

# TASMANIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY STRATEGY 2029

Supporting our globally competitive  
defence industry





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# MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE AND MAJOR INVESTMENT



The Australian Defence Force and allied forces will need advanced technology and the best equipment and capability to effectively deter threats and protect our national interests.

Nationally and internationally, militaries and security organisations are designing, building, researching and modernising capabilities.

Both the 2021 AUKUS partnership and 2024 *National Defence Strategy* identify the need for new capabilities across maritime, land, air, space and cyber domains. They also identify the need to rapidly turn innovations into capability.

A whole-of-nation approach with strong partnerships and collaboration will be required to achieve Australia's Defence Strategy and respond to the significant challenges Australia and our allies face.

Tasmanian industry thrives on solving the problems others can't.

In recent years, Tasmania's defence supply sector has won significant contracts across maritime, land and air domains. These contracts bring millions of dollars into our economy, creating jobs across the state. We are now broadening our focus to include the pursuit of opportunities in the cyber and space domains.

Tasmanian equipment, technology and capability are renowned for quality, innovation and reliability. Defence forces are increasingly integrating Tasmanian capabilities in their defence platforms.

We have strengthened our relationships with major defence primes who have partnered with Tasmanian suppliers for key projects and our companies will deliver to the highest standards expected by these major primes.

We have focused on understanding the capabilities of industry and Defence's requirements. We have successfully undertaken targeted engagement, advocacy and promotion of our capabilities, and defence circles now widely recognise Tasmanian ingenuity.

The *Tasmanian Defence Industry Strategy 2029* shows we are committed to supporting our defence industry and ensuring our equipment, technology and capability is the best available.

Through this strategy, we will leverage our advantages in core industry capability areas. We will continue to advocate for industry, build capability and our workforce, and secure more defence market opportunities.

Our talented researchers, scientists and innovators will collaborate with industry to assist with Defence's challenges.

Rising to the challenges we face will require continued collaboration between state and federal governments, industry and academia.

We will continue to work side by side with our small to medium enterprises and our cutting-edge education, science and research institutions as they take their defence industry innovations to the world.



**The Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP**

Premier of Tasmania

Minister for Trade  
and Major Investment



# MESSAGE FROM TASMANIA'S DEFENCE ADVOCATE



As Tasmania's Defence Advocate, I have had the privilege and pleasure to meet, work with and assist Tasmania's defence industry across our state.

The number of Tasmanian companies pursuing defence markets has doubled over the past six years. Tasmanian industry has connected with various supply chains and secured multiple defence contracts and we have capability across all five defence domains.

Our industry has earned a reputation for innovation, collaboration and a drive to succeed. We have focused on what industry does best and helped industry do it better. We continue to promote our leading capabilities.

This approach has proven successful with Tasmanian products, capabilities and technologies now featuring on major military platforms in Australia and overseas.

Defence and major defence primes now recognise the greater contribution we can make.

There is of course no such thing as a static defence environment. The geo-strategic circumstances today are characterised by pressure on the global rules-based order and increased strategic competition by nations in the Indo-Pacific region.

The advantage that Australia's geographic location once presented – being surrounded by three oceans – is diminishing largely because of technological developments. These factors require an urgency with our approach.

The Australian Government's *2023 Defence Strategic Review* and consequent *2024 National Defence Strategy* and *2024 Integrated Investment Program* identify what Defence needs and when. They also identify how industry can support current and future Defence programs.

The approach and urgency is echoed regionally and globally, creating demand for military capabilities and people.

The *Australian Government's Defence Industry Development Strategy 2024* outlined the criticality of a highly capable, resilient and security compliant national industrial base. It also highlights how industry should position and function as an enabler to Australia's Defence capabilities.

Tasmania's contribution remains vital to achieving Australia's defence and security needs.

Defence is prioritising capability investments to enhance lethality and geographic reach. The need for rapid acquisition is altering the application of sovereign industrial solutions and industry focus points.

These shifts in capability requirements and industry policy settings may be challenging for industry to navigate.

We will work closely with industry to assist them to navigate these changes and the evolving defence landscape.

This *Tasmanian Defence Industry Strategy 2029* has considered current and forecast requirements of Defence and what support will be needed to grow the state's defence industry participation.

I look forward to working with our committed defence industry sector, as we enhance our contribution to national and international defence requirements.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, likely belonging to Rear Admiral (Rtd) Steve Gilmore AM, CSC.

**Rear Admiral (Rtd)  
Steve Gilmore AM, CSC**

Tasmanian Defence Advocate,  
Department of State Growth

## VISION BY 2029

Tasmanian equipment, technology and capability are world-leading and increasingly utilised by defence forces in Australia and overseas.



## OBJECTIVE

To promote and grow Tasmania's defence industry market opportunities and investment.

The strategy focuses resources and support on areas of capability where Tasmania has comparative advantages and expertise.

The Tasmanian Government, through the Department of State Growth, will work with Tasmania's defence industry to promote its capabilities, build capability, secure defence market opportunities and enhance defence related science and research.

This strategy builds on the *Tasmanian Defence Industry Strategy 2023* and complements others including the *Tasmanian Advanced Manufacturing Action Plan 2028*, the *Tasmanian Trade Strategy 2019-2025* and the *Tasmanian Advanced Technology Industries Strategy*.

