



Naval Group Australia (NGA) CEO John Davis has responded to the ANAO report into the Future Submarines.

NAVAL GROUP

## NAVAL GROUP AUSTRALIA RESPONDS TO ANAO REPORT

In his first public response to the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report disclosing delays in the Future Submarine program, Naval Group Australia (NGA) CEO John Davis has described the contents as a fair reflection of work to date, confirmed lost time will have been made up by the next contractual milestone, and pointed out that the ANAO had clearly recognised the establishment of a firm framework within which the program would progress.

**JULIAN KERR | ADELAIDE**

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Released on 14 January this year, [the report](#) disclosed that the \$80 billion program, Australia's largest-ever defence procurement, had missed two key milestones so far.

However Davis, whose background includes Air Warfare Destroyer construction and senior technical and project positions with the UK Ministry of Defence involving

nuclear-powered attack and ballistic missile submarines, said it was important that the program was subject to scrutiny, and the report, which has been generally reported by media as critical of NGA, was welcome.

"There are a couple of things which I personally drew from the report," Davis said to ADM.

"The first is that the ANAO were quite insightful in recognising that what they saw in terms of the framework that had been set up for the program was good. With these major programs there is always a conspiracy of optimism with people barrelling in and not taking the time to get the foundations right.

"I think the ANAO were clear in their observations that the framework has been put in place as the result of a very determined and very detailed approach.

"The report as a whole is a fair reflection on the program. It didn't make any specific recommendations and that is good; the critical things that need to be in place are in place."

The report disclosed that the mandated Concept Studies Review that was scheduled to begin in September 2018 did not start until November 2018, and was completed in February 2019.

The Systems Requirements Review (SRR) began in December 2019, five weeks behind schedule and was completed in January this year, Davis confirmed. Some actions from that review had still to be closed, he said.

**"THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
BOAT ARE LIKE NO OTHER BOAT  
IN THE WORLD"**

The Systems Functional Review (SFR), which will define the major layouts for all the major items of equipment, will make up that shortfall and start as contracted in January 2021 following agreement in two weeks of just-concluded meetings involving NGA, Defence, and combat systems integrator Lockheed Martin Australia.

The ANAO commented that the Future Submarine program was dependent on Defence establishing an effective long-term relationship with NGA, and Davis agreed the converse was also true.

"We have a good relationship, we're collaborative with Defence but if you look at the lifecycle relationship I'd describe it as 'forming, norming and storming' – we're still in the forming stage and that's to be expected.

"We're 12 months out from signature of the overarching Strategic Partnering Agreement (SPA) and we're learning together how you implement that and the conditions within it over its 50-year life. The SPA is not something that you put in the bottom draw and forget straight away, this is something you've got to work hard at for years to come, a decade or more."

Davis described the future Attack class submarine as a thoroughbred.

"The requirements of this boat are like no other boat in the world, there isn't another submarine it can be compared with. Endurance, range, speed, stealth, lethality, all of those.

"From a design perspective it's proceeding very well and I wouldn't expect anything else."

The national benefits of the Future Submarine program in terms of industry capabilities

and careers were yet to be communicated effectively to Australians, and issues with security clearances were affecting the accessible skills market – both for Australian citizens, and for specialists from France, Davis added.

**Note from the Managing Editor:** The program has come under intense scrutiny for its involvement of Australian industry in the early phases of the program, particularly from SMEs. NGA has been clear from the beginning that the process will take time. The Attack class industry roadshow at the Pacific trade show last year went into great details about the two year process from engaging with NGA to winning work.

It should also be noted that there are no mandated levels of Australian Industry Capability (AIC) for any Defence program but aspirations as laid in [publicly available](#) AIC plans. In fact, Lockheed Martin Australia has a public AIC plan for Sea 1000 but NGA does not have one listed at this time.

*Note: Julian Kerr travelled to Adelaide courtesy of NGA.*

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## SINGAPORE BECOMES LAUNCH CUSTOMER FOR AUTOMATIC AIR REFUELLING

Airbus Defence and Space announced at the Singapore Airshow on Wednesday that the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) will become the launch customer for the company's Automatic Air Refuelling (A3R) system on its A330-based Multi-role Tanker Transport (MRTT) fleet.

