



The ANAO assessed the implementation of cyber security risk mitigation strategies within a number of government departments

ANAO

ANAO RELEASES REPORT INTO CYBER SECURITY STRATEGIES

A report released by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) last week has revealed that the implementation of cyber security risk mitigation strategies by non-corporate Commonwealth entities falls short of mandatory requirements for effectively safeguarding information from cyber threats.

ROYA GHODSI | SYDNEY

The audit was conducted in response to growing concerns surrounding the increasing “frequency, scale and sophistication of malicious cyber activity” threatening Australia’s social, economic and national security as well as the privacy of its citizens.

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In particular, the ANAO notes that “cyber threats are considered to be an increasing risk across Australian Government entities.”

Despite this fact, findings from previous ANAO audits have consistently identified “low levels of compliance [by Government entities] with mandatory cyber security requirements under the Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF).”

In response to such concerns, the latest Cyber Security Strategies of Non-Corporate Commonwealth Entities audit assessed nine non-corporate Commonwealth entities for their implementation of these requirements, primarily the Top Four cyber security risk mitigation strategies as outlined by the PSPF.

Among these selected entities were the three government entities responsible for whole-of-government cyber security policy and operational capability: the Attorney-General’s Department (AGD), the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD) and the Department of Home Affairs.

The audit aimed to assess the support provided by the AGD, ASD and Home Affairs towards the implementation of cyber security requirements by non-corporate Commonwealth entities, and

towards accurate self-assessment and reporting by these entities.

“The implementation of cyber security risk mitigation strategies by the selected entities was not fully effective, and did not fully meet the mandatory requirements of PSPF Policy 10,” the report concluded. “Additional ongoing work will be required to assist entities in achieving a more mature and resilient cyber security posture.”

The ANAO report made a number of recommendations to accomplish this, including: stronger validation of ‘privileged user access’ by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, as well as better risk assessments of security events; better documentation processes within AGD; better support for the AGD from ASD; and greater power for the government to hold entities to account for implementing mandatory cyber security requirements.


**“ADDITIONAL ONGOING WORK WILL
BE REQUIRED TO ASSIST ENTITIES
IN ACHIEVING A MORE MATURE
AND RESILIENT CYBER SECURITY
POSTURE”**

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NORTH QUEENSLAND BUSINESSES TO BUILD NEW ARMY WATERCRAFT

Two North Queensland businesses will build seven new watercraft for the Australian Army's amphibious capability.

The vessels, which will be built in Cairns, will assist Army amphibious operations and support systems. Acting Minister for Defence Marise Payne said the watercraft will replace Army's water safety and inshore hydrographic capability.

"The vessels will provide dedicated and agile watercraft for survey, safety, planning and Command and Control," Minister Payne said. "These important watercraft will enable the Army to safely conduct a range of amphibious training activities and operations, which is a critical capability for the ADF."

Tropical Reef Shipyards (TRS) and BME NQ will manufacture the 7.5 metre vessels, and provide spares and trailers as well as operator and maintainer training. The watercraft will be based on a Chris Tucker Marine Design product, an Australian Naval Architect firm, at a cost of \$4.05 million.

"The complex design allows the vessels to be mission specific with quick interchangeable modules, giving the crew a customised platform for the task on hand," Tucker said. "The welfare of the crew has been given a great deal of thought and specialised Sharkshock seating is fitted to reduce fatigue.

"Sensors fitted to the seats and hull will inform the helm when operating in heavy weather conditions the level of impact and vibration being experienced and allow the helm to manage the best and safest operating speeds for the crew in the conditions. Army made crew welfare a high priority."



Tropical Reef Shipyards (TRS) and BME NQ will manufacture the 7.5 metre vessels.

SUPPLIED

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre has appointed Dr Carl Seubert, an Australian Senior Aerospace Engineer from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, to accelerate the company's R&D program. Dr Seubert has been a key figure in high profile NASA missions including the Perseverance rover landing on Mars in February.

