

## Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith

Minister for Investment and Trade

Tuesday, 11 July 2017

### **Opening young minds to jobs of the future in South Australia**

Bright young minds from around the country will be exposed to high-tech job opportunities in the state's lucrative space and defence industries at the Aerospace Futures (AF) conference in Adelaide, starting tomorrow.

The annual event, hosted by the Australian Youth Aerospace Association, will see hundreds of university graduates and young professionals mingle with the nation's industry leaders at the Adelaide Convention Centre, from Wednesday to Friday, July 12-14.

Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith said the conference was an ideal opportunity to showcase South Australia's growing space and aerospace sectors, which are set to create a wave of high-tech jobs and stimulate economic growth.

### **Background**

AF 2017, which officially kicks off with a launch night on Tuesday 11 July, brings together students, graduates, young professionals, along with space and aerospace industry representatives from across the country.

Participants will have the chance to network with potential future employers and learn about the exciting job opportunities, while a panel of experts and industry leaders will discuss Australia's developing aerospace and space industries during the conference.

Assistant Minister to the Treasurer Chris Picton, representing Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith, and Defence SA's Chief Executive Andy Keough will be among a host of keynote speakers, highlighting the career prospects for young people in South Australia's space and defence industries.

### **Quote attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith**

South Australia is fast-becoming a hub for new technology and innovation, including fields such as space, satellite technologies and communication, cyber, along with unmanned and systems integration.

Our brightest young minds will be able to take advantage of the unprecedented job opportunities in the state's lucrative space and defence industries, as we transition towards a high-tech advanced manufacturing future.

Education plays an important role in inspiring students to pursue careers in space and defence industries and we strongly encourage young people to consider careers in science, technology,

engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields as this is where there will be future jobs in this state.

Our young people will be further exposed to the booming space industry during the world's largest space conference, the 68th International Astronautical Congress (IAC), in Adelaide this September. The IAC will promote the growing the space industry in South Australia, and will have short and long-term benefits for our economy.

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