'Tasmanian defence industry' is defined as the small to medium enterprises and the education, training and research institutions that supply (or have potential to supply) defence forces and associated security services, which could extend to coast guards, marine police and border protection organisations.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Defence investment and sovereign interest** – Over the next decade, Australia is expected to invest \$330 billion in capability investment priorities. Globally the defence sector is a multi-trillion dollar industry.

**Tasmania's defence advantages** – Tasmania's advantages include resilient global and local supply chains, a strong manufacturing base in maritime and vehicle industries, industrial precincts and infrastructure required to support defence industries, a thriving science and research sector with world leading facilities, a skilled workforce, and extensive industry support. Tasmania also has experience operating in remote and extreme environments and considerable renewable energy generation capacity.

**Defence assets** – Several defence establishments are located across the state with Defence commitments to upgrade facilities in Tasmania.

**Key focus areas** – Over the life of this strategy Tasmania will focus on key areas broadly aligned with Defence's capability domains.

These include:

1. specialised watercraft and maritime systems, services, education and research
2. vehicle manufacture and land systems component production
3. aerospace vehicle componentry and services
4. space domain awareness, communications and space-life sciences
5. food technology and food processing
6. cyber, advanced digital technologies and human systems integration.

In this strategy we will apply a greater focus to cyber and advanced technologies, and space-related areas.

## Goals and priority actions

- Promoting Tasmania's industrial and technology capabilities, as well as education, training and research and development capabilities. This will be achieved through advocacy and by supporting collaboration and engagement
- Building Tasmania's defence industry capability, productivity and workforce. This will be achieved by assisting industry to become defence-ready and scale up and assisting industry to attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce
- Securing defence market opportunities and investment both domestically and with trusted international partners
- Enhancing defence-related research, development and innovation. This will be achieved by improving collaboration with Defence's innovation, science and technology ecosystem and supporting Tasmania's defence industry to innovate.









# INTRODUCTION

Tasmanian companies and institutions have participated in national and international defence markets for decades. The Tasmanian Government's defence industry strategies have recognised and supported growth in these markets.

This latest strategy builds on those that have gone before. It also draws upon consultation with companies and institutions to identify where the opportunities lie.

The consultation process included a workshop with the Tasmanian Defence Industry Advisory Committee (DIAC), industry roundtables and one-on-one sessions.

This strategy has been produced in the context of major change in Australia's geo-strategic environment and the consequent national strategies being implemented.

During consultation, industry advised that it faces several key challenges in growing its contribution to national security.

These include:

- workforce and labour shortages and skills-related shortfalls
- the relative complexity and higher costs of doing business with Defence
- breaking into existing prime contractor supply chains.

Industry also advised that Defence's intended procurement reforms may present opportunities and challenges for companies.

This strategy outlines the key areas the Tasmanian Government will focus on how to address these challenges and grow and promote Tasmania's defence industries.



# DEFENCE STRATEGY, INVESTMENT AND SOVEREIGN INTEREST

World military expenditure increased for the ninth consecutive year in 2023, reaching a total of \$2.44 trillion.<sup>1</sup> With recent geopolitical events across the world that is likely to have increased.

The Australian defence industry contributed \$10.6 billion to Australia's gross value added in 2022-23.<sup>2</sup> Australia's defence industry is currently achieving in the order of \$1.5-2.5 billion in defence exports a year.<sup>3</sup>

The defence industry market, both nationally and globally, continues to offer economic growth opportunities for

Tasmania. Due to government-driven investment in this market, governments play a role in identifying opportunities and supporting local business to make connections.

In 2023, the Australian Government released the Defence Strategic Review which outlined an altered geo-strategic circumstance.

Subsequently the 2024 Surface Combatant Fleet Review, 2024 Defence Industry Development Strategy, 2024 National Defence Strategy and the 2024 Defence Integrated Investment Program were all released. These documents outline how

Australia's defence strategy and the required capabilities will need to shift in response to changes in the nation's strategic environment.

The Australian Government has committed over \$330 billion over the next decade to deliver new capabilities required across the maritime, land, air, space and cyber domains.<sup>4</sup>





Australia finds itself in an increasingly dangerous security environment and investment in capability needs to be increased and brought forward. There is an objective to rapidly create a national defence capability with an amplified deterrent effect through 'impactful projection' and advanced technologies.

The Royal Australian Navy will over time grow to its largest surface combatant force since World War II and introduce nuclear-powered, conventionally armed submarines into service. The Australian Army will be re-developed as a 'littoral manoeuvre' force with a large maritime vessel capability. All services will introduce long range strike capabilities and advanced autonomous systems. A greater emphasis will be placed on cyber technologies and space-based capabilities.

In addition to the ADF's significant investment program, other national programs support the objective of building

Australia's national security. The Australian Border Force, the Australian Federal Police and respective state and territory police forces are making the necessary investments to improve their operational abilities.

The Australian Government's defence industry policy outlines the strategic rationale for developing and maintaining a sovereign defence industrial base. Businesses will be supported to increase their scale and competitiveness in the following sovereign defence industrial priority areas:

- maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade of ADF aircraft
- continuous naval shipbuilding and sustainment
- sustainment and enhancement of the combined-arms land system
- domestic manufacture of guided weapons, explosive ordnance and munitions
- development and integration of autonomous systems
- integration and enhancement of battlespace awareness and management systems

- test and evaluation, certification and systems assurance.