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**NIGEL PITTAWAY | SINGAPORE**

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The first aircraft to be modified will also feature enhanced maintenance equipment.

NIGEL PITTAWAY

Singapore is the lead customer for the 'second wave' of MRTTs, based on the latest version of the civil Airbus A330-200 classic engine option (CEO) and the A3R system is expected to be certified in 2021.

The RAAF has participated significantly in the flight test campaign for the system, which is designed to reduce Air Refuelling Operator (ARO) workload and improve safety, while optimising the rate of fuel transfer under operational conditions.

"With this agreement, the Singapore Air Force leads the next evolution of the A330 MRTT, helping us to bring new hands-off capabilities to the benchmark of next-generation tanker operations," said Alberto Gutiérrez, Airbus head of Military Aircraft.

Singapore is receiving six aircraft, the first of which touched down on the island state in August 2018. The first aircraft to be modified will also feature enhanced maintenance equipment, which will allow maintenance personnel to use the upgraded MRTT's systems to troubleshoot problems from the flight deck.

The first demonstration of the A3R system was performed by Airbus DS in July 2018, with a dry contact between the manufacturer's A310 MRTT testbed and a Portuguese Air Force F-16 fighter.

Australian KC-30As, which are very similar to the baseline MRTT, visited the manufacturer's facility in Getafe, Spain, on a number of occasions in recent times to act as a large receiver for flight testing using the A310 MRTT testbed as the tanker. Airbus Defence & Space achieved seven automated contacts between the A310 and an RAAF KC-30A during the flight test program.

The RAAF is known to be watching the A3R certification process and has previously expressed a desire to acquire the system for its seven KC-30As.

An in-depth report on RAAF KC-30A operations will appear in the March issue of ADM.

**"WITH THIS AGREEMENT,  
THE SINGAPORE AIR FORCE  
LEADS THE NEXT EVOLUTION  
OF THE A330 MRTT"**

#### MOST READ ONLINE AT [WWW.AUSTRALIANDEFENCE.COM.AU](http://WWW.AUSTRALIANDEFENCE.COM.AU)



1. [The decline of trust in Australian defence industry](#)
2. [Spike LR2 chosen for long-range direct fire support](#)
3. [Industry Voice launches as new defence advocacy body](#)
4. [IOC declared for Land 121 Phases 3B and 5B](#)
5. [Land 400 Phase 3 roadshow nominations extended](#)



The PLAAF Ba Yi demonstration team came despite Singapore's ban on travel from China.

NIGEL PITTAWAY

## SINGAPORE AIRSHOW GOES ON DESPITE CORONAVIRUS FEARS

**The biennial Singapore Airshow is normally a must-attend event for companies wishing to do business in the Asia-Pacific region - but not in 2020.**

**NIGEL PITTAWAY | SINGAPORE**

**D**espite reassurances by organisers Experia Events, the 2020 airshow kicked off on February 11 with attendance figures well-down on previous events, due almost exclusively to concerns about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus – or Covid-19, as it is now officially known.

Singapore is the second-most affected country behind China itself and the risk was deemed too great by a significant number of western aerospace companies, including big names such as Bombardier, CAE, Honeywell, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Textron (including Bell). Other companies, such as Airbus, Boeing and Saab chose to significantly reduce their presence.

In a pre-show briefing on Sunday, managing director of Experia Events Leck Chet Lam said the organisers were acting in accordance with Singapore Government guidelines, which had seen the threat level increased to 'Dorscon Orange' level.

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**"MORE THAN 70 COMPANIES  
HAD WITHDRAWN FROM  
THE SHOW"**

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Accordingly, Experia will reduce the number of visitors on the public days by more than half and has already implemented mandatory temperature checks for anyone attending the event. Lam said that more than 70 companies had withdrawn from the show as a result and the numbers of trade day visitors appeared well down on the

45,000 predicted by organisers.

Highlight of the very much reduced flying display at the show was the first Singapore appearance of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) demonstration team Ba Yi (August 1st). However even this appearance was mired in controversy, with organisers only publicly announcing the team's participation after it had touched down in Singapore shortly before the show opened— seemingly at odds with the Singapore Government's ban on travel from mainland China.

