

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Tuesday, 28 March, 2017

Defence industry productivity conference

Senior leaders from some of Australia's largest defence companies will meet today to discuss key challenges currently facing the multi-billion dollar defence industry.

Today's SA Partners Building Defence Industry Productivity Conference will include presentations from leading Defence organisations including BAE Systems, Airbus and ASC.

Defence SA's Chief Executive Andy Keough will open the conference, providing insight into the main challenges facing the most complex defence project in Australia's history, the \$50 billion Future Submarine program.

Background

The SA Partners Building Defence Industry Productivity Conference is a networking and learning event for Defence industry leaders and those engaged in improvement activities.

Professor Peter Hines will Chair the conference with the event featuring contributions from six main speakers who will provide information about how lean thinking and continuous improvement has helped them adapt to the current challenges facing the sector. Speakers include BAE Systems Australia, Airbus, PMB Defence, ASC, General Dynamics Land Systems Australia and the RAAF.

More information about the conference can be found at <http://sapartners.com/events/building-defence-industry-productivity/>

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith

The Future Submarine program is the largest build program in the world for a conventional submarine. In order for this project to succeed, we must have engagement from our defence industry right from the start to ensure we are able to create a culture of continuous improvement.

South Australia's defence industry has proven that it has the capability to undertake projects of this level of complexity and we are working hard to ensure maximum Australian industry involvement.

Now that a continuous naval shipbuilding program has been established for submarines and warships, the defence industry will have to find ways to increase productivity while working in a fiscally challenging environment.

South Australia's defence industry, research organisations and educational institutions will have a crucial role in teaming together to find innovative solutions for our future defence programs.

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