Additional elements of the Australian Government's defence industry policy framework and principles include:

- reforming procurement processes
- uplifting defence industry's security posture
- growing Tier 2 small to medium enterprise industry capacity and capability
- supporting exports to strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of the Australian defence industrial base.

Realising this policy direction will require close collaboration with state and territory government, industry, research and science organisations.

Defence has outlined a new approach to innovation, science and technology. Pitting strength against weakness and rapidly pulling innovation through to capability are key to this approach.

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1. [www.sipri.org/publications/2024/sipri-fact-sheets/trends-world-military-expenditure-2023](http://www.sipri.org/publications/2024/sipri-fact-sheets/trends-world-military-expenditure-2023)
  2. 2022-23 financial year: [www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/national-accounts/australian-defence-industry-account-experimental-estimates/latest-release](http://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/national-accounts/australian-defence-industry-account-experimental-estimates/latest-release)
  3. [www.defence.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-08/defenceexportstrategy-factsheet.pdf](http://www.defence.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-08/defenceexportstrategy-factsheet.pdf)
  4. [www.minister.defence.gov.au/media-releases/2024-04-17/2024-integrated-investment-program](http://www.minister.defence.gov.au/media-releases/2024-04-17/2024-integrated-investment-program)



# TASMANIA'S DEFENCE ADVANTAGES



**Global  
and local  
supply chains**

Tasmania's major manufacturers supply to global markets and have international supply chains. Local supply chains are well established and provide fabrication and manufactured products and services for varied industrial bases. Coupled with our infrastructure and skilled workforce, these supply chains enable Tasmania to achieve competitive production costs for high-quality precision engineering.



**Maritime  
manufacturing**

As an island state, Tasmania has a strong reputation for producing ships, watercraft and maritime systems that are the best in the market. Tasmanian-manufactured specialised systems and componentry are fitted to major surface combatants and minor war vessels in Australia and internationally.



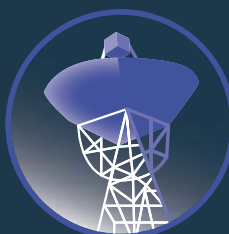
**Vehicle  
manufacturing  
and heavy  
industry  
maintenance**

Tasmanian companies have invested in world leading machinery and associated infrastructure to design and manufacture vehicle components and undertake heavy industry maintenance. This builds on decades of supplying to mining and commercial markets.



**Industrial  
precincts and  
infrastructure**

Tasmania's industrial and semi-industrial precincts and infrastructure are all within proximity of major maritime and air freight corridors. Our maritime infrastructure includes major shipyards, slipways, maritime precincts and deep-water ports. Our heavy vehicle manufacturing infrastructure is largely based on the north west coast and is supporting key defence advanced capability land programs.



**Science, research  
and innovation**

Tasmania is home to a thriving science and research sector and the state has several world leading facilities. The University of Tasmania's Australian Maritime College (AMC) is the national institute for maritime education, training and research.

The University has established a Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct leveraging AMC's facilities.

The Tasmanian Government's Royal Hobart Hospital has the only human-rated, dual-function hyperbaric / hypobaric chamber in the southern hemisphere. Defence's main food science and technology facility is in Scottsdale in northern Tasmania.



### Skilled workforce

AMC, TasTAFE and peak bodies in manufacturing and ICT work closely with industry to provide tailored education and training. A Manufacturing Centre of Excellence and Simulated Work Environment (SWE) are in north west Tasmania, with the SWE being one of only three of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

Tasmania has best practice vocational education and training and university facilities relating to maritime operations, maritime engineering, ship operations, port operations, and fabrication, welding and maintenance.



### Industry Support

Defence Tasmania and Tasmania's Defence Advocate provide support to grow and promote the state's defence industry and attract defence investment. They also provide advice to government and industry. The Defence Science Institute supports Tasmanian industry to innovate through defence research and development collaboration.



### Operational experience in remote and extreme environments

As the southernmost Australian state, Tasmania is close to the Southern Ocean and Antarctica and we have experience in operating in remote and extreme environments. Tasmania is strategically positioned to support monitoring and protection of Australia's interests in the increasingly contested southern domains.



### Renewable energy generation

Tasmania's renewable energy generation capacity can meet 100 per cent of the state's energy needs. We plan to double our renewable energy generation by 2040 and further decarbonise the state's economy. This includes investments in alternative fuels such as hydrogen and major renewable energy projects.

# CAPABILITY MAP



1. Stony Head Military Training Area (Stony Head)
2. Defence Science and Technology Group Research Facility (Scottsdale)
3. Youngtown Depot (Launceston)
4. Buckland Military Training Area (Buckland)
5. Derwent Barracks – 8th Operational Support Unit and 12/40 Battalion Royal Tasmania Regiment (Hobart)
6. Anglesea Barracks, Navy HQ Tasmania and HQ No 29 SQN RAAF (Hobart)

- University of Tasmania / Australian Maritime College assets and facilities**
7. University of Tasmania's (UTAS) Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct & Australian Maritime College (AMC)
  8. AMC Autonomous Maritime Systems facilities
  9. Southern Guardian (UTAS & HENDSOLDT)



# DEFENCE ASSETS IN TASMANIA

Defence establishments and assets in Tasmania include:

- Northern Tasmania: Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) Scottsdale, Paterson Barracks, Navy Cadet Training Ships Tamar and York, Stony Head Military Training Area and Youngtown Depot
- North west Tasmania: Burnie Depot, Kokoda Barracks – Devonport and Navy Cadet Training Ships Emu, Leven West and Mersey
- Southern Tasmania: Anglesea Barracks (including Navy Headquarters Tasmania and Headquarters RAAF No 29 Squadron), Derwent Barracks, Fort Direction, Buckland Military Training Area, Navy Cadet Training Ships Derwent and Hobart and Australian Defence Cadet Facilities – 68 Royal Cadet Unit.

