



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.

DMTC's multi-phase program is intentionally seeking to:

- leverage the experience and success of previous benchmarking activities, Computer Numerically-Controlled (CNC) machining and tooling, additive manufacturing
- respond to concerns regarding Australian industry's capacity and competitiveness
- align with the focus on Australian industry as a Fundamental Input to Capability and efforts to maximise Australian industry involvement in major Defence projects
- engage with areas of regional Australia with as-yet untapped potential to contribute to the defence sector.

PROGRAM PHASES

1

Focusing on regional clusters of capability – companies with readily transferable skills to move into the defence sector (e.g. resources, automotive).

2

Setting regional clusters within a national network of capability, and engaging with the primes to embed the Defence sector context.

3

Continuing optimisation, innovation and technology insertion to supply chain partners, maintaining best practice.

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.

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.



DMTC's support in setting up the titanium machining capability for the Joint Strike Fighter Program has resulted in opportunities being realised and significant exports for Australian industry, not just for BAE Systems."

Mr Brad Yelland

BAE Systems Australia – Director, Engineering & Technology





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 Queensland regional centres including Mackay, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Brisbane.

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 address steels and technologies applicable to land vehicle platforms.

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

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.

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.

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.



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