

## Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Wednesday, 30 November 2016

### **Offshore Patrol Vessel program Request for Tender released**

Today's release of the Request for Tender (RFT) for the \$3 billion-plus Offshore Patrol Vessel program is an important first step in ensuring a continuous naval shipbuilding program in this state.

South Australian Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith said it was vital we maintain the tempo on shipbuilding work in South Australia, where it is estimated the OPV program will create more than 400 direct jobs, preserving key skill capability for the larger, more complex, Future Frigate program.

Construction of the vessels will begin in South Australia, following completion of the Air Warfare Destroyers and transfer to Western Australia when the Future Frigate construction begins at Techport in 2020. This approach ensures that jobs and skills are retained in Adelaide.

### **Background**

As part of the competitive evaluation process, three designers were shortlisted to further refine their designs for the Offshore Patrol Vessel program - Damen of the Netherlands, Fassmer of Germany, and Lurssen of Germany.

Twelve vessels will be built in total to replace the 13 existing Armidale Class patrol boats. The Offshore Patrol Vessels will enhance the Australian Defence Forces' capacity to support border security, maritime resource protection and military patrol and response operations.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith**

The Offshore Patrol Vessel program is an important first step in a continuous naval shipbuilding program.

We recently met with all three designers at the Euronaval exhibition in Paris and look forward to continuing our positive relationship with them.

The Offshore Patrol Vessel program is an important part of de-risking the larger, more complex Future Frigate program. This will only be achieved, however, if the South Australian supply chain is engaged in the program and the infrastructure used is that which will be used for the Future Frigates.

The Australian Government needs to begin the Offshore Patrol Vessel program as soon as possible to preserve valuable skills and jobs that are being retrenched from ASC as the Air Warfare Destroyer program nears completion, and include the Australian industry from the outset.

We now look forward to further decisions from the Australian Government to progress the Future Frigate and Future Submarine programs.

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