



DEFENCE WEEK

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Second AWD keel laid

Julian Kerr | Adelaide

Defence Minister Senator David Johnston has indicated an announcement can be expected in the near future on an independent inquiry into the \$8 billion Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) program, but has stressed that the final position on any cost overruns will not be known until the program is completed.

Speaking at **Techport** in Adelaide at the keel-laying ceremony for NUSHIP *Brisbane*, the second of the RAN's three future AWDs, Johnston also confirmed the government's intention to fulfil its election pledge to publish a new defence White Paper by early 2015.

The coalition had promised a White Paper within 18 months of winning last September's election "and I see no reason to change that tune", the Minister said.

"Keep in mind that there are substantial issues for us, we have been left a complete mess," Johnston said.

"But we're cobbling together as best we can a way forward over the long term to refinance Defence and to catch up on the \$16 billion that has been taken out of the portfolio over the last four years."

Johnston said he was working on the AWD inquiry and an





VIPs and invited guests gather to watch the keel-laying ceremony of the second Air Warfare Destroyer at ASC's Shipyard. (Defence photo)

announcement might be made "in the near future".

His statement in December that such an inquiry would be established followed the release of an **Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Major Projects** report disclosing that 2012-2013 expenditure on the AWD program was \$106 million or about 17 per cent over the budget of \$618 million.

In December Johnston referred to some "deep and unresolved issues" in the AWD program. But in Adelaide the Minister said he would not support any derogatory remarks about a technically complex program that would deliver a fabulous capability for the RAN.

"Things come and go with ships... there is a whole lot of flexibility in the

program, there is a lot of contingency. We won't know the final figure until the last boat is in the water."

On current scheduling the first AWD will be delivered to Navy in March 2016, the second in September 2017 and the third in March 2019.

Johnston said the issue of a fourth AWD was a matter for the White Paper. He also for the first time referred to the possibility of the **Navantia**-designed AWD hullform being used for the RAN's **Future Frigate program** "but we're a long way from finalising that".

Speaking separately, **Rod Equid**, CEO of the **AWD Alliance** grouping government-owned ASC, Raytheon and the Defence Materiel Organisation, told *ADM* a number of project budgets had been overrun.

"When you net that all out it predicts that we're going to overrun the target cost estimate.

"The consequences in this contract of overrunning the target cost estimate are – the Commonwealth pays 50 per cent out of their contingency and Raytheon and ASC's fee gets reduced by 50 per cent. That's what the pain share is in the contract and the predictions for some time have been that we're operating in pain share."

Equid said schedule had been a major driver of cost. The target was still to deliver the project within Defence's budget, but he would not comment on whether this was still feasible.

"We are a group that hasn't built a surface combatant before coming together as a team and bringing in a design from another country.

"There's been a lot of disruption to the first ship and a lot of learning potential that may not be fully realised with Ships Two and Three – this is very normal in a shipbuilding program. First ship a lot of problems, very rapid improvement, then less improvement ship to ship but over time you have a learning curve," Equid told *ADM*.





Confirmed: DMMA delayed again

Julian Kerr

Release of a long-awaited Request for Tender (RFT) for Domestic Munitions Manufacturing Arrangements (DMMA) has been delayed until midyear, Australia's Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) confirmed to *IHS-Jane's*.

Although no other details were released by the DMO, well-informed sources disclosed that a letter to the three shortlisted consortia from Air Commodore **Bill Hayden**, Director General Munitions, said that since the release of a Request for Proposal (RFP) and draft RFT last July, the government had reviewed and updated its munitions demand forecast.

It had also considered the ongoing schedule and performance risks associated with the development of the Mulwala explosives and propellant plant.

The RFT for DMMA had thus been suspended pending consideration of the project by government. This was planned to take place by mid-2014 (this **proposition** was first aired by *ADM* late last **year**). Separate sources stressed that while project requirements would be reviewed, the DMMA project itself was not at risk.

