

February 2, 2018

Rheinmetall Defence Australia Media Brief

RHEINMETALL BRIEFS SMEs ON MILITARY VEHICLE INDUSTRY

Rheinmetall Defence Australia will today brief SME from across Australia in Brisbane about its plans to establish a sovereign military vehicle industry for Australia.

Rheinmetall will bring together SMEs from Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia, who are already partners in a number of the company's major Australian military vehicle, munitions and technology programs. The briefing will take place at the new Queensland facilities of the Victorian manufacturer, Hilton Manufacturing.

Queensland Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, the Hon. Cameron Dick MP, will deliver a keynote address to companies attending the briefing about the State Government's commitment to establishing a military vehicle industry for Australia in Queensland.

Rheinmetall will establish a Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Queensland as the global home of the BOXER Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle, the LANCE turret and the LYNX Infantry Fighting Vehicle as part of its offer to the Commonwealth of Australia's Land 400 program. Rheinmetall is currently delivering 2500 trucks and 3000 modules to the Australian Army under the LAND 121 program.

The company is focused on creating an enduring sovereign capability for defence products and services in Australia that exports to defence programs around the world, generates long term jobs and drives innovation through research and development with local universities, industry and the Australian Defence Force.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia Managing Director Gary Stewart said the company had analysed the strengths of the Australian industry and research communities through engagement with more than 500 SMEs during roadshows in all states and territories including regional Queensland.

"We have been impressed with the depth of capability that exists in a wide range of technical and manufacturing disciplines," Mr Stewart said. "And through this engagement, we believe we have a rare opportunity to create a lasting, national industry in military vehicles and turret systems."

He said Queensland was ideally located as the site of a Regional Hub that provides Australian engineering, production and development of military technology for delivery into Australian and global programs.

Rheinmetall was focused on delivering six key elements as part of its commitment to establishing a sustainable national industry. These are:

1. Create a regional hub that rallies our academic, industry and government partners to ongoing design and manufacture of modern systems for our Australian Defence Force.
2. Export these world class systems and technologies, providing long term, fulfilling benefits for Australia and Australians
3. Provide regional employment – to ensure all of our Australian communities can prosper from this national industry

4. Mentor small and medium companies – a real powerhouse of new ideas and innovation – and assist them to become part of a globally competitive industrial network for military vehicles and turret systems
5. Undertake continuous product development so that the LANCE, LYNX and BOXER CRV systems remain both at the forefront of capability for Australia and globally attractive; and
6. Invest in technology research to ensure Rheinmetall continues to find and commercialise new ideas.

“Rheinmetall is grateful to the Queensland Government and the release this week of the Federal Government’s new Defence Export policy,” Mr Stewart said.

Rheinmetall will transfer technology and research/development opportunities to Australia and work with Australian SMEs to deliver this capability to the ADF. The company has announced teaming agreements with a number of companies from NSW, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. These companies have been selected to deliver a range of products and services for the manufacture of the BOXER CRV.

Hilton Manufacturing is among those companies. The other companies present today include Wollongong-based Bisalloy, Melbourne-based Cablex, Burnie-based Direct Edge, Brisbane-based G&O Kert, Melbourne-based Hilton Manufacturing, Perth-based Hofmann Engineering, Melbourne-based Nezkot Precision Tooling and Engineering, Adelaide-based Plasteel and Adelaide-based Redarc.

Rheinmetall will also establish an \$80 million Technology and Product Development Fund as part of the first phase of the LAND 400 program. The company has announced research partnerships with the Queensland University of Technology, CSIRO, Swinburne University and the University of South Australia.

About Rheinmetall

Rheinmetall sets the global standard for excellence in a wide array of disciplines and offers an extensive array of military hardware that delivers mobility, lethality, survivability of troops, reconnaissance capability and networking of national and international systems. Rheinmetall Defence Australia and New Zealand is a subsidiary of Rheinmetall AG, with offices in Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane.

- For more information about Rheinmetall Defence visit: www.rheinmetall-defence.com
- For more information about BOXER CRV visit: www.boxercrv.com.au
- To follow BOXER CRV on twitter visit: [@boxercrv](https://twitter.com/boxercrv)

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