

09 April 2020

CEO Message: DMTC Response to COVID-19

At our Annual Conference in March, I addressed the emerging concerns around the COVID-19 pandemic, and the challenge it posed for all of us – in both health and economic contexts. At that time, DMTC had already begun planning our response to this pandemic and what it would entail for our organisation, our partners, and the broader community.



I am writing to you to confirm that DMTC is continuing to operate while fully complying with state and federal government guidelines and having everyone's health as our highest priority. We remain well-positioned to manage our programs and ongoing activities.

Our key mission (supporting Australia's sovereign Defence industrial capability) is still our highest priority and the Board, management team, and myself are acutely aware of our responsibilities during this national crisis.

At DMTC, we continue to closely monitor COVID-19 developments in both a global and national context. We will adapt and evolve DMTC's response as circumstances change. You can be assured that I will keep all stakeholders informed of any changes in our operating procedures in the coming weeks.

In heeding the Victorian Government's lockdown arrangements, our head office staff have been working remotely since mid-March, and all non-critical travel has been halted. All internal and external meetings are being conducted online.

Under my direction, our program managers are reviewing their respective project portfolios and liaising with research teams daily to ensure that our joint objectives are delivered. While there may be some unavoidable delays due to the current situation, we are committed to delivering *capability through collaboration* for our Defence and national security customers.

Our commitment to supporting Australia's defence industrial capability is unwavering. I believe now, more than ever, that it is critical for DMTC to deliver innovation with a purpose and pursue even stronger engagement with our prime contractor, small business and research partners.

We have worked to become a credible, responsible partner for the Defence & national security community; and as we are called upon to step up during this national crisis, we will continue to deliver on our projects to the highest standard.



As stakeholders may be aware, we are partnering with Defence through the ADF Malaria & Infectious Diseases Institute (ADF MIDI) organisation with guidance from Surgeon General and DST to lead a clinical trial of a pre-exposure prophylactic countermeasure against COVID-19. We are also supporting innovation activities to ensure that Australia's defence industrial base remains vibrant and capable, both in the areas directly related to the COVID-19 response, and across other Defence platform areas. We will release [information to our stakeholders](#) on each of these activities as we are able.

I know partners are eager for certainty during this period. As a general signal, Defence has been clear that they expect companies like DMTC to remain open for business and continue to work towards building capability and capacity across the sector.

Please do not hesitate to contact DMTC if you have any questions regarding this note or the continuing level of activity across our programs.

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