Lam said that 45 aircraft would be taking part in the aircraft static display, yet only 30 were present on opening day, leaving wide swathes of empty space on the tarmac.

However, Singapore 2020 was not all doom and gloom: many exhibitors reinforced their commitment to the local market and the Australian presence included the Team Defence Australia industry team which, with around 35 local businesses represented, enjoyed a significant footprint in the exhibition centre.

Other highlights included flying displays by a US Air Force Lockheed Martin F-22A Raptor and US Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II – both making their flying debut in Singapore – and a large Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) presence in the static display.





Boeing Australia has completed the major fuselage structural assembly for its first Loyal Wingman aircraft.

BOEING

## FIRST FUSELAGE COMPLETED FOR LOYAL WINGMAN

**The Boeing Australia team recently completed major fuselage structural assembly for the first Loyal Wingman.**

The aircraft is one of three prototypes that will be developed as a part of the Loyal Wingman – Advanced Development Program in partnership with the RAAF.

“This is an exciting milestone for the development program, and the Australian aerospace industry, as we progress with production of the first military aircraft to be developed in Australia in more than 50 years,” Dr Shane Arnott, program director, Boeing Airpower Teaming System (ATS), said.

The Australian team has applied digital engineering and advanced composite materials to achieve cost and agility goals for the 38-foot (11.7-metre) aircraft, which is designed to use artificial intelligence in teaming with other manned and unmanned platforms.

“The partnership with Boeing is key to building our understanding of not just the operational implications for these sorts of vehicles, but also making us a smart customer as we consider options for manned-unmanned teaming in the coming decade,” Air Commodore Darren Goldie, RAAF Director-General of Air Combat Capability, said. “Boeing is progressing very well with its development and we look forward to seeing the final product in the coming months.”

Dr Arnott said Australian Industry participation had been critical to the program’s rapid development, with a 16-strong Australian industry team making key deliveries

to date including: BAE Systems Australia, who have delivered hardware kits including flight control computers and navigation equipment; RUAG Australia, who have delivered the landing gear system; Ferra Engineering, who have delivered precision machine components and sub-assemblies to support the program; and AME Systems, who have delivered wiring looms to support the vehicle.

This first Loyal Wingman prototype will provide key lessons toward production of the ATS, which Boeing Australia is developing for the global defence market. Customers will be able to tailor ATS sensors and systems based on their own defence and industrial objectives.

The next major milestone will be weight on wheels, when the fuselage structure moves from the assembly jig to the aircraft's own landing gear to continue systems installation and functional testing. The aircraft is expected to complete its first flight this year.

**"BOEING IS PROGRESSING  
VERY WELL WITH ITS  
DEVELOPMENT"**

## DEFENCE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH SAAB ON COMBAT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

**Defence has signed an Enterprise Partnering Agreement with Saab Australia to deliver their 'Next Generation' Combat Management System.**

The agreement forms part of the Commonwealth's strategic enterprise approach to naval combat systems.

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said Saab's 'Next Generation' Combat Management System is a critical element of a ship's fighting capability and will help to ensure Navy can protect Australia in the decades ahead.



HMAS Arunta departs Fleet Base West and sails into Cockburn Sound.

DEFENCE



“Our Government is committed to ensuring our Navy is fully equipped to protect Australia from future threats,” Minister Reynolds said.

“This commitment will enhance surface fleet interoperability and lethality, and support the ability to operate as a joint force with our coalition partners and allies.”

The Saab ‘Next Generation’ Combat Management System will be delivered across Navy’s fleet including the ANZAC class frigates, new Arafura class offshore patrol vessels and Supply class replenishment ships.

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**“THE SAAB ‘NEXT GENERATION’  
COMBAT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
WILL BE DELIVERED ACROSS  
NAVY’S FLEET”**

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Saab Australia will also leverage their ‘Next Generation’ Combat Management System experience in the development of the Australian interface to the Aegis system, for the Hunter class frigates and the Hobart class destroyers.

Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price said it was a great sign to see such advanced capability being developed here in Australia.

