



MEDIA RELEASE

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Supporting the next generation of Defence suppliers

DMTC's **Industry Capability Development** program continues to assist local SMEs to test their mettle and assist to meet benchmarks required for work in defence industry supply chains.

The final workshop for the current cohort of industry participants in the Brisbane/Ipswich region will be held at the Tafe Queensland SkillsTech facility at Acacia Ridge on 13 June.

The workshop coincides with Queensland preparing to mark the first anniversary of the release of the **Queensland Defence Industries 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan**.

The Defence Industries Queensland investment with DMTC to develop SME capabilities in welding high-strength steels for land and maritime vehicles is one of the initiatives in the Action Plan.

The multi-phase DMTC program involves process benchmarking and technology transfer activities. It also provides mentoring and evidence-based feedback on what SMEs need to do to lift themselves up the skills curve.

Following a successful pilot in the Mackay region in 2017, additional workshop activities were funded in Queensland and targeted companies in Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane and Rockhampton.

The DMTC team leading the workshops involves technical experts from the University of Wollongong and Swinburne University of Technology, with assistance from the Centre for Defence Industry Capability (CDIC) and relevant certification partners including Weld Australia.

Building on previous capacity-building successes in areas such as CNC machining and additive manufacturing, DMTC's current program seeks to enhance Australian industry's capabilities in welding of specific grades of steel required for maritime and land applications.

CEO of DMTC, Dr Mark Hodge, reinforced the benefits of the multi-phase development program, particularly in helping SMEs to be Defence-ready.

"Australian small to medium enterprises (SMEs) can use this program to demonstrate their skills and their capacity to play key roles within the supply chains of some of the Defence primes," Dr Hodge said.

"Industry partners in our early programs have reported improvements including a greater understanding of the latest welding techniques and processes, accreditations and global performance benchmarks and positioning the companies for future growth."

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