop an amphibious culture across Army with 2 RAR forming the core of Army's contribution to a future amphibious force, reshaped with the imminent introduction of the new LHDs.

It is evident that such training has benefited from the participation of elements of the US Marine Corps based in Northern Australia, in exercises such as **Talisman Sabre** and **Hamel**, but does this suggest the ADF is adapting to USMC doctrine in amphibious operations? If so how would this serve us in non-coalition operations?

According to ADFA's **Peter Dean*** the ADF faces a number of challenges in developing its amphibious warfare capability. The acquisition of the new landing craft and the **Canberra Class LHDs** are just one small element in these developments. Just as important will be overcoming the cultural barriers to the adoption of the maritime strategy laid out in the **2009 Defence White Paper**.

He says that one way of overcoming these issues is for the Australian Defence Force



(ADF) to reconnect with its past, where there are important lessons on training, doctrine, joint operations and cooperation with allies, especially in relation to Australia's only modern maritime campaign, the South West Pacific Area 1942-45.

Dean notes that expeditionary operations are no easy option for navies or armies - they are specialised and costly activities that, if attempted, need to be taken seriously. He says the ADF needs to absorb and integrate the lessons of recent operations in the **Primary Operating Environment (POE)**. "Even though the ADF needs to develop the capabilities for intensive war fighting, operations such as those conducted in East Timor and the Solomon Islands, will most likely be at the forefront of future ADF deployments."

**Peter J Dean, 'Amphibious Warfare: Lessons from the Past for the ADF's Future:' Security Challenges, Vol. 8, No. 1 (Autumn 2012).*

Sea Lion 2013 amphibious training



HMAS Choules set the scene during Exercise Sea Lion 2013 with HMAS Labuan two LCM8's, Zodiacs, MRH90 Helicopter hovering over the Flight Deck and a P3 Orion fly by in North Queensland. [Photo:Defence]

Tom Muir

As a precursor to the foregoing, Exercise SEA LION 2013 got underway on June 10 as HMAS Choules slipped out to sea with a complement of more than 400 Army and Navy personnel on board, and various pieces of equipment firmly secured on the vehicle deck.

This first major joint amphibious exercise for the year, was conducted between Townsville and the Cowley Beach Training Area, in North Queensland and is part of the ADF's enhanced amphibious capability development. Commander of the Australian Amphibious Task Group Captain **Ray Leggatt** said the experience gained by personnel in the exercise would prove invaluable in developing the skills necessary for the complex and demanding amphibious environment.

"This exercise will hone our amphibious procedures and systems as we head towards a comprehensive expeditionary capability which will be based around the 27,000 ton LHDs," he said. "To achieve this, it is important that Navy and Army can work well together to achieve any task that is given to an amphibious force; and this is where **Exercise SEA LION 2013** comes in."

The exercise also gave members of Navy's 808 Squadron the chance to hone their skills behind the controls of the new **MRH90 helicopter**.

Exercise SEA LION 2013, which forms Block two of a three-block amphibious serial, runs until June 28 2013, and is followed by Talisman Sabre 2013, referred to in the previous article. As well as *HMAS Choules*, *HMA Ships Tarakan* and *Labuan* are also participating in Exercise SEA LION 13.



XTclave plant.

Win for XTEK 's new hydroclave in Adelaide

Tom Muir

Canberra-based XTEK Limited has been awarded a US government contract to prove its unique body armour technology. David Ellery (CT) reports that XTEK chairman Uwe Boettcher says the body armour would be made in XTEK's unique hydroclave at its facility adjacent to the DSTO in Adelaide.

He said the Australian firm had a viable product and had recently been contracted to supply body armour for the Danish army.

Last year the company successfully completed manufacture of its first large scale XTclave composite consolidation technology production plant capable of processing more than 1000 high tech body armour plates per day using the novel and patented technology process.

The production plant is the culmination of extensive research and development work undertaken by the company over the past five years, its design concept developed by Company staff.

The hydroclave uses liquid pressure to form objects in composite materials and is both faster and much more powerful than autoclaves driven by air pressure.

