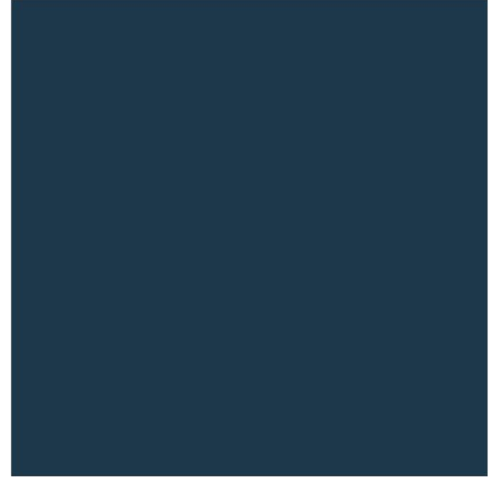


Supporting Tasmania's defence industries



Tasmanian defence industry achievements

The Tasmanian Government works with industry and other stakeholders to increase the state's contribution to the Australian and international defence industry sector. The *Tasmanian Defence Industry Strategy 2023* sets out a framework through which the state's defence industry is supported to grow.

Tasmanian companies and organisations have been awarded more than 110 defence supply contracts, with a value of over \$129 million, over the last three years. More than 30 jobs were created in 2021-22 through Tasmanian companies employing staff through a mix of employment types, within and outside of Tasmania, to work on new defence contracts and projects.

Four Tasmanian businesses that are new entrants to the defence industry market have been awarded contracts over the last three years with substantial opportunities for Tasmanian supply chains. Eighteen companies or organisation over the last three years began pursuing defence industry opportunities for the first time with assistance from the Tasmanian Government.

Tasmania's shipbuilders, boatbuilders and maritime companies have been successful in obtaining contracts with defence – in Australia and for overseas defence forces – for tactical and specialised watercraft, simulation and training systems, maritime systems and engineered products and maritime services.

Tasmanian manufacturers have achieved success in supplying land capability projects for the Australian Army. These include supporting Hanwha Defense Australia's delivery of the Huntsman AS9 self-propelled Howitzers and Huntsman ASI0 armoured ammunition resupply vehicles. This is one of Tasmania's largest ever land contract wins.

The University of Tasmania's new Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct has been established and its capabilities and facilities are expanding in the key areas of maritime engineering and hydrodynamics, remote maritime sensing and autonomous vehicles, power systems modelling and simulation and vessel design.

Tasmania's reputation in nutrition and food sciences continues to grow, with the Centre of Food Innovation – a partnership between the University of Tasmania, the Defence Science and Technology Group and the CSIRO – exploring new product development opportunities using the Microwave Assisted Thermal Sterilisation technology on site with the involvement of local business input.

Defence prime companies and other major defence industry companies have based some of their operations, or key projects, in Tasmania over the last three years. These include Thales Australia, Serco Asia Pacific, HENSOLDT Australia and AERIUS Marine Australia.

A memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the Tasmanian Government, the University of Tasmania and HENSOLDT Australia to promote Tasmania's Space Domain Awareness capabilities and help to establish Tasmania as the centre for Space Domain Awareness in Australia.

The Tasmanian Government, through the *Tasmanian Defence Industry Strategy 2023*, is progressing a number of activities and actions to assist and promote Tasmania's defence industries. Initiatives and activities undertaken in the last three years are outlined below.

Increasing the visibility, awareness and reputation of Tasmanian defence industry capability across all subsectors

- Tasmania's Defence Advocate and Strategic Advisor Maritime, Rear Admiral (Retired) Steve Gilmore AM, CSC, was appointed on a full-time basis with a current term of appointment to 2024.
- The Tasmanian Government has participated in more than 100 meetings and forums over the last three years 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 the capability of Tasmania's defence industry. This includes ongoing participation in the Australian Government's Consultative States and Territories Forum with the Australian Government's Minister for Defence Industries.
- Key defence industry policies have received Tasmanian Government input including the Royal Australian Navy's *Industry Engagement Strategy* and consultation for the intended update of the Naval Shipbuilding Plan due to the release of the *2020 Force Structure Plan*.
- The Tasmanian Government also provided a submission as part of the review of the former Centre for Defence Industry Capability. A submission was also provided as part of the Australian Government's consultation to develop road maps for priority areas identified in its *Modern Manufacturing Strategy* with the defence sector being one of the priority areas identified.

Supporting the development and retention of a skilled workforce

- An Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Advisory Committee was established in 2022 and a Workforce Development Plan is under development. The Advisory Committee and Workforce Development Plan will provide a structure to ensure Tasmania's defence industry is underpinned by a reliable and appropriately skills workforce.
- Programs have been 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 Plan supports Tasmanian-based advanced manufacturing enterprises to undertake non-accredited training activities that will support the development of the advanced manufacturing workforce.
- Other programs that have been implemented include the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Councils' (TMEC) Maritime Skills pilot project to deliver workplace accredited training in welding utilising TMEC's welding simulator and the establishment of TMEC's Advanced Welding Training Centre, both in North-West Tasmania.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Tasmanian Government and the Naval Shipbuilding Institute in November 2020, representing both parties' intention to work together to support development of Australia's naval shipbuilding capability. In November 2021, representatives from the Naval Shipbuilding College also visited the Australian Maritime College, Tasmanian shipbuilders, boat builders and key Tasmanian maritime companies to gain a deeper appreciation of Tasmania's shipbuilding sector.