InVeris Training Solutions, provider of integrated live-fire and virtual weapons training systems and services, has announced the appointment of Al Weggeman as CEO, effective April 5, 2021. "I'm committed to growing the business through innovative product development, excellent customer support, and optimized operations," said Weggeman.

"When weight is no issue it gets easier to build, but to balance the complex equipment and the weight constraint and deliver performance makes this much more difficult," Oscar Solares, managing director of BME NQ, said. "We needed to develop new manufacturing techniques to ensure we retain our strength and the integrity of the boat and trailer while not comprising the overall weight of the watercraft.

"The choice of Mercury Outboards was an easy choice, as they gave us the best power to weight ratio and high reliability. Mercury's accessory options also allowed for us to fit items like the latest DCDC convertors/chargers to power the specialised equipment Army needs onboard to do their job.

The fuel consumption also is impressive and at the optimum cruise speed will allow the army to complete missions over 200 nautical miles.

"We also have appreciated Mercury's support through their local dealer network, especially the local Cairns dealer Aussie Marine."

"Tropical Reef Shipyard is a key defence industry partner and is used extensively by the RAN

for maintenance and modification services on our Leeuwin Class Hydrographic ships and Paluma Class Survey Motor boats," Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price said.

"THE COMPLEX DESIGN ALLOWS THE VESSELS TO BE MISSION SPECIFIC WITH QUICK INTERCHANGEABLE MODULES"

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BAE SYSTEMS



Boeing was involved in the HiFire4 project along with the University of Queensland.

UQ

BOEING PARTNERS WITH AUSTRALIAN COMPANY ON SUSTAINABLE HYPERSONICS

Boeing and Australia-based Hypersonix Launch Systems have signed an agreement to investigate the design of a sustainable hypersonic vehicle powered by the Hypersonix SPARTAN scramjet engines.

Hypersonix and Boeing Research & Technology (BR&T) will conduct a joint study on the design of a reusable hypersonic vehicle to be used for the sustainable launch of satellites to Low Earth Orbit (LEO). This low cost, reliable, reusable and rapid turn-around launch of small satellites to LEO would be the first application of scramjets for space launch.

"The agreement with Hypersonix Launch Systems demonstrates Boeing's continued commitment to building out critical sovereign capability, supporting the development of Australia's space industry - safely and sustainably – and also partnering with small- and medium-sized enterprises," Brendan Nelson, president of Boeing Australia, NZ and the South Pacific, said.

Boeing has been involved in hypersonic flight through experimental and operational hypersonic vehicles such as the X-15, Space Shuttle, X-43A, X-51A, X-37 and HIFiRE-4. Boeing has also been involved in the Australian hypersonic technology development since 2007 as a core partner in the HIFiRE program.

Hypersonix has developed a fifth-generation green hydrogen powered scramjet engine called SPARTAN, which is a fully composite reusable accelerating scramjet

“OUR HYPERSONIC SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM PROVIDES SATELLITE NETWORK OPERATORS A GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE WAY OF LAUNCHING SATELLITES TO LEO”

engine capable of speeds of Mach 12.

“Our hypersonic space launch system provides satellite network operators a green and sustainable way of launching satellites to low earth orbit,” Dr Michael Smart, head of R&D and co-founder of Hypersonix, said. “We ‘fly to space’, are fully re-usable and we use green hydrogen to provide a high cadence and flexible LEO launch service.”