XTEK's business was established in Sydney during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1978. The company provides equipment, training and support services to Federal and State Government Departments and Police Forces responsible for Australia's national internal security.

It was a major supplier of security products and services to the Organising Committee of the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. It was also one of the first suppliers to the new army units formed to provide a High Risk and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear response capacity.

Boeing's resin infusion

But XTEK is not the only clever composites former in this country, **Boeing Aerostructures** in Melbourne has developed a **resin infusion** composite capability that has become a centre of excellence for the aerospace giant.

Resin infusion, unlike pre-impregnated composites, does not require an autoclave and can be cured in an oven where it is capable of producing high strength composite components with intricate geometries as often used in aerospace. The manufacturing process involves placing a fibre layup in a mould, applying heat during which heated resin is injected. The resin, in a vacuum, is held at a constant temperature until it is cured and then removed-XTEK/ADBR





Images from the C-130J cockpit simulator

C-130J simulator upgrades improve training

Earlier this year the C-130J cockpit simulator located at RAAF Base Richmond received a new high-definition visual display system.

The simulator, operated by 285SQN and contracted partner

CAE, provides improved scene brightness and sharpness.

The visual database was also increased, including a global map using satellite photographed imagery with a 15-metre resolution.

The simulator operates for 16 hours a day.

SQNLDR **Kevin Bruce**, an Air Force reservist who works with CAE as a C-130J instructor, told *AirForce* news the high-definition projectors complemented the previous upgrade.

"That level of details was already in the database from a previous upgrade, but the new projectors allow us to see it in the cockpit," SQNLDR Bruce said.

The net result is a more immersive training environment for crew.

"We can get more cloud detail, such as descending through cloud layers, whereas before you couldn't do that. There's improved detail with the trees, which makes it more effective at teaching low-level flying."

Upgrades to the real C-130J fleet have been reflected in the simulator, including the C-130J Black Upgrade Program and recreating newly installed defensive systems.

More upgrades for the simulator are expected. -*AirForce* news



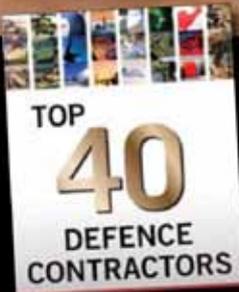
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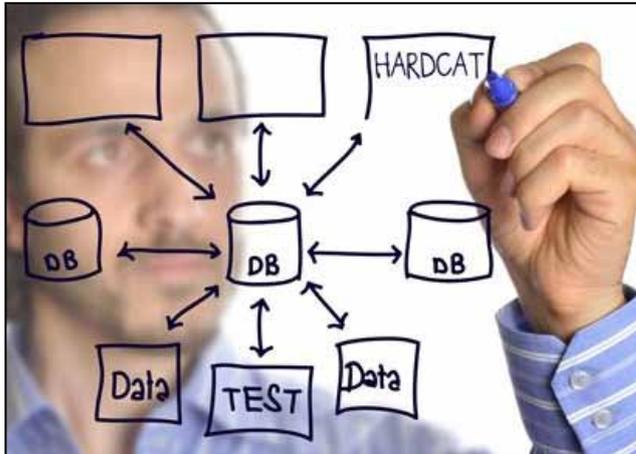


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All enquiries should be directed to ADM Managing Editor Judy Hinz,
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Hardcat an integral part of this year's Nobel Peace Prize

Melbourne-based IT software specialist, Hardcat, has played a significant role with its Asset Management Software in the operations of the organisation awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

The award was made recently to the **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** for its critically important work.

Based in The Hague, the OPCW's principal role is to monitor and destroy all chemical weapons identified under the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention.

It has been using the Hardcat system as part of its current operations in Syria to track assets from and to its headquarters.

Hardcat's managing director, **Dan Drum**, said a key aspect of the company's overall role was to schedule calibration checks for all test equipment being used by the OPCW in the course of its missions.

"As well as tracking their asset base via barcodes, our software schedules Planned Maintenance to ensure calibration of their technical equipment. It also performs stock control to keep track of all consumable items including chemical protection suits," Drum said.