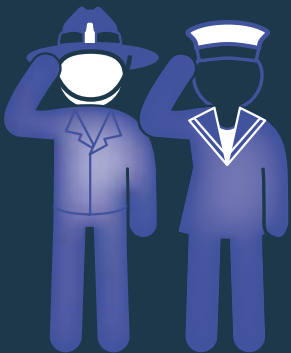
Defence is investing in upgrades and maintenance of Tasmania Defence assets including Anglesea Barracks, Youngtown Depot and Patterson Barracks.<sup>5</sup>

Investments are also being made by Defence to establish a secure networking capability at the University of Tasmania's Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct, at the university's northern Tasmanian Newnham campus.

Defence's growing focus on strategic utilisation of national assets could present opportunities for enhanced use of Tasmania's assets. A potential shift to more roles in Defence being able to be undertaken remotely and flexibly could enhance this.

**1,018**  
TOTAL DEFENCE  
PERSONNEL IN  
TASMANIA

**519**  
TOTAL NUMBER  
OF CADETS <sup>6</sup>



**\$211.8 MILLION**

2018-19: Tasmania's total defence and national security sectors' estimated economic value <sup>7</sup>

**141 EMPLOYEES**

2018-19: approximate number of full time equivalent staff directly employed by Tasmanian suppliers to service the defence and national security sectors <sup>8</sup>

5. Defence Security and Estate Group, June 2024

6. Defence People Group, June 2024

7. SGS Economics and Planning Pty Ltd, 2021, 'Economic value of the Tasmanian defence and national security sectors

8. SGS Economics and Planning Pty Ltd, 2021, 'Economic value of the Tasmanian defence and national security sectors

## KEY FOCUS AREAS

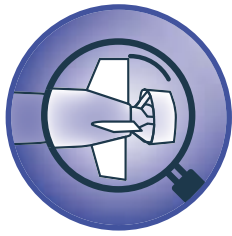
The strategy intentionally focuses resources and support on specific areas expected to be sought by modern defence forces. This aligns with Tasmania's industry capabilities, comparative advantages and expertise.



Tasmania's focus areas consider Defence's strategic direction and recent policies and are broadly aligned with Defence's capability domains.

1	Watercraft and maritime systems, services, education and research.
2	Vehicle manufacture and land component production.
3	Aerospace vehicle componentry and services.
4	Space domain awareness, communications and space-life sciences.
5	Food technology and food processing.
6	Cyber, advanced digital technology and human systems integration.

Cyber and advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence, are relevant to all other focus areas. The strategy will broaden our focus to include pursuit of opportunities in cyber and advanced technology and space related areas.



## WATERCRAFT AND MARITIME SYSTEMS, SERVICES, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

The ADF is increasingly requiring littoral manoeuvre and tactical watercraft as well as harbour and coast support vessels. Other defence forces and maritime services, particularly in the Pacific, also require these capabilities.

Tasmania prides itself on the design and manufacture of durable and reliable specialist watercraft. These include:

- small harbour patrol boats, fast response vessels and transport craft
- coastal landing craft built for extreme conditions
- harbour maintenance vessels and littoral manoeuvre craft.

Tasmanian-manufactured specialised systems and componentry include accommodation and habitability, anchoring, lightning protection, marine evacuation, marine insulation, communications antennas, underwater retrieval, sensing and marking and advanced portable bridge simulation systems.

Tasmanian industry has been involved in the design and development of some of the world's largest and most complex port development projects. Capabilities include ship and port modelling, maritime simulations, scientific and environmental data collection and analysis and port construction services.

Uncrewed maritime capabilities and undersea domain awareness are areas of increasing interest in Australia

and globally. Tasmania has developed unique capabilities through decades of supplying and servicing challenging aquaculture, emergency services and the Antarctic/Southern Ocean sector.

Uncrewed maritime capabilities can include systems that can operate on the ocean's surface or sub-surface. These include remotely controlled or autonomously controlled systems. Tasmanian uncrewed maritime capabilities include:

- the design, manufacture and maintenance of sub-sea systems and remotely operated vehicles
- integration of digital systems with undersea expertise in engineering
- construction and specialist capabilities in autonomous maritime systems operations and training.

Tasmanian industry has expertise in hydrodynamics, hydrography, oceanography and hydro-acoustics and provides services that enhance undersea domain awareness and port development planning.

These include:

- above and below water spatial data capture and analysis including hydrographic survey
- lease of high speed and offshore support vessels and marine crew
- specialist metocean, meteorological and oceanographic data analysis
- consulting services and hydroacoustic science and software expertise.

National and international commercial and defence clients have leveraged open water and deep lake facilities in Tasmania for several years.







The AMC is establishing one of the world’s best-equipped autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV) training, research, test and evaluation facilities. The facility will have a fleet of underwater vehicles and systems for sub-sea and Antarctic exploration.

The AMC is a key partner of DSTG, demonstrated through the establishment of the University of Tasmania’s Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct. DSTG is making a considerable investment in the university’s precinct, shaping its capabilities and capacity for a significant future contribution to Defence.