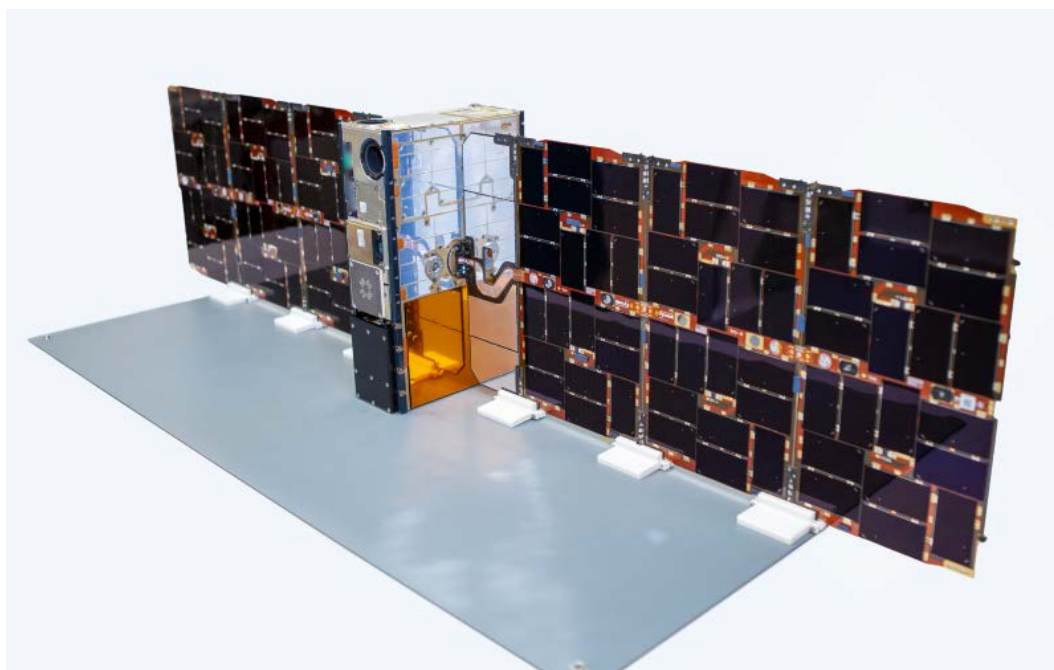
Last year, Hypersonix received an Accelerating Commercialisation Grant from the Federal Department of Industry. Hypersonix is also working with BOC on the supply of green hydrogen as fuel for the SPARTAN scramjet.

FLEET SPACE LAUNCHES FIFTH IOT NANOSATELLITE

Adelaide-based satellite manufacturer Fleet Space Technologies has successfully launched its fifth nanosatellite, Centauri 3.

The satellite was launched from NZ’s Launch Complex 1 at Mahia Peninsula aboard a Rocket Lab Electron launch vehicle named ‘They Go Up So Fast’.

The 10 kilogram nanosatellite entered its pre-planned orbit, 550 kilometres above the earth, on schedule, and was sending full telemetry data on its third pass. Over the next few days, the satellite will begin commissioning and engage in full operations.



Fleet Space's Centauri 3 nanosatellite will demonstrate the company's Internet of Things capability.

FLEET SPACE TECHNOLOGIES

"We're very excited because Centauri 3 will demonstrate our Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) capabilities by linking multiple remote sensors monitoring critical infrastructure such as remote mine sites, gas pipelines and rurally dispersed electricity pylons with central base stations, 24 hours a day," Fleet Space CEO and co-founder Flavia Tata Nardini said.

"The Centauri 3 nanosatellite – our fifth commercial nanosatellite and our most advanced payload yet - will be joined by two more this year and a further 16 during 2022 and 2023."

"CENTAURI 3 WILL DEMONSTRATE OUR INDUSTRIAL INTERNET OF THINGS CAPABILITIES"

The company says these later satellites will have much greater signal throughput and their greater numbers will deliver a continuous service to customers worldwide.

Centauri 3 and the other nanosatellites' IoT communications payloads aim to connect thousands of sensors monitoring critical infrastructure across the world with their owners' and managers' base stations in real time. The full

constellation of 140 satellites could generate a lifetime revenue of \$1.82 billion, Tata Nardini said.

The payload includes a lightweight beam-steering antenna, an AI-driven computer server and satellite modem, all designed in-house.