OPCW's director-general, Ahmet Uzumcu, said that one of the main reasons for selecting Hardcat was its flexibility to be configured to meet the organisation's strict requirements.

"Hardcat is both simple and robust and is of great assistance to our 500-strong staff in carrying out their work," he said.

The Hardcat product range is also being used within the United Nations, the Australian Defence Force, the US Navy and the UK Ministry of Defence.

Entries are now open ADM/DMO Industry Team of the Year Awards for Excellence 2013

Click [here](#) to get more information on the awards and to download the entry pack. We're expecting a strong field of contenders in all four categories. So industry, get talking to your SPOs and DMO contacts. DMO and SPOs, get talking to your industry partners.





Commanding Officer No. 37 Squadron, Wing Commander Darren Goldie with a memento recognising the squadron's contribution to a million C-130J flying hours globally. [Photo:Defence]

C-130Js clock one million flying hours

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics vice president of customer relations Gary North recently visited RAAF Base Richmond to congratulate 37SQN for its role in one million flying hours by the C-130J global fleet.

The RAAF's 12 C-130Js are said to have made a healthy contribution of more than 93,000 hours.

As of October this year, 13 nations operate the C-130J with the RAAF expected to continue operating the C-130 until 2030.

According to Lockheed Martin, the million hour milestone ticked over in April.



ADM Online: Weekly Summary

A summary of the latest news and views in the defence industry, locally and overseas. Check out our webpage for daily news updates on the ADM home page and make sure you bookmark/RSS this for a regular visit.

This week, the Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Brown affirmed the RAAF's commitment to **'mission first, safety always'** following a recent Australian Transport Safety Bureau report.

ASC called for a **Ship or Submarine Integrator** to be appointed to manage all future navy shipbuilding projects to ensure the future sustainability of Australia's naval industry.

And, Oshkosh Defense presented a **JLTV solution** with unprecedented protected mobility to the US.



International



Sequestration and the JSF

An Air Force official and former test pilot now involved with the F-35 program told *Inside the Air Force* this week that the service is pleased the Joint Strike Fighter program has kept on schedule for Block 2B testing so far, but she reserved judgment on the initial warfighting software block's performance until later in the test phase.

Colonel **Dawn Dunlop**, special assistant to the Air Force chief and secretary for JSF integration, discussed the test program's delays as a result of sequestration, the prospects for pilots being cleared to fly at night and in weather, and some of the benefits the F-35 program is starting to realise as a result of concurrency.

Dunlop, an F-22 test pilot earlier in her career, said test progress at Edwards Air Force Base in California - which has been focusing recently on Block 2B software assessments and weapons testing - has been positive and steady, although it was disrupted by civilian furloughs over the summer. Had furloughs been extended, they might have cut testing sorties by as much as 40 per cent because of limitations on hours worked and an inability to fly two test sets per day or on weekends. In the end, the impact was less significant than that.

Asked to comment on what level of capability the multiple iterations of Block 2B used in tests have displayed so far, Dunlop said the Air Force has been glad to see the program stick to the schedule for software delivery. But much remains to be proven about the block, which needs to be proven by 2015 for the Marine Corps to declare initial operational capability.



Harris Corporation introduces Falcon III radio

Harris Corporation has introduced a multi-channel radio that will enable the US Department of Defense to realise the fullest potential of the networked battlefield.

The new **Harris Falcon III Multi-channel Manpack radio** was unveiled at the 2013 **Association of the United**



States Army (AUSA) conference in Washington, D.C.

The new radio is the first commercially developed manpack to integrate two radio channels into a single chassis. This allows warfighters to send and receive voice and data over multiple networks simultaneously, creating a more complete common operational picture while dramatically enhancing situational awareness and mission command.

Developed under the Harris commercial business model, the Multi-channel Manpack is based on the company's combat-proven Falcon III line of wideband networking radios.

