



# INDUSTRY CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT

Under the leadership of DMTC Limited, the Industry Capability Development Program aims to create a network of 'Defence-ready' companies with benchmarked, globally competitive capabilities.

DMTC connects industry, academia and research institutions in the defence sector through a proven, best practice model. DMTC's strong focus on engaging small to medium enterprises (SMEs) allows them to collaborate on innovative technology developments and equips them to participate in prime contractors' supply chains.

Participants in DMTC's Industry Capability Development Program gain exposure to innovative technologies, best practice techniques and processes and insights into quality, safety and certification standards expected by Defence. The multi-phase DMTC program involves process benchmarking and technology transfer activities in partnership with Universities and government research agencies and with support from the Centre for Defence Industry Capability (CDIC) and relevant certification partners.

The Program is focused on building capacity and opening doors to opportunities in the Defence sector. It also provides mentoring and evidence-based feedback on what SMEs need to do to lift themselves up the skills curve. Following previous capacity-building successes in areas such as CNC machining and additive manufacturing (3D printing), current

efforts focus on enhancing Australian industry's welding capabilities.

DMTC's focus on activities in the pre-competitive phases of industrial capability development, together with its approach to intellectual property rights, facilitates the transfer of skills, technology and knowledge throughout Australian industry supply chains. Platform independent activities (such as welding productivity improvements) can be addressed independently of design or prime contractor selection, by focusing on supply chain improvements and setting context through global best practice benchmarks, standards and quality frameworks.

## NEXT STEPS

The Queensland Government has supported a total of five ICD projects based on welding of high strength steels for both maritime and land vehicle applications. Discussions are also ongoing in relation to the roll out of similar programs in Tasmania and South Australia.

DMTC is also planning to expand the Program to address other specific manufacturing technologies to enhance Australian industrial capability. Some examples include additive manufacturing and casting techniques, along with technologies critical to the digitalisation of manufacturing.





# UPDATE: Projects underway

The Queensland Government are collaborating with DMTC to develop the capabilities of SMEs throughout the State.

The DMTC team (comprising a program leader from DMTC and researchers from the University of Wollongong and Swinburne University of Technology) has previously engaged with SMEs in NSW and Victoria, and is currently working with SMEs in Mackay, Cairns and Townsville on welding techniques and technologies. Future projects are scheduled for Rockhampton and Brisbane.

All participating companies successfully demonstrated capabilities aligned to relevant welding standards, and opportunities for further improvement were discussed with each company.

The Mackay, Cairns and Rockhampton projects focus on the welding of high-strength steels for naval and maritime platforms, while the Townsville and Brisbane

projects will address steels and technologies applicable to land vehicle platforms.

The outcomes achieved for companies who have participated so far included:

- education on the latest techniques and processes in welding high strength steels
- information on the international standards and processes required for the defence sector
- information on the latest automated welding techniques and equipment
- use of digital technologies for steel fabrication and installation
- recommended pathways to welding practice improvement, and
- opportunities to network and collaborate to establish a critical mass of regional capability.



“Companies have really embraced the opportunity - some have even agreed to join forces to offer a cluster of regional capability. It's a big thing for companies that normally compete in the marketplace to agree that they want to work together, but this DMTC program shows it is possible.”

– Dr Valerie Linton,  
Executive Dean of Engineering and Information  
Sciences, UoW



For more information, please contact:

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