

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

Thursday, July 6, 2017

\$50 million research centre welcomed but more action on subs and ships urgently needed

The State Government welcomes today's announcement by Minister Pyne that \$50 million will be invested in a new research centre on trusted autonomous systems but the key decisions still need to be made on the submarine and ship building program with particular regard to Australian industry capability.

The Defence Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) brings together academia, publicly funded research agencies and industry to create an interlocking research and innovation capability that is focused on driving a Defence outcome.

The first Defence CRC will focus on Trusted Autonomous Systems to deliver innovative unmanned platforms that ensure reliable and effective cooperation between people and machines during dynamic military operations.

Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith said investment in research and development is critical and welcomed it but what is really important, is ensuring that there are Australian companies able to take this new technology and add these capabilities to our submarines and frigates.

Background

During the last Federal election campaign DCNS (Naval Group) promised that 90 per cent of the work would be done in Australia and Minister Pyne repeated this promise on behalf of the Federal Coalition Government.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith

We must ensure it is Australian companies that take this exciting technology into our submarines, frigates and other platforms of the future.

The SA Government welcomes the appointment of the Chair of this Defence Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Mr Jim McDowell, who is Chancellor of the University of SA and has considerable defence experience so he will understand the opportunities and the risks linked to these major programs.

During the last Federal election campaign DCNS (Naval Group) promised that 90 per cent of the work would be done in Australia and Minister Pyne repeated this promise over and over. That promise must be delivered so that any work linked to defence programs on trusted autonomous systems is done by Australian companies and Australian skilled workers.

There needs to be more public transparency on what is being negotiated between the Australian government and the Naval Group and what devices will be used to ensure that Australian content.

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