"We applied real-life battlefield lessons to create a multi-channel radio that will transform military tactical communications," **George Helm**, president, Department of Defense business, Harris RF Communication said. "This new radio will provide warfighters with the same performance and innovation they have come to expect from Harris' field-proven **Falcon III** family of radios. This is truly the DoD's radio of tomorrow, delivered today."

Harris developed the new radio to meet the requirements of the DoD's Handheld, Manpack and Small Form Factor radio program. The company recently was awarded a \$140 million contract to provide a 2-channel Falcon III radio solution for the Army's Mid-Tier Networking Vehicle Radio program.

Make sure to get a copy of the upcoming November edition of *ADM* for our coverage on JP2072.



Virginia-class submarine

Ban freezes US Navy, US Air Force deals worth US\$40 billion

The stop-gap spending measure that will fund the federal government through to 15 January includes a government-wide ban on new multiyear procurements, a measure

that puts on ice Pentagon fiscal year 2014 plans for aircraft and submarine deals collectively worth more than US\$40 billion to prime contractors **General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman and Lockheed Martin**.

Ensnared are three big-ticket programs: the **Virginia-class submarine**, the **E-2D Advanced Hawkeye** aircraft and the **C-130J cargo plane**. The Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps structured their fiscal year 2014 budget requests assuming cost savings -- a combined total of more than \$9 billion through FY-18 -- expected to be garnered through five-year block buys of the systems, but the continuing resolution signed into law this week puts those savings in jeopardy.

"No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted . . . for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multiyear procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later," the continuing resolution, enacted on 16 October states. *-Inside Defense*



Airship – sold for a song!

The US Army has sold its giant hybrid airship -- the Long Endurance Multi-Intelligence Vehicle -- to the primary designer UK-based Hybrid Air Vehicles for a fraction of the service's original asking price, according to an

Army Space and Missile Defense Command spokesman.

After spending nearly \$300 million to rapidly develop a sensor-laden, state-of-the-art, optionally piloted airship that was once poised for deployment in Afghanistan, the Army canceled the program in February not long after the airship's first flight in August 2012.

The Army offered to sell the airship back to HAV for \$44 million - a price calculated from federal acquisition regulations requiring remuneration for material costs - but the sum was more than the company could immediately muster, according to HAV business development director **Hardy Giesler**.

HAV very much wanted to buy back the LEMV to continue developing it and exploring potential civilian uses and even offered to grant the military access to the innovative technology while taking on the sole responsibility for its development. The sale was completed for \$301,000. Included was an agreement for DOD to receive development data if the airship returns to flight. -*Inside Defense*



Navy plans multiyear procurement deal for P-8A's APY-10 Radar

The US Navy plans to pursue a multiyear procurement deal to buy Raytheon-made APY-10

radar systems for P-8A Poseidon aircraft in the fiscal year 2015 budget cycle, according to a US government notice.

Naval Air Systems Command announced on October 17 that it intends to issue a sole-source multiyear contract to Raytheon for the radar system production kits for FY-15 through FY-19.

The five-year, fixed-price contract would buy 64 radar production kits to provide the Boeing-made P-8A key surveillance capabilities to use against submarines and surface ships, among other threats. The contract would also include related work to support the radar systems.





More tactical armour for US

The US Defense Logistics Agency has awarded BAE Systems approximately \$US60 million in orders to produce additional tactical vests equipped with body armour. Known for protecting a soldier's vital organs, the company's Improved Outer Tactical Vest (IOTV) has become an equipment piece of choice for the US Army.

"The third-generation design of the IOTV, which the Army adopted last year, provides the soldier with a number of benefits, including a 10 per cent weight reduction in the armour system," **Eric Gavelda**, director of Warfighter Protection at BAE Systems, said. "This helps the soldier stay agile, and supports the Army's mission to provide lighter, more efficient equipment."

Among its features, the IOTV is designed to be compatible with a number of equipment pieces. These include Modular Lightweight Load Carrying Equipment, hard and soft body armour inserts, and the Tactical Assault Panel — all manufactured by BAE Systems.