“For more than 30 years, Saab Australia has established a strong relationship with Navy in delivering the combat management systems for the ANZAC class frigates and Canberra class Landing Helicopter Dock vessels,” Minister Price said.

“This system was designed in Australia and is contributing to the build-up of our sovereign capability, which is crucial to delivering our Naval Shipbuilding Plan.”

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#### PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Francesca Rush has joined Defence as Commercial General Counsel in Defence Legal Services. Martin Halloran joins Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG) as Head Australian Industry Capability (AIC). Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price said Halloran’s role was a new position within CASG and he would be tasked with delivering even better outcomes for Australian industry at an unprecedented time of investment.

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PFAS is present in legacy firefighting foams.

DEFENCE

## PFAS COMMITTEE TO QUESTION GOVERNMENT ACTION ON SAFETY

**The PFAS Sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade has begun the new parliamentary year with questions about government action on safety frameworks for PFAS in the environment.**

The Chair of the PFAS Sub-committee Dr John McVeigh noted that the national regulatory framework for environmental management of PFAS —per- and poly-flouroalkyl substances— is under review.

“With safe levels for PFAS concentrations in soil and water being made more stringent, there will be new obligations for Government to focus on its PFAS remediation efforts,” Dr McVeigh said.

Last year the Committee's first report, tabled out of session on 20 December, documented Defence's progress using new cleaning technologies to purge PFAS from soil and water at affected Defence sites around Australia.

At the hearing on Monday, representatives from the Environmental Protection Taskforce at the new Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment briefed

the Committee on the status of the PFAS National Environmental Management Plan, which is under review, and on other regulatory reforms limiting PFAS exposures.

"Environmental laws covering PFAS are managed at state and territory level," Dr McVeigh said. "There is a need to ensure that Defence is working to a nationally consistent framework of safety standards and that environmental best practice is followed."

Defence has run PFAS investigations at 27 different sites around the country in recent times, over half of which have been completed.

"Where we have found contamination, off the base in particular, the ongoing management plan considers the future sampling regime and what we are doing

**"THERE IS A NEED TO ENSURE  
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FRAMEWORK OF SAFETY  
STANDARDS"**

about the provision of clean water where necessary. There are only four sites where we actually have to do that, things like connecting people to town water, installing rainwater tanks or whatever the appropriate solution is, and then how we'll seek to remediate it," Deputy Secretary of E&IG Steven Grzeskowiak explained at ADM's Defence Estate and Base Services Summit last year.

"We've started remediation at five places and mostly it involves cleaning water, but in some places, we've started excavating soil, particularly from areas where there were point sources of contamination such as the old firefighting training areas. We've been both storing and isolating soil, because taking PFAS out of soil is still a difficult process."

The PFAS Sub-committee's program of review will continue next week with the Department of Health.

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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## ADM EVENTS

More detail on ADM Events can be found on our [dedicated website](#).

- [ADM Congress](#) – 19 February 2020, Playhouse Theatre | Canberra
- [ADM Space Summit](#) – 28 April 2020, Hyatt Hotel | Canberra
- [ADM STEM and Defence Summit](#) – 19 August 2020, Novotel | Brisbane
- [ADM Defence Estate and Base Services Summit](#) – 22 September 2020 | Canberra
- [Defence in the North](#) – 28 October 2020 | Darwin Convention Centre

## AIDN NATIONAL DEFENCE INDUSTRY GALA DINNER 2020

**DATE** 19 February 2020  
**LOCATION** QT Hotel Ballroom  
**WEBSITE** [consec.eventsair.com/aidn-2020/dinner/Site/Register](https://consec.eventsair.com/aidn-2020/dinner/Site/Register)

AIDN National invite you to attend a defence industry gala event not to be missed. The dinner will include pre dinner drinks and canapes on arrival followed by a gourmet two course dinner served with premium beverages. Guests will enjoy an evening of networking, socialising and fun which includes a VIP guest speaker, presentation of the AIDN National Young Achiever Award and Silent Auction with all proceeds donated to Legacy

## CERTIFICATE IV IN RESPONDING TO ORGANISATIONAL COMPLEXITY | ADELAIDE

**DATE** 19-21 February, 2020  
**LOCATION** to be confirmed  
**WEBSITE** [iccpm.com/events/certificate-iv-adelaide-2020](https://iccpm.com/events/certificate-iv-adelaide-2020)

Developed and offered exclusively by ICCPM (RTO number 41394), the Certificate IV in Responding to Organisational Complexity helps project leaders develop the skills and attributes they need to respond to complexity, as defined in the Complex Project Manager Competency Standards. This is a highly interactive course which introduces project leaders to useful tools and methodologies with a strong focus on the practical application of concepts to real-world situations.

