

Monday, 11 August 2008

ADELAIDE-BASED ULTRA ELECTRONICS WINS AWD CONTRACT

Premier Mike Rann has welcomed the announcement that world-leading aerospace and defence electronics company Ultra Electronics has been chosen to supply the Undersea Warfare Sonar System for the Royal Australian Navy's three air warfare destroyers (AWDs).

The announcement was made today by the AWD Alliance – which is made up of the Defence Materiel Organisation, ASC AWD Shipbuilder Pty Ltd as the shipbuilder and Raytheon Australia Pty Ltd as the Combat System Systems Engineer.

The AWD sonar system capability includes an integrated hull mounted sonar and a towed array with both passive and active capabilities. The purpose of that capability is the detection and tracking of submarines beyond their lethal range and defence against torpedoes.

Premier Mike Rann said it's great news for South Australia because the international defence giant decided to establish its Australian head office in Adelaide.

"We have been working with Ultra Electronics for some time, and as recently as May I met with Chief Executive Doug Caster and Board Member Andy Hammett in London to discuss their strategy to establish Australian headquarters in South Australia," Mr Rann said.

"By basing its Australian head office in Adelaide, Ultra Electronics best positioned itself to win lucrative supply contracts for ship sonar systems, torpedo defence and countermeasures systems on the Air Warfare Destroyer.

"Our work is now paying off, with this international defence giant today winning the contract, further cementing South Australia's reputation as the *Defence State*."

"Adelaide was the logical choice for Ultra because of its strong defence industry and science and technology capability and, of course as home of the AWD build contract and massive state investment in the Techport Australia development," Mr Rann said.

"The State Government is contributing over \$300 million worth of infrastructure to the AWD project and to ensure South Australia has one of the most state-of-the art and efficient multi-use shipbuilding facilities in the Southern Hemisphere.

"For this Government, it's not just about building ships, it's about building a whole new industry for the future.

"The AWD contract alone – over its 10 year life - is estimated to create over 3,000 jobs and add at least \$1.4 billion to South Australia's economic growth.

"Ultra's contract win is a major coup for South Australia – we secured the AWD contract and now will now benefit from the first major flow-on contract awarded by the AWD Alliance.

“This announcement will see Ultra expanding its local presence to 25 highly skilled and specialised staff in Adelaide, with the potential to grow to 200 in coming years.

“That, in turn, will help grow our local high technology base where SA already has an established lead.

“This is also Ultra’s first base outside the UK and North America – we’re delighted the company has selected Adelaide from which to lead its growth in Australia and Asia-Pacific region.”