Since 2007, BAE Systems has produced more than 900,000 outer tactical vests and armour systems for U.S. troops serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. The new orders are part of a four-year contract issued in March, which could reach a cumulative value of \$US267 million. The company has so far received more than \$US140 million under this contract. The new orders are scheduled to be complete by December 2014.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.....page 13

Male volunteers URGENTLY NEEDED
to help Kids living with cancer.

Boys living with cancer need male role models to help with their development and confidence at camps which involve everything from rolling in mud to laser tag.

Can you help? or know someone who can?
campquality.org.au/volunteer or 1300 662 267



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

For a full list of defence and industry events, head to **ADM's online events page at www.australiandefence.com.au**

ADM Northern Australia Defence Summit

DATE: 29 - 30 October, 2013, Darwin Convention Centre

ENQUIRIES: ADM Events - Keith Barks, Ph: 02 9080 4342;

Email: keith.barks@informa.com

Web: www.admevents.com.au

Bringing together key figures from the NT Government, senior military figures, and senior industry representatives, this conference is all about the continuing development and support of Defence in the Top End. Hear about the current and new initiatives offered by Government and what industry can bring to support Defence's strategic objectives.

ADM will
be in
attendance

Kokoda Foundation 2013 Annual Dinner

DATE: 31 October, 2013, Rydges Lakeside Hotel, Canberra

ENQUIRIES: Ph: 02 6295 1555;

Email: events@kokodafoundation.org

Trilateral Dinner with Australia, the United States and Japan. Addressing Divergent Futures in the Asia-Pacific. Key Speakers: include: The Hon Tony Abbott MP, His Excellency Yoshitaka Akimoto, Japanese Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency John Berry, U.S. Ambassador to Australia and Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr. (USN), Commander of the US Pacific Fleet

SEWG Meeting No.7

DATE: 11 November, 2013, National Convention Centre, Canberra

ENQUIRIES: Lori Catelli, Ph: 02 6265 7108;

Email: lori.catelli@defence.gov.au

The seventh meeting of the SEWG will take place. If you are able to attend, please respond by email NLT Thursday October 17, with the names and email addresses of those attending the SEWG meeting.

Trade Controls Summit 2013

DATE: 20 November, 2013, ANU, Canberra

ENQUIRIES: Wendy Green, Ph: 02 6120 5111;

Email: wendy.green@thalesgroup.com.au

Join industry colleagues for a day of presentations and discussion of Australian and US export controls. Network with professionals in your industry and learn best practices for managing your export compliance obligations from leaders in the field.

ADM Defence Supply Chains Conference

DATE: 4 - 5 December, 2013, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Adelaide

ENQUIRIES: ADM Events - Keith Barks, Ph: 02 9080 4342;

Email: keith.barks@informa.com

Web: www.admevents.com.au

It is recognised that it can be difficult for SMEs to find the right entry portal to an entity as large and diverse as defence primes. SMEs are a vital element in major defence acquisition contracts through the supply of sub-systems and components, as well as the establishment and sustainment of Australia's defence capability. SMEs are the links in the supply chains supporting the operation and maintenance of these capabilities. SMEs can also be the birthplace of many of the innovative technologies that contribute to Australia's defence capability edge.

ADM will
be in
attendance

ADM 2014 Defence/Industry Congress

DATE: 25 - 26 February, 2014, Canberra

ENQUIRIES: ADM Events - Keith Barks, Ph: 02 9080 4342;

Email: keith.barks@informa.com

Web: www.admevents.com.au

This major Defence/Industry Conference has evolved into a pivotal event in the Defence calendar, attracting over 250 delegates each year. More details to come.

ADM will
be in
attendance

The Submarine Choice: ASPI's International Conference

DATE: 8 - 10 April, 2014, Canberra

ENQUIRIES: Lynne Gozzard, Ph: 02 6270 5109;

Email: keith.barks@informa.com

Web: lynnegozzard@aspi.org.au

Join distinguished international and Australian speakers for two days of debate on Australia's Future Submarine choice. Topics include: The Strategic Context; the Navy's Perspective; Regional Perspectives; Design Options; Industry and Economics; Project Management; Lessons from Abroad