Other capabilities and facilities of the university’s precinct and AMC include:

- cavitation and turbulent flows
- power and energy
- vessel seakeeping and stability
- manoeuvring
- structural integrity
- maritime and logistics management.

A secure networking capability is also being established at the university’s precinct.

AMC’s Centre for Maritime Simulations is frequently used by port authorities and regulators to reduce risk in port developments. The centre also contributes to identifying efficiency and safety improvements to port operations.

AMC is a nationally accredited training facility that specialises in maritime engineering and hydrodynamics including marine and offshore engineering, naval architecture and ocean engineering. The AMC is Australia’s only provider of maritime engineering degree programs, with their graduates highly sought after by industry.

The *2024 National Defence Strategy* provides opportunities for education and research entities to work with Pacific Island nations to support their respective requirements and broader capability needs. AMC’s capabilities can support these efforts.



## 2

## VEHICLE MANUFACTURE AND LAND SYSTEMS COMPONENT PRODUCTION

Tasmanian defence industry manufacturers are committed to the continued supply of vehicle and land systems components to the ADF and allies' land capability programs.

Unique products and engineered systems have been developed by Tasmanian manufacturers to solve specific problems experienced on land. These include multispectral camouflage solutions and composites products.

There is a particular cluster of vehicle manufacturers and their associated supply chains on Tasmania's north west coast, renowned for their flexibility and high-quality precision engineering.

Support of current Australian land capability programs also present future export opportunities for Tasmanian manufacturers.

Manufacturing excellence is supported in Tasmanian through the Tasmania Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC).

TMEC operates the state's Manufacturing Centre of Excellence in north west Tasmania. Its training facilities and equipment develop workers' and students' skills in advanced manufacturing. The centre houses the Elphinstone Simulated Work Environment which delivers lean manufacturing and continuous improvement training. It also houses the Advanced Welding Training Centre with portable simulators that mimic real welding experiences.



## 3

## AEROSPACE VEHICLE COMPONENTRY AND SERVICES



Uncrewed air systems are increasingly being integrated into defence forces in Australia and overseas, to augment crewed capabilities on a range of missions.

Tasmania is a world leader in the design and manufacture of componentry that is integrated into uncrewed aerial systems. This includes power electronics, engine systems and other precision engineered components. World leading innovations in hybrid engine and vehicle power supplies for uncrewed air systems are also being developed in Tasmania.

Launch and recovery systems for uncrewed aerial systems have also been developed here. These systems are being integrated into capability programs for the Australian Army with the potential for export.

Uncrewed air system technology, systems and training services have been developed in Tasmania for mining, agricultural and aquaculture sectors. These capabilities are now sought after by defence customers.



## 4

### SPACE DOMAIN AWARENESS, COMMUNICATIONS AND SPACE-LIFE SCIENCES

Tasmania provides a unique location for space research and exploration. Situated in the southern latitudes it has thin ionosphere, clear skies, low population density and a proximity to the vast Southern Ocean and Antarctica.

These factors, coupled with the University of Tasmania continent-wide array of antennas, have led to Tasmania developing unique space research capabilities and infrastructure. These are in the fields of space domain awareness (tracking of spacecraft and debris in earth orbit) and space communications.

These factors have also enabled Tasmania to develop specialist space research capabilities relating to space medicine and space life sciences

Several Tasmanian businesses are also adapting, extending or developing new technology and services for the space economy.



## 5

### FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND FOOD PROCESSING

Tasmania's food and agriculture industry continues to be one of the state's most prominent and successful sectors.

The University of Tasmania collaborates with DSTG at their facility in Scottsdale and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) on advanced food technologies. These technologies better meet the needs of Defence and civilian applications for foods that do not need refrigeration.

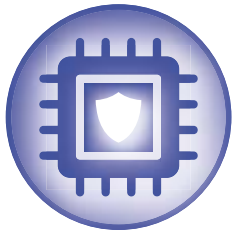
Improved high quality shelf-stable foods are required for extended mission endurance and for operations where resupply of fresh products

is not guaranteed. Improving shelf-stable foods also enables enhanced food security and supply chain resilience.

In Tasmania new technologies for shelf-stable foods are being developed and trialled. These new technologies could compete with fresh and frozen products but without the energy requirements and costs of frozen or chilled storage. Example technologies include microwave, pressure accelerated sterilisation processing and high-rate drying technologies that can preserve product quality at lower energy costs.

Several Tasmanian companies have large scale food production and processing facilities. Value-added processing of local produce enables more local value capture in Tasmania. Shelf-stabilisation opens new markets where cold chain storage is not necessarily available. Tasmanian industry welcomes the opportunity to partner with research organisations on new food technologies.





# 6

## CYBER, ADVANCED DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND HUMAN SYSTEMS INTEGRATION

Cyber and technology capabilities are required to protect networks and systems and provides enhanced cyber and electronic warfare effects.

Tasmania's technology sector – along with the national and international technology sectors – provide the infrastructure, products and services to take advantage of the evolving landscape. The technology sector also offers solutions to defence capability program managers across all five domains.

Our technology sector has capability in data analytics, augmented reality, training simulation, human performance management, remote sensing computational science and other emerging technologies. These emerging technologies include cyber security, machine learning and artificial intelligence, internet of things, automation and advanced robotics.