## **RAAF AIR POWER CONFERENCE**

**DATE** 24-25 March, 2020  
**LOCATION** National Convention Centre, Canberra  
**WEBSITE** <https://raaf.eventsair.com/2020-Air-Power-Conference/>

The RAAF will be conducting its biennial Air Power Conference on the theme of Air Power and Indo-Pacific Security over the period 24-25 March 2020 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra. The Conference attracts more than 1000 delegates drawn from national and international Air Forces and other military Services, Government, Defence Industry, academia and think tanks. The biennial Air Power Conference has grown into a regionally and internationally respected forum which has engaged a number of important and relevant air power themes in its discussions.

## **CERTIFICATE IV IN RESPONDING TO ORGANISATIONAL COMPLEXITY | CANBERRA**

**DATE** 24-26 March, 2020  
**LOCATION** to be confirmed  
**WEBSITE** [iccpm.com/events/certificate-iv-canberra-2020](http://iccpm.com/events/certificate-iv-canberra-2020)

Developed and offered exclusively by ICCPM (RTO number 41394), the Certificate IV in Responding to Organisational Complexity helps project leaders develop the skills and attributes they need to respond to complexity, as defined in the Complex Project Manager Competency Standards. This is a highly interactive course which introduces project leaders to useful tools and methodologies with a strong focus on the practical application of concepts to real-world situations.

## **WILLIAMS FOUNDATION SEMINAR: NEXT-GEN AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS**

**DATE** 26 March 2020  
**LOCATION:** National Gallery of Australia  
**WEBSITE** [www.williamsfoundation.org.au](http://www.williamsfoundation.org.au)

Building upon the existing foundations of ADF capability, the aim of the March seminar is to explore the force multiplying capability and increasingly complex requirements associated with unmanned systems. From its origins at the platform level, the opportunities and potential of increased autonomy across the enterprise are now expected to fundamentally transform Joint and Coalition operations.



## **ASIA-PACIFIC SECURITY INNOVATION SUMMIT**

**DATE** 16-17 April, 2020  
**LOCATION** Queenstown, NZ  
**WEBSITE** [www.apsisummit.com/page/apsi-summit-2020](http://www.apsisummit.com/page/apsi-summit-2020)

The theme of this year's APSI summit, to be held in Queenstown on the South Island, is Strengthening Security Resiliency Through Partnerships and Alliances.

## **AUSCERT 2020**

**DATE:** 02-05 June 2020  
**LOCATION:** The Star, Gold Coast  
**WEBSITE:** [www.auscert.org.au/giveaway](http://www.auscert.org.au/giveaway)

The AusCERT Conference is the oldest information security conference in Australia. Each year, we attract in the vicinity of 800 participants and approximately 50 sponsors. AusCERT is hosting more than 50 speakers at AusCERT2020, as well as an array of tutorials, workshops, networking events & much more.

## **QUANTUM TECHX**

**DATE** 08 June, 2020  
**LOCATION** TBC  
**WEBSITE** <https://www.quantumtx.com.au/qtx-program>

TechX is powered by leading innovation providers, Atomic Sky, and its team of experienced business scale-up facilitators. It's supported by a range of financiers, corporate and government partners who provide access to sites, specialist sector expertise, technical mentors and networks. Through the program each company will be provided condensed capability building, tailored site visits and direct mentoring to build capability, capital and connections.

