

## Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith

Minister for Defence Industries

Saturday, 27 June, 2015

### South Australia showcases its capability to build Army vehicles

South Australia's credentials to build and support Australia's next-generation armoured fighting vehicles were showcased to Defence and industry leaders at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute conference in Canberra this week.

The Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith addressed the 3-day conference, focused on Army's future force structure, particularly the LAND 400 armoured fighting vehicle procurement program.

"The South Australian Government is committed to securing LAND 400. It could provide decades of advanced manufacturing and sustainment work for local businesses and workers," Mr Hamilton Smith said.

"South Australia has built more armoured fighting vehicles than any other state in recent history, and we're ready to build on this base to deliver LAND 400.

"We are engaged with potential bidders from around the world, promoting South Australia's credentials and exploring how we can best support their bids."

The Minister joined speakers, including the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Angus Campbell, and the Commanding General of US Army Pacific, General Vincent K. Brooks. His speech focused on the role of states in Army's future.

"State Governments have an important role to play in the Defence sector," Mr Hamilton-Smith said.

"We are committed to embracing the 3500 serving men and women at RAAF Base Edinburgh into our local communities.

"We also have a role to provide strategic infrastructure in support of major Defence projects.

"Our vision is to create a Land Combat System precinct in northern Adelaide, bringing together the Federal, State and industry infrastructure and workforce needed to deliver LAND 400, and future related projects," Mr Hamilton Smith said.

While in Canberra, the Minister met with Australian Defence leaders including Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Tim Barrett, and Lieutenant General Campbell.

"I reinforced our pledge to support the Australian Defence Force and drive industry growth in the state, including pushing our case for naval shipbuilding.

“What we need now is an absolute commitment to an Australian build of our future submarines and surface ships.”

Mr Hamilton-Smith also met with senior management from major defence companies to promote the state’s defence industry credentials.

LAND 400 is Australia’s largest military vehicle program, with an acquisition value of more than \$10 billion for approximately 800 highly sophisticated vehicles and associated systems. The phased program offers about 40 years of continuous direct and indirect employment and supply chain opportunities for the state, through production, sustainment and upgrades.

LAND 400 Phase 2 is seeking 225 combat reconnaissance vehicles with an acquisition value of \$2.5 billion, and involves about 35 years of sustainment.

The Federal Government is expected to confirm a shortlist of Phase 2 bidders in early 2016, and vehicles are expected to be in operation from 2020.