Opportunities for technological innovation in relation to the space, defence and security sectors have been identified in several areas. These include smart devices and applications for automated security, big data, data integration in real time to detect potential security threats and more efficient emergency management systems.



# GOALS AND ACTIONS

GOAL 1: To promote Tasmania's defence industrial and education, training and research capabilities		GOAL 2: To build Tasmania's defence industry capability, productivity and workforce		GOAL 3: To secure defence market opportunities and investment	GOAL 4: To enhance defence related research, development and innovation
Priority 1.1: Advocate for, and promote, Tasmanian industry and our education, training and research organisations	Priority 1.2: Support collaboration, engagement and networking	Priority 2.1: Assist industry to become defence-ready and scale up	Priority 2.2: Assist industry to attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce		



# GOAL 1: To promote Tasmania's defence industrial and education, training and research capabilities

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## Priority 1.1: Advocate for, and promote, Tasmanian industry and our education, training and research organisations

### Actions

1. Advocate for Tasmania's defence industry and assist industry to connect with Defence and understand Defence's requirements.
2. Support Australian Government investment in Australian Defence Force (ADF) assets and infrastructure in Tasmania.
3. Develop and promote defence industry marketing materials and promotional campaigns.
4. Coordinate inbound familiarisation visits and events.
5. Support Tasmanian involvement in the Australian Government's Defence Industry Study Course (DISC).

### Context

Australia is undertaking significant investment in new capabilities across the maritime, land, air, space and cyber domains.

New international partnerships have formed and allied partners are growing and modernising their militaries.

These developments signal significant opportunities for Tasmanian industry, and our education, training and research institutions.

Government investment drives Defence markets and state and territory governments can assist local industry to identify opportunities and make connections.

Local industry has benefited in recent years by having a voice in national discussions with key Defence and defence prime stakeholders. We will continue this advocacy and promotion to raise awareness of our high-quality equipment, technology and capability through initiatives such as the Defence Tasmania Industry Directory.

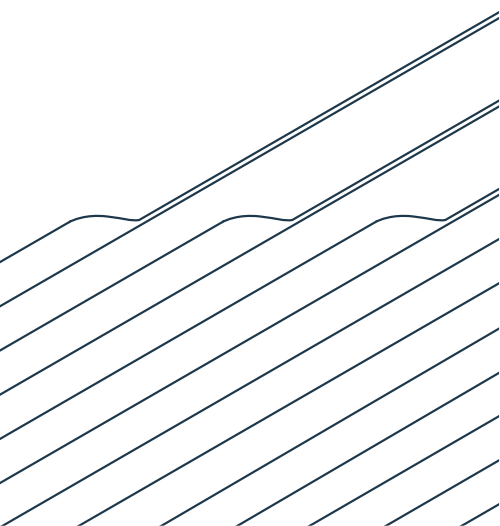
We will assist Tasmanian industry to understand the problems Defence needs to solve and connect our small to medium enterprises with the right stakeholders in Defence.

Facilitating inbound familiarisation visits to Tasmania for Defence representatives and defence primes provides invaluable opportunities for industry to showcase their facilities and capabilities. We will continue to support a program of these inbound visits through this strategy.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to represent the state's interests in national security matters, particularly as it relates to the southern domains.

### Target measures

- At least one promotional activity (for example an update to the Defence Tasmania Industry Directory) or campaign undertaken each year
- At least three inbound visits coordinated each year
- Number of Tasmanians on the Australian Government's DISC course each year
- At least a 75 per cent satisfaction rating of Tasmania's defence industries with services provided by the Tasmanian Government to grow and promote the state's defence industries







## Priority 1.2: Support collaboration, engagement and networking

### Actions

6. Coordinate and support events, meetings and networking opportunities, with a growing focus on cyber and technology and space sectors.
7. Maintain regular engagement, and foster collaboration, with government (including Defence) and defence industry stakeholders.

### Context

It can be difficult for small to medium enterprises to break into existing prime contractor supply chains. Navigating the defence industry in isolation can also be challenging, particularly in the initial stages of pursuing defence markets.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to work closely with Defence to support industry and make connections. This will include working with Defence's Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group and the Office of Defence Industry Support (ODIS).

Taking a 'Team Tasmania' approach provides a distinct advantage. We will build collaboration across industry, government and our institutions to promote our capability.

The Tasmanian Government will facilitate collaboration, engagement and networking that promotes our capabilities. We will strengthen partnerships with organisations at an international and national level, including allied nations, defence primes, the Australian Industry and Defence Network and other states and territories.

At a state level, we will continue to work in partnership with the Tasmania Maritime Network, TMEC, TasICT and the Australian Computer Society.

### Target measures

- At least 50 engagements or meetings with Defence representatives and key stakeholders each year
- At least two events and meetings led or supported, with Defence and defence industry stakeholders each year



## GOAL 2: To build Tasmania's defence industry capability, productivity and workforce

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### Priority 2.1: Assist industry to become defence-ready and scale up

#### Actions

8. Develop, implement and promote strategies and programs that address barriers to expansion and growth and drive productivity.
9. Work with partners and programs to assist Tasmania's defence industry to establish and maintain physical, personal and cyber security including through participation in the Defence Industry Security Program.
10. Work with partners and programs to assist Tasmania's defence industry to pursue reconciliation activities and incorporate Tasmanian Aboriginal-owned enterprises into their supply chain.