The shortlisted bidders for the DMMA contract comprise **Alliant Techsystems (ATK)** of the US teaming with Australian ammunition supplier **NIOA, American Ordnance**, and **Day & Zimmerman**; **BAE Systems Australia** teaming with **Expal Systems** of Spain; and incumbent **Thales Australia**, teaming with **General Dynamics-OTS, Nammo**, and **Winchester Australia** under the **Australian Munitions** banner.

The previous Labor government said last July that an RFT would be released early in 2014, itself several months later than originally anticipated since the current agreements with Thales covering **Mulwala and the Benalla munitions facilities** that expire in June 2015.

Thales and BAE Systems declined to comment on the delay but **Andrew Crickenberger**, ATK's DMMA Director, told *ADM* that the ATK-NIOA Munitions team was disappointed at the news.

"We have been working for more than three years and have assembled a world-class team with a dynamic plan to provide the Commonwealth with the latest munitions and manufacturing technologies; experience producing relevant, high-quality munitions; and commercial business that will ensure the long term viability of the Benalla and Mulwala facilities. We intend to engage with the DMO to understand why the process has been suspended and to hear what their future plans are for DMMA."

Crickenberger added that as a subcontractor to **Bovis Lend Lease**, ATK was not in a position to comment on the progress of the Mulwala Redevelopment program, which has been managed as a **Project of Concern** since December 2012.





Victoria pushes for more defence manufacturing projects

Defence contracts valued at around \$27 billion could be the lynchpin for a recovery in Victoria's manufacturing

sector after the departure of car makers Holden and Ford.

The *Herald Sun* reports that the **Napthine Government** has proposed, in a submission to the federal government, that Victoria could transform its economy by chasing \$27 billion worth of defence contracts over the next decade.

Geelong business and government leaders have taken an initiative to bid for a \$10 billion defence contract to build a fleet of more than 800 military combat vehicles.

Funded by the Federal Government's **Defence Capability Plan**, the combat vehicle will be known as the **Land 400**.

The Victorian government supports the plan and it is hoped that the contract to design, engineer, manufacture and maintain the vehicles would create 1,000 direct jobs and a further 3,000 indirect jobs in Geelong.

In addition, it is hoped that Bendigo-based defence contractor **Thales**, which manufactures the **Bushmaster** armoured vehicle, could secure the **Land 121 Ph 4 Project**. This contract to build armoured people moving vehicles could be worth up to \$2 billion.

The plan also includes ship building. It is hoped that \$10 billion in shipbuilding contracts could be fast-tracked and given to **BAE Systems** which employs 1300 people locally. In its entirety, it is hoped that the plan would create 3,000 direct jobs and many more indirect jobs over the next ten years.

REGISTER NOW! ADM2014 Congress

25-26 February 2014 | Hyatt Hotel Canberra

The event will hear from senior government ministers and defence officials, following the recent election, and will centre on the theme **'What does government want of industry?'**



Keynote speaker
David Johnston,
Minister for
Defence



From hoists to WGS terminals!

Tom Muir

NSW-based STEP Electronics has partnered with BAE Systems to develop COTS terminals for use with the Wideband Global Satcom (WGS) system, which it hopes to market to system users.

STEP Electronics a business unit within the Antenna and TV Systems Division of Hills Holdings, manufacturer of lots of clever Australian products (including hoists) and services.

STEP Electronics recently won a multi-million dollar Federal Government contract to service overseas agencies. The four-year contract is for the design, supply and installation of the **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT)** bandwidth efficient global satellite network for 51 Australian Embassies and other overseas offices. STEP won that contract following a competitive tender process involving at least a dozen businesses, including many of STEP's major industry competitors.

"The DFAT contract is another major breakthrough for our Electronics and Communications Group as it re-emphasises our expertise in the very specialist area of dynamic bandwidth optimised satellite communications technology," Hills Holdings Group managing director, **Ted Pretty** said.

"It also highlights the ability of our STEP Electronics team to pitch battle against some of the major global players in this niche field, and be successful," Pretty said.

US Army, Australian leaders talk research, development cooperation

Australia's chief defence scientist met with US Army leaders to explore opportunities for research and development partnerships.