Assisting to build capability, capacity and confidence

- The Tasmanian Defence Industry Advisory Committee was established in 2018 to provide advice and guidance for ongoing defence industry activities.
- More than 40 Tasmanian based companies and organisations have been routinely supported between 2019-2022 through various programs, services and initiatives that promote and develop Tasmania's defence industries.
- Three companies and one PhD student were supported to take part in the Department of Defence's Defence Industry Study Course in 2021 – representing the first time Tasmanian industry had participated in this course.
- The inaugural Defence Tasmania Industry Directory was published in December 2019 with 29 companies and four organisations listed. The 2022 edition features almost 50 defence-supply capable companies and organisations.
- DMTC (formally the Defence Materials Technology Centre) held a 'Welding Capability for Defence Platforms' program for Tasmanian companies in 2020 and a Tasmanian DMTC's 'Smart Enough Factory' program commenced in Tasmania in June 2022. The Tasmanian Government's collaboration with DMTC and other organisations assists in building the defence industry's capability.
- Under the *Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan 2024*, the Advanced Manufacturing Accelerating Growth Grants Program, the Tender Incentive Grant Program, the Business Improvement Grant program and Advanced Manufacturing Quality Assurance Grants program were established. These programs provide support and assistance to Tasmania's defence industries.
- As part of the *2020 Interim Trade Strategy*, and supported by the Defence Industry team within the Department of State Growth, a Tasmanian Maritime brand campaign was launched to showcase Tasmania's maritime capabilities, both to commercial and defence industry markets. The campaign included the development of virtual reality tours of some of Tasmania's shipbuilders and maritime companies, development of maritime prospectuses, development of sponsored articles on Tasmania's maritime capability sub-sectors and a social marketing campaign.
- Sponsored articles on Tasmania's maritime and defence capability areas have promoted capability to a defence audience, published in the online publication Defence Connect and in the Australian Defence Magazine.

Connecting Tasmanian industry with defence market opportunities

- More than 40 industry familiarisation tours and visits have been hosted for senior defence representatives, defence primes, key defence suppliers and other industry decision makers over the last three years, notwithstanding COVID-19 related travel restrictions.
- Tasmania's defence industry and the University of Tasmania's Australian Maritime College have been assisted to attend and have a presence on the Team Defence Tasmania stands at key defence industry expositions and trade shows both in Australia and overseas. This includes the Australian-based Pacific International Maritime Exposition in 2019 and 2022 and LANDFORCES Exposition in 2021, and the international, US-based Sea Air Space Exposition in 2019 and 2022.

Supporting the development of research, education and training capabilities

- The newly established University of Tasmania's Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct is drawing significant international attention with Thales Australia partnering with the University to utilise the precinct's unique facilities and expertise.
- The Defence Science and Technology (DST) Group's Science Technology and Research (STaR) Shots program was promoted to Tasmanian companies in late 2019 and DST's D.Start program funded under the Next Generation Technologies Fund has also been promoted.
- The Defence Science Institute (DSI) visited ten Tasmanian companies in March 2022 which assisted to raise awareness amongst Tasmanian industry of the services DSI provides.

Attracting defence related investment and ADF activities

- Senior representatives from the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army and the Department of Defence's Capability Acquisition and Sustainment and Science and Technology groups visited Tasmanian companies and organisations to better understand Tasmanian industry capability and to explore collaboration opportunities.
- Avenues for collaboration were identified by the Office of the Hydrographer of Australia with Tasmanian based organisations and companies following a series of visits to Tasmania. The department is aware of ongoing collaboration and increased contract activity for Tasmanian based stakeholders that resulted from this visit.
- The Tasmanian Government promoted Australian Government defence industry related grants, with more than \$1.65 million of this grant funding being received by Tasmanian companies over the last three years.
- In 2022 the Tasmanian Government launched the Tasmanian Space Technology Seed Fund which will support local businesses in exploring and entering the fast-growing space economy.

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

- More active interaction is occurring between the Tasmania Maritime Network and the Tasmanian Polar Network to promote Tasmanian industry capability.
- A new freight and Antarctic cargo facility has been established at the Hobart International Airport.
- The Centre for Antarctic Remote and Maritime Medicine has signed its second five-year memorandum of understanding, as an expert network in Antarctic, remote and maritime medicine, and has added space medicine to its expertise.
- The Royal Hobart Hospital has opened its hypo/hyperbaric chamber in the new K-Block, thereby featuring the most modern dive chamber and altitude research and training facility in the Australia Pacific region.
- *RSV Nuyina*, Australia's new icebreaker, was successfully homeported at Hobart Port in October 2021 and is providing major sustainment contracts to Tasmanian companies.
- The Tasmanian Government has committed funding to the International Project Office of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) as part of a partnership with CSIRO and the University of Tasmania, thereby retaining a globally significant open data warehouse for Southern Ocean data in Australia.



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