#### Context

The Australian Government has identified seven sovereign industrial priority areas for developing and maintaining a sovereign defence industrial base. Tasmanian industry has capability and expertise aligned to priority areas such as naval shipbuilding and sustainment and enhancement of the combined-arms land system.

The Australian Government has also outlined its intent to grow small to medium enterprise defence industry capability and capacity in certain areas, with this to be a focus of Defence's ODIS.

While these national defence industry policy settings signal opportunity for Tasmania's defence industry, Defence also presents challenges and barriers for small to medium enterprises.

Defence is a large and complex organisation with stringent design and build specifications and long lead times in negotiations. Defence may also require specific certifications and assurance requirements.

Maintaining commercial markets is becoming increasingly critical for small to medium enterprises, with uncertainty and delays associated with some Defence projects.

Tasmanian small to medium enterprises have partnered with defence primes that have been successful in winning bids for major defence projects and platforms. The Tasmanian Government will collaborate with these companies and their supply chains to assist them to become defence-ready and scale up to effectively deliver on these critical projects.

Uplifting the security posture of the defence industry is a key element of the Australian Government's defence industry policy. We will assist Tasmanian companies to establish and maintain appropriate security accreditation across the defence industry sector.

Supporting indigenous procurement is a priority of Defence. We will assist Tasmanian companies to pursue reconciliation activities and to incorporate Tasmanian Aboriginal-owned enterprises into their supply chain.

The Tasmanian Government will work across government to maintain key enablers of defence industry, for example strategic and critical infrastructure (including digital infrastructure) and cyber security measures. This will also assist to retain the strategic advantages that our geography provides.

#### Target measures

- At least one Tasmanian Government-led or supported activity that builds defence industry capability each year
- Connect with, and assist, at least four new Tasmanian defence market entrants each year

## Priority 2.2: Assist industry to attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce

### Actions:

11. Leverage partners and programs at the state and Australian Government level to assist industry to grow their workforce by implementing actions identified in workforce development plans and Industry Skills Compacts.
12. Provide input to the Australian Government's national Defence Industry Workforce Plan to support the growth of the defence industry workforce.
13. Promote programs that support defence industry skills and workforce requirements by engaging students to follow defence industry career pathways.
14. Assist Tasmania's defence industry to make connections with veteran networks and recruitment services specialising in the defence market.

### Context

Skills and workforce shortages, and challenges attracting, developing and retaining staff are key issues for Tasmania's defence industry. This is the case across the manufacturing sector, the technology sector and supporting sectors such as freight and logistics.

Advanced technologies and the digitisation of manufacturing are providing productivity and quality improvements, but they are also requiring new skills such as computer programming, automation and cyber security.

There is a need for greater collaboration across government, industry and training and education providers. This will assist the advanced manufacturing and technology sectors to grow and up-skill their workforce.

The Tasmanian Government will facilitate stronger collaboration through workforce development plans and Industry Skills Compacts for the manufacturing and technology sectors.

We will support pathways for prospective skilled migrants through Tasmania's Skilled Migration State Nomination Program. We will also identify opportunities to engage with Tasmanian Jobs Hubs' programs and partners, and to consider the labour supply advantages that come with the Employer of Choice program.

At a national level, we will participate in forums such as the Future Skills Organisation, which is collaborating with industry and other stakeholders, to grow Australia's pool of technology talent to benefit all industries.

The Australian Government is developing a national Defence Industry Workforce Plan. The Tasmanian Government will

provide input to this plan and build a network with other states and territories on related workforce initiatives.

Defence invests in programs to support industry skills by encouraging students to follow relevant study pathways or practical work experience opportunities. These programs include the Defence Industry Internship Program and the Schools Pathways Program. We will promote these programs to Tasmanian industry.

Defence projects and markets can be complex to navigate. It may be an advantage to Tasmania's defence industry to have access to veteran or defence specific knowledge in their companies. We will assist industry to make these connections.

This will include supporting the Tasmanian Veterans' Employment Strategy, which is a whole-of-State Service approach that demonstrates the Tasmanian Government's commitment to providing veterans with employment opportunities across all levels and classifications of the Tasmanian State Service.

### Target measures

Number of partners and programs leveraged to assist in implementing actions to attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce for defence industry

## GOAL 3: To secure defence market opportunities and investment

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### Actions:

15. Attract investment to Tasmania in sectors such as defence industry, maritime, space and the startup and technology sectors.
16. Coordinate Defence Tasmania stands at domestic defence expos and support Tasmanian companies to exhibit.
17. Support Tasmanian-based manufacturers and technology companies to prepare defence and other specialist tenders.
18. Continue to leverage the Industry Capability Network (ICN) as an Australian Government-designated supply chain resource for Defence procurement.
19. Support companies through the Tasmanian Government's Accelerating Trade program with defence market development activities.
20. Coordinate specific sector streams as part of Tasmanian Government trade and investment missions to key overseas markets.
21. In collaboration with Team Defence Australia, advocate for Tasmanian companies that attend international defence expos as part of these delegations.
22. Update the economic value analysis of Tasmania's defence and national security sectors once over the lifespan of this strategy.

### Context

Connecting Tasmanian industry to domestic and international defence market opportunities is core to this strategy.

Domestic defence expositions present an invaluable opportunity for Tasmanian industry to connect with Defence and defence primes, and showcase their equipment and capability.

Introductions and connections made on Defence Tasmania stands at domestic defence expositions have led to Tasmanian small to medium enterprises being contracted by Defence and defence primes.