The US Army's engagement with foreign partners in fostering science and engineering is essential to ensuring that soldiers, as well as American allies, have access to the world's best technology, **Dale A. Ormond**, director of the US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command said.

"We are trying to expand our international outreach," Ormond said. "Seventy per cent of the money spent worldwide on science and technology is outside the US

"There are great scientists and engineers everywhere. [It's important to] go find out who they are and work with them."

Dr Alex Zelinsky, Australia's chief defence scientist, and his staff members travelled to Aberdeen Proving Ground, or APG, to discuss current and future mutual areas of interest with RDECOM.

"We have collaborated quite closely with the US Part of Australia's way of doing business with the US is we always try to develop a niche capability, which we are very good at, so we have something to bring to the table as a partner," Zelinsky said.



Subject-matter experts from two of RDECOM's research and engineering centres at APG - the **Army Research Laboratory** and the **Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center**, or CERDEC - described their efforts in areas such as intelligent autonomous systems, the role of materials in vehicle and soldier protection, human research and engineering, and information electronic protection.

The directors of ARL and CERDEC, **Dr Thomas Russell** and **Jill Smith**, respectively, presented briefings that included their organizations' collaborations with the Australian DSTO.

ARL has partnered with Australians in armour and penetration mechanics; **soldier-portable improvised explosive device, or IED, detection systems**, and **electronic warfare vulnerability analysis**. The lab also provides research grants to Australian universities, and its employees have participated in the US Army's Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program with Australia.

CERDEC's collaborations include solar solutions for Soldier **nano-grids, night vision** and **electro optics**, and counter-IED research.

SPECIAL REPORT

January 2014

Preventing nuclear terrorism Australia's leadership role

Tanya Ogilvie-White and David Santoro

Executive summary

No country can afford to be complacent about the risk of nuclear and radiological terrorism. Even countries with minimal or no nuclear infrastructure could fall victim to groups who succeed in procuring materials from poorly secured foreign facilities for use against prestige targets. Although they should be kept in perspective, Australia faces internal and external risks in this area. Its nuclear infrastructure is modest for a country of its size, but Australian nuclear facilities do exist and at least one domestic group has shown interest in targeting them. While the absence of a land border makes Australia less vulnerable to external threats, its busy ports and proximity to weakly governed spaces in Southeast Asia, where nuclear infrastructure is growing and security culture lagging, mean that the potential for external attacks also needs to be taken seriously. Moreover, a nuclear or radiological incident in Southeast Asia would not be without consequences for Australia. Because, so far, no successful nuclear or radiological terrorist attacks have been conducted anywhere in the world, the risks can appear abstract and overblown. They aren't. If terrorists were able to overcome the still relatively significant challenges involved in the fabrication and successful detonation of an improvised nuclear device, the consequences could be catastrophic. Of course, much more likely would be an attack involving a radiological dispersal device, which would be far less lethal, but would have important health effects and cause major social and economic dislocation.

Australian nuclear experts are well aware that they can't guarantee that such attacks will never occur at home or abroad—the risks will exist as long as nuclear technologies remain a part of our lives. But they're also conscious of the steps they can take to make nuclear and radiological terrorism less likely. Over the years, they've honed their expertise and transformed Australia into a world leader in nuclear security practices, both in securing materials and facilities at home and in helping to build nuclear security capacity abroad. They've learned key lessons along the way, including how to successfully transfer critical skills to neighbouring states, how to help national and international organisations develop and improve nuclear security mechanisms and guidance, and how to build international consensus on the need to take nuclear terrorism risks seriously.

These are vitally important activities with implications for Australia's national security, for that of its near neighbours, and for the rest of the world. Yet they're not valued as much as they should be in Australia's decision-making circles. A lack of publicity for Australia's nuclear and radiological security work means that most Australians, including many in the political and strategic realms, don't fully appreciate the nature of global nuclear and radiological threats or the extent to which Australia's expertise and outreach efforts are respected and relied upon around the world (as are Australia's efforts in nonproliferation and disarmament). This helps explain why one of Australia's flagship projects—the Regional Security of Radiological Sources Project—was recently cancelled. There's a disconnect between Australia's nuclear security champions, who operate in the official and non-government sphere, and Canberra's political elite.