Fleet Space believes the service needs a constellation of 140 such satellites, of which about 50 will need replacement every year as their Low Earth Orbits (LEO) decay. To meet this demand, it has applied for a \$5 million grant under the Australian government's Modern Manufacturing Initiative (MMI) to establish an advanced manufacturing capability in Adelaide to produce these satellites.

The grant, matched by capital raised by Fleet Space itself, will make it possible to manufacture the entire satellite payload by itself, Tata Nardini said.

"For the first time, we'll be able to 3D print our innovative beam-steering antenna here in Australia," she said. "We design the antenna and all of the rest of the payload, but at present, the only space-qualified company that can manufacture the antenna is in Switzerland."

These manufacturing capabilities will also be available to Defence as well as to other Australian space companies, Tata Nardini added.

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The combat management capability of the RAN's surface fleet has been underpinned by Saab's 9LV CMS for over 30 years. SAAB

DEFENCE EXPANDS 'NEXT GENERATION' COMBAT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Defence has announced the expansion of the Navy's 'next generation' combat management system to include Maritime Mine Counter Measures and Military Survey Vessels.

Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price said the project would drive the next phase of growth and investment by Saab Australia, the nation's sovereign Combat Management System provider.

"This project will create Australian jobs for engineers and project managers, developing further capability within the industrial supply chain and supporting a major, multi-million dollar expansion of Saab's South Australian and West Australian facilities," Minister Price said.

"In the first 12 months of the EPA, Saab has been awarded almost \$20 million and welcomed 108 new staff across Australia."

Saab Australia's Managing Director, Andy Keough, welcomed Minister Price's announcement.

"The combat management capability of the RAN's surface fleet has been underpinned by Saab's 9LV CMS for over 30 years," Keough said. "Saab has consistently grown this combat-proven capability to incorporate all aspects of combat systems engineering, development and sustainment, ensuring the unique requirements of Australia's Navy continue to be met."

MOST READ ONLINE AT WWW.AUSTRALIANDEFENCE.COM.AU

1. [War with China is not inevitable](#)
2. [UMS Skeldar achieves first autonomous deck landing on operations](#)
3. [Naval Group commits to 60 per cent local contract spend to boost Australian industry](#)
4. [Another batch of former RAAF training aircraft auctioned](#)
5. [Land 400 Phase 3 contenders put on display](#)

“The Government’s enterprise approach has guaranteed sovereign control of advanced technologies, as well as the development of a long-term sustainable Australian CMS industry and opportunities for local SMEs in the defence supply chain.”

According to Minister Price, Saab Australia is a key partner in the delivery of Australia’s sovereign shipbuilding capability, with almost 600 highly skilled engineers, project managers and specialists delivering defence and security solutions.

**“SAAB’S CMS WILL BE EQUIPPED ON
SIX OF THE RAN’S CLASSES
OF VESSELS”**

The announcement means Saab’s CMS will be equipped on six of the RAN’s classes of vessels: Anzac, Canberra, Supply, Arafura, Mine Countermeasures and Military Survey Vessels.

They are also working with Lockheed Martin

Australia and BAE Systems Maritime Australia on a special Aegis hybrid system on the upcoming Hunter class program.



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HANWHA PARTNERS WITH K-TIG FOR ADVANCED WELDING TECHNOLOGY

K-TIG Limited and Hanwha Defense Australia recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will see the two companies examine how K-TIG's advanced welding processes can be applied to the construction of armoured vehicles by Hanwha in Australia and potentially overseas.

Traditional TIG welding of thick armour plates to form a vehicle hull or turret involves significant amounts of preparation and multiple passes of welding, each covering two to three millimetres in a single run.

The advanced welding processes utilised by K-TIG allows for at least seven millimetres to be covered in a single welding run, meaning fewer passes and much less preparation in between.

The K-TIG process utilises a high energy density arc which results in modest heat transfer into the plates being joined. The benefits of that include less distortion of the steel plates and, crucially, a much lower chance of affecting the hardness of the armour by excessively heating it.