## **ROTORTECH 2020**

**DATE** 16-18 June 2020  
**LOCATION** Royal International Convention Centre, Brisbane  
**WEBSITE** [www.rotortech.com.au](http://www.rotortech.com.au)

RotorTech 2020 is the region's premier helicopter and unmanned flight systems showcase and forum, bringing together operators, manufacturers, suppliers, regulators and government across the Indo-Asia-Pacific. With a comprehensive three-day free industry conference program, RotorTech 2020 will also feature manufacturers technical workshops and an industry exhibition showcasing more than 100 helicopter and unmanned flight related companies.

## **43RD COSPAR SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY**

**DATE** 15 – 22 August 2020  
**LOCATION** International Convention Centre Sydney  
**WEBSITE** [www.cospar2020.org](http://www.cospar2020.org)

The Australian space research community enthusiastically extends the invitation to you, to meet with us for COSPAR 2020, and in so doing to forge the friendships and opportunities that will connect space research for global impact. The 2020 Assembly will combine the latest in space research findings with activities designed to enrich the global space research community – including helping equip our future leaders, and workshopping with space industry – and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

## **PROJECT AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM 2020**

**DATE** 25-26 August 2020  
**LOCATION** Canberra Rex Hotel  
**WEBSITE** [www.pgcsymposium.org.au](http://www.pgcsymposium.org.au)

PGCS 2020 is designed to help project and program managers, and their sponsors and senior managers, develop the skills and understanding needed to deliver projects success in the next decade. Now in its 8th year, PGCS 2020 will focus on ways to build the foundations needed to create project and program success.

## **LAND FORCES 2020**

**DATE** 01-03 September 2020  
**LOCATION** Brisbane Convention Centre  
**WEBSITE** [www.landforces.com.au](http://www.landforces.com.au)

The biennial LAND FORCES exposition is an international industry event to showcase equipment, technology and services for the armies of Australia and the Indo-Asia-Pacific. The Land Forces 2020 team is now setting about ensuring the event will achieve its goals of providing an effective platform for the exchange of ideas on key land forces issues and of taking Australian industry to the world

## 2021

**AVALON 2021****DATE** 23 – 28 February 2021**LOCATION** Avalon Airport

The Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition is one of Asia-Pacific's most prestigious aviation and aerospace events and the most comprehensive aviation, aerospace and defence exposition in the southern hemisphere. Avalon hosts multiple concurrent conferences and expo streams, across the spectrum of Defence, Airlines, Business and General Aviation, Sport and Recreational Aviation, Airports, MRO, Space, Unmanned Systems, Air Safety and Ground Equipment.

## VARIOUS DATES

**NSW DEFENCE INNOVATION NETWORK'S REGIONAL ROAD SHOW****DATE:** Various**LOCATION:** Various**WEBSITE:** [defenceinnovationnetwork.com/din-regional-road-show-2019-20](https://defenceinnovationnetwork.com/din-regional-road-show-2019-20)

NSW Defence Innovation Network and AIDN will be undertaking a series of small business focused regional forums across NSW. Register to attend and hear about the programs, grants, opportunities and services the NSW Defence Innovation Network (DIN) provides to the small business community across NSW. We encourage small businesses to engage with us and participate in opportunities across our networks, including DIN's seven partner universities, as well as with other state and federal agencies.

**DEFENCE READINESS SEMINAR SERIES****DATE** Various**LOCATION** Various**WEBSITE** <https://bit.ly/37fipjH>

The Defence Readiness Seminar Series kicked off in November last year. If you are considering entering the Defence market, or have staff you consider require orientation to the Defence market, you are strongly encouraged to consider this invaluable series, shaped and developed by people in the Hunter that have worked closely in the Defence Industry over many years. Please see the website for more information on how to get involved.

## **2020 ICCPM INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE SERIES**

**DATE** Various (April, August)

**LOCATION** Various

**WEBSITE** ..... <https://iccpm.com/2020-rs>

One of the characteristics of complex projects is that they emerge over time. This creates uncertainty for project leaders. To support project success, project leaders need to understand how to manage risk in uncertainty and identify new opportunities. The International Roundtable Series is a Thought Leadership initiative that brings together senior project leaders and leading academics from different industries to share their experience and international perspectives. The outcomes report will share these insights to improve project success.