ASPI

AUSTRALIAN STRATEGIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Preventing nuclear terrorism: Australia's leadership role

ASPI Special Report authors Tanya Ogilvie-White and David Santoro have said that no country can afford to be complacent about the risk of nuclear and radiological terrorism.

Although they should be kept in perspective, Australia faces internal and external risks in this area. Its nuclear infrastructure is modest for a country of its size, but Australian nuclear facilities do exist and at least one domestic group has shown interest in targeting them. While the absence of a land border makes Australia less vulnerable to external threats, its busy ports and proximity to weakly

governed spaces in Southeast Asia mean that the potential for external attacks also needs to be taken seriously. Moreover, a nuclear or radiological incident in Southeast Asia would not be without consequences for Australia.

The paper suggests the new Abbott government should launch a nuclear security strategy and puts forward initiatives that would help to reduce nuclear dangers, achieve Australia's broader strategic objectives, and fulfil its international obligations—and all at a very modest cost. For more information or to download a copy of the report, contact www.aspi.org.au





Government delivers free basic health care to all Defence families

The Assistant Minister for Defence, Stuart Robert has launched the Government's National Australian Defence Force Family Health Program.

Speaking at the launch at Brisbane's Gallipoli Barracks, Robert said he was delighted to be providing additional support to the families of ADF members.

Each eligible ADF dependant will be reimbursed for their out of pocket expenses when visiting their local general practitioner, and in addition may claim up to \$400 per year for allied health services such as physiotherapy, dentistry and mental health support.



Book early for ADM's Cyber Security Summit

Now in its fourth year, the ADM Cyber Security Summit (19-20 June 2014) will have a theme and focus on "Combatting Emerging and increasingly sophisticated cyber threats".

This year's speaker faculty will feature presentations from

renowned experts from government, industry institutions/agencies, academia and leading vendors. With the scale and growth of cybercrime having risen substantially in recent years, there is a constant need for innovation into new capabilities and deterrents to protect the intelligence and security of the defence industry.

Some of the key topics to be addressed include:

- Cyber warfare
- Mitigating and preventing cyber offensives
- Protecting critical cyber infrastructure
- Intelligence and surveillance
- Cyber terrorism
- International Policy

Take advantage of the early bird rates by [booking](#) before February 28 2014.





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, Thales successfully delivered nine new **ASLAV Crew Procedural Trainers** to the Defence Materiel Organisation.

Royal Australian Air Force aircraft and personnel arrived at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada in the US to participate in **Exercise Red Flag**.

And, **Beechcraft Corporation** signed two contracts to provide a comprehensive pilot training system for the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF).

International



More on hypersonic weapon systems

Tom Muir

Further to our [report](#) in last week's *DWP* on hypersonic

(and other) anti-ship missiles with very high speeds in their terminal phases, reports suggest the US Air Force is still many years away from fielding a hypersonic weapon system capable of delivering a warhead into denied airspace.

Such a weapon is seen as the ideal capability since its **Mach 5-plus** speed allows it



to penetrate denied airspace before ground-based defence systems have time to react. Building on results from its **X-51 unmanned scramjet** demonstration aircraft, the USAF said it hopes to demonstrate other technologies necessary to provide militarily useful capabilities "towards the end of this decade," according to a statement provided by **USAF Materiel Command** spokeswoman Estella Holmes.

It also appears the service is in no hurry and will maintain its current hypersonics research and development tempo in the near term, despite a recent hypersonic missile launch by **China's People's Liberation Army** in January, which caused concern among US lawmakers and defence officials.

But the **US Navy** is moving ahead with plans to explore a submarine-launched weapon with hypersonic speed, issuing a solicitation for two-year industry trade studies to flesh out technology options and architecture for an intermediate-range conventional prompt global strike weapon.