While Tasmanian industry is winning more defence contracts, doing business with Defence often comes with costly and lengthy tender processes. The Tasmanian Government will provide support to Tasmania's defence industries in preparing for defence tenders.

ICN Tasmania will continue to ensure that our defence industry connects with major defence opportunities and projects.

The Australian Government has recognised that exports grow the resilience of the Australian defence industrial base by providing diversity in revenue sources. This in turn increases both industrial capability and capacity to support Defence.

Team Defence Australia, part of the Australian Government's Defence Export Office, assists Australian industry delegations to attend overseas defence industry trade shows. Tasmanian Government attendance will be considered on a case-by-case basis at international Team Defence Australia events.

We will collaborate with the Australian Government's Defence Export Office, Defence Export Controls, AusTrade and Export Finance Australia to support our



## GOAL 4: To enhance defence related research, development and innovation

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defence industry exporters, including with market intelligence and raising awareness of programs and services available.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to coordinate trade and investment missions to key overseas markets. Trade Tasmania and Tasmanian Trade Advocates will also continue to provide specific market intelligence, advice and assistance to industry in key export markets.

We will work with the Tasmanian Government's Office of the Coordinator-General to attract investment to Tasmania in defence and associated industries.

### Target measures

- Coordinate Defence Tasmania stands at domestic defence expos at least once a year
- Support Tasmanian entities to make at least 20 connections at trade expos and missions each year
- Increase in the number of defence contracts awarded to Tasmanian entities, commensurate with the geo-strategic and economic circumstances
- Increase in the value of defence contracts awarded to Tasmanian entities, commensurate with the geo-strategic and economic circumstances.

### Actions

23. Collaborate with, and promote, Tasmania's defence related science and research institutions and capabilities.
24. Collaborate with, and promote, the Australian Defence Science University Network (ADSUN), including the establishment of a Defence Science Institute (DSI) Tasmania Pilot Project to enable Tasmanian businesses and students to access DSI's programs.
25. Leverage partners and programs that assist Tasmanian defence industry to innovate and undertake research and development.
26. Engage with entrepreneurs, startups and technology companies and assist them to connect with Defence and understand Defence's requirements.
27. Assist Tasmania's defence industry to connect with researchers and potential funders to consider alternative fuel options in their engineered products and manufacturing operations.

### Context

A robust and resilient defence industry requires a strong education and research base.

The University of Tasmania's Defence and Maritime Innovation and Design Precinct connects the university's science and research community with industry to

collaborate in research and development, test and evaluation and consultancies.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to support the university's vision for the precinct and to promote the university's science and research capabilities. We will also support the capabilities of other defence related science and research institutions in the state.

Defence is enhancing collaboration with industry, universities, research organisations and international partners. This was outlined in the *2024 Defence Innovation, Science and Technology (IS&T) Strategy*.

This enhanced collaboration will contribute to Defence's aim to rapidly pull innovation through to capability. It will also assist Defence to identify technologies and capabilities with 'asymmetric advantage', that pit strength against weakness.

ADSUN is the key mechanism that will enhance this collaboration.

ADSUN is a collective of state government funded Defence research and innovation nodes. It connects Defence with state governments, universities and industry in each state.

DSI is the Victorian and Tasmanian node of the ADSUN network. DSI is a collaborative initiative between Defence, state governments, Victorian universities and the University of Tasmania.



The Tasmanian Government will support the DSI Tasmania Pilot Project which will provide Tasmanian small to medium enterprises and students with access to DSI's programs. These programs include student internship programs and collaborative research grants.

Defence's innovation ecosystem also includes organisations such as the Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA). ASCA connects and streamlines the Defence innovation enterprise by focusing on defined missions and solving the most

relevant and urgent capability problems. ASCA is also taking a more flexible and agile approach to procurement.

DSTG's STaR Shots Program and the Defence Trailblazers programs are also part of Defence's innovation system and foster collaboration between industry, Defence and science and research organisations.

The Tasmanian Government will leverage these programs to assist our industry to innovate and undertake research and development.

## Target measures

- Annual promotion of Tasmania's defence related science and research capabilities
- Number of Tasmanian Government-led or supported activities that build industry innovation and R&D capability



# IMPLEMENTATION, MEASUREMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The Department of State Growth will coordinate implementation of this strategy in partnership with industry, science and research institutions, and key stakeholders such as Defence's ODIS. Progress reports will be published to track implementation of actions with key target measures to be reported on.

This strategy will be reviewed midterm and refined in response to changing context, emerging issues or opportunities should they arise. DIAC will continue to provide advice and guidance on Tasmania's defence industry activities and priorities and will monitor implementation of this strategy.



# GLOSSARY

ADF	Australian Defence Force
ADSUN	Australian Defence Science and Universities Network
AMC	Australian Maritime College
ASCA	Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator
AUKUS	Australia, United Kingdom and the United States
AUV	Autonomous Underwater Vehicle
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DIAC	Defence Industry Advisory Committee
DISC	Defence and Industry Study Course
DSTG	Defence Science and Technology Group
DSI	Defence Science Institute
ICT	Information, Communications and Technology
IS&T	Innovation, Science and Technology
ICN	Industry Capability Network
ODIS	Office of Defence Industry Support
SME	Small-medium enterprises
STaR Shot's Program	Science, Technology and Research Shots Program
TMEC	Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council
UTAS	University of Tasmania



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