At the end of January, the **US Navy's Strategic Systems Programs** office in Washington, DC, launched the competition as part of the Pentagon's fiscal year 2014 plan to investigate a launcher, missile and glide body for a weapon with potential game-changing capabilities - including the means to reach targets anywhere in the world within about an hour or less without using a ballistic missile.

"The goal of this effort is to develop and evaluate technology options and concepts with application to a broad range of potential intermediate range boost-glide **Conventional Prompt Global Strike (CPGS)** architectures," according to the request for proposals.

Interestingly, the US Navy is looking to find efficiencies as it develops directed-energy weapons, one potential counter to high speed **ASMs**, and ships that will consume more energy.

A US Navy official last week said: "We're about to field a fleet of ships that have directed-energy weapons - **railguns**, electric propulsion, the **Advanced Missile Defence Radar**. All of those systems take more and more energy," he said. "They're all going to be dependent upon the gas in the tank of the ship to produce that energy - all out of one energy magazine." - *TM/InsideDefense*



P-8A program defended following audit

Following the release of a critical review of the P-8A Multi-Mission Maritime Patrol Aircraft from the US Defense Department's top weapons tester last week, Navy and Pentagon officials as well as aircraft builder

Boeing came out in sharp support of the program, noting that some of the testing office's concerns are no longer applicable.

The fiscal year 2013 report issued by the office of the director of operational test and evaluation on 29 January cited the P-8A program as an example of a system that is fully compliant with key performance parameters and key system attribute threshold requirements, but nevertheless possess "significant shortfalls in mission effectiveness."



The report, which looked at the Navy's **initial operational test and evaluation (IOT&E)** for the program conducted between September 2012 and March 2013, found that while the P-8A Increment 1 system provides maritime patrol mission capabilities similar to the **P-3C Orion** aircraft it is meant to replace, it is still "not effective for executing the full range of mission tasks required by the P-8A Increment 1 concept of systems."

Frank Kendall, under-secretary of defence for acquisition, technology and logistics, however, defended the program at a 28 January **House Armed Services Committee** hearing saying that the P-8 was being fielded in incremental capabilities.

"It was laid out to field a certain level of capabilities initially, and then to add more capabilities in the next increment. That increment is ongoing; it's in development. So the capabilities that the [OT&E] report talked about not being there are underway; they're coming. They just haven't gotten to that phase of development of the program yet," he said.

QinetiQ conducts assessment on NSRS

QinetiQ has carried out a fatigue and fracture mechanics assessment of NATO's submarine rescue vehicle, part of the NATO Submarine Rescue System (NSRS), a multi-national project that delivers rescue capability primarily for the partner nations of France, Norway and the UK and to NATO and allied nations.

QinetiQ's Marine Structural Analysis & Technical Services team was commissioned to conduct a structural integrity review of the submarine, including a stress-life fatigue assessment, which evaluated the welded joints of the pressure hull against the relevant design standards, and a probabilistic assessment of the likelihood of failure by fatigue. The assessment, which was accepted by Lloyds Register and the UK MOD Naval Authority, demonstrated that the SRV would only require visual inspections, rather than complex pressure testing, which would have taken it out of service for six months.



Israel Aerospace Industries unveils Katana

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has unveiled its new Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) combat marine system - KATANA for Homeland Security (HLS) applications.

The *KATANA USV* supports a wide range of applications for HLS and the protection of exclusive economic zones, including - harbor security, patrol of shallow coastal and territorial waters, surface and electronic warfare and offshore platform protection (plus oil rigs, pipelines, and more).

A multifunction vessel, the *KATANA* is compatible with IAI's various systems and supports a totally integrated solution. This features unmanned capabilities which provide a response for the entire range of naval applications and revolutionizes maritime operations.

The system dual operational mode allows for fully autonomous operation controlled via an advanced command and control station, as well as for a manned combat operational mode. Based on a proven operational implementation of a USV system, *KATANA* allows for the execution of a wide variety of missions. It can provide an early-warning situation picture, classifying, identifying and tracking targets - including those far away, and eventually intercepting them if required.

KATANA's features include autonomous navigation, collision avoidance, advanced control system and more. The vessel is equipped with various payloads (including electro-optical), communication systems, radio (Line of Site, LOS, or NLOS), radar and weapon systems.



Rheinmetall Nitrochemie and Nexter Munitions sign ammunition agreement

Rheinmetall Nitrochemie and the French defence group Nexter have entered a long-term supply agreement for ammunition components.

Set to run for 10 years, for Rheinmetall the agreement represents sales volume in the nine figures range. The long-term supply agreement makes a material contribution to capacity utilization at Rheinmetall Nitrochemie's Aschau and Wimmis plants.

The agreement covers the supply of Rheinmetall Nitrochemie propellant power for existing types of medium and large calibre ammunition in domestic and international markets. Furthermore there is also a special focus on new types of ammunition for new markets. In cooperation with Rheinmetall Nitrochemie, state-of-the-art propellant technologies are to be developed and readied for full-scale production.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.....page 12



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

Singapore Air Show

DATE: 11 - 16 February, 2014, Changi Exhibition Centre

ENQUIRIES: Web: <http://www.singaporeairshow.com>

Singapore Airshow is all about creating opportunities for aero space industry representatives across the world to connect, do business, find out about the latest innovations and exchange ideas to spearhead developments across the industry.

ADM will
be in
attendance

Defence and ITAR Trade Controls from a non-US Perspective - workshops

DATE: 12 - 28 February, 2014, various locations and dates

ENQUIRIES: Web: <http://export-controls-training.com/training/face-to-face/2-day-defence-and-itar-training-february-14>

For those new to the topic, the course will be an ideal and comprehensive introduction to this extremely important topic. For those with prior experience or knowledge, the course provides a good opportunity to brush up on recent changes, ask questions, and network with defence trade control managers from other businesses. This workshop is proudly supported by Enterprise Connect's Defence Industry Innovation Centre for SME's. **Free to SME's**

ADM 2014 Defence/Industry Congress

DATE: 25 - 26 February, 2014, Canberra

ENQUIRIES: ADM Events - Adam Wiltshire, Ph: 02 9080 4342;

Email: adam.wiltshire@informa.com.au

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

Centenary of Military Aviation Air Show 2014

DATE: 1 - 2 March, 2014, Point Cook, Victoria

ENQUIRIES: Web: <http://www.airforce.gov.au/>

The event highlights the significant advances in military aircraft during the past 100 years.

The Submarine Choice: ASPI's International Conference

DATE: 8 - 10 April, 2014, Canberra
ENQUIRIES: Lynne Gozzard, Ph: 02 6270 5109;
 Email: 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.

ADM will
be in
attendance

3rd annual ADM Cyber Security Summit

DATE: 19 - 20 June, 2014, Canberra
ENQUIRIES: ADM Events - Adam Wiltshire, Ph: 02 9080 4342;
 Email: adam.wiltshire@informa.com.au
 Web: www.admevents.com.au

Over the last 2 years, the summit has gathered 150+ senior Defence, National Security and Industry executives to address current and emerging cyber threats to Australia's security.

ADM will
be in
attendance

Defence and Industry (D+I) conference 2014

DATE: 29 - 30 July, 2014, Adelaide
ENQUIRIES: Defence Materiel Organisation
 Email: DMO.Communication@defence.gov.au

The Conference is an opportunity for Industry to discuss with Defence officials acquisition and sustainment investment opportunities.

ADM will
be in
attendance

SimTect 2014

DATE: 25 August, 2014, Adelaide
ENQUIRIES: Web: <http://www.simtect.com.au/>

SimTect is the annual Simulation Technology and Training Conference held by Simulation Australia. Since its inception in 1996, SimTect has grown to become Australasia's premier simulation conference for industry, government and academia.

ADM will
be in
attendance

Land Forces Conference 2014

DATE: 22 - 26 September, 2014, Brisbane

The Land Forces 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. More details to come.

ADM will
be in
attendance