There are also enormous gains in productivity and quality control.

"We are excited to working with K-TIG to establish how their advanced welding



Adrian Smith, Managing Director of K-TIG, and Richard Cho, Managing Director of Hanwha Defense Australia, signing a Memorandum of Understanding recently.

HANWHA DEFENSE

**“THE POTENTIAL FOR GAINS IN
QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY ARE
SIGNIFICANT”**

process can be utilised in the local manufacture of armoured vehicles,” Richard Cho, Managing Director of Hanwha Defense Australia, said. “The potential for gains in quality and efficiency are significant. I am optimistic that we can utilise the K-TIG technology and help them further expand its applications to armoured vehicle production within the broader Hanwha group.”

“I am pleased that K-TIG is able to work closely with Hanwha to further commercialise our world-class Australian developed welding technology,” Adrian Smith, Managing Director of K-TIG, said. “We think we can help them supply the best possible product to the ADF.”

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ADM EVENTS

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

- [Defence Estate and Base Services Summit](#) – 07 July 2021, Hotel Realm | Canberra
- [STEM in Defence Summit](#) – 16 August 2021, Emporium Hotel | Brisbane
- [Northern Australia Defence Summit](#) – 28 October 2021 | Darwin

LOCATE21

DATE 30 March – 1 April 2021 (rescheduled dates)

LOCATION Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

WEBSITE locateconference.com/2021

Due to COVID-19, Locate20 has been rescheduled for Locate21 happening in Brisbane March 30 – 1 April 2021. The event will focus on how geospatial technologies are intersecting with business, Government and defence to address national challenges. It's Australia's premier spatial conference with the inclusion of over 50 inspiring thought-leaders including speakers from government, academia, the defence force, technology, mining, natural resources and more. We believe this conference is of interest to defence personnel.

SYSTEMS ENGINEERING—ADVANCED

DATE 12-16 April 2021

LOCATION Online

WEBSITE edvirtus.com/courses/systems-engineering-and-project-management/systems-engineering-advanced

Systems Engineering—Advanced begins with our three-day Systems Engineering--Introduction course and follows with a two-day practicum that provides attendees with the opportunity to reinforce and the material covered in the introductory course. In addition to providing, Systems Engineering—Advanced also provides further detail on the early stages of the system life cycle, particularly Conceptual Design. The practicum then takes attendees through a number of design exercises that illustrate the application of systems engineering processes in a variety of contexts without assuming any prior knowledge of any particular development domain.

CHIEF OF ARMY SYMPOSIUM

DATE 19-20 April 2021

LOCATION Brisbane Convention and Entertainment Centre

In previous years, the Chief of Army's Land Forces Seminar (CALFS) was an event focused on counterpart engagement and featured as part of the broader Land Forces Exposition. In 2021, the Chief of Army's Symposium (CAS) will replace CALFS and will include a number of activities focused on partnerships, technology, innovation and people. It is scheduled to be held at the Brisbane Convention and Entertainment Centre over the period 19-20 April.

TACTICAL ELECTRONIC WARFARE

DATE 19-21 April 2021

LOCATION Online

WEBSITE edvirtus.com/courses/military-systems/tactical-electronic-warfare


The Tactical Electronic Warfare course provides attendees with an understanding of the issues associated with the design and operation of tactical electronic warfare (EW) systems in the modern battlespace. Both communications EW and non-communications EW are discussed. No prior military or technical knowledge is required. Attendees receive a copy of the presenters' book: Tactical Electronic Warfare.

ARMY ROBOTICS EXPOSITION 2021

DATE 20 April 2021

LOCATION Brisbane Convention and Entertainment Centre

Army is hosting the Army Robotics Exposition 2021 (ARX 2021) to facilitate observation and demonstration of RAS concepts and technologies. ARX 2021 will provide an opportunity for Defence personnel including Capability Manager Delegates to view available technologies and innovations which may be applied to the future operating environment.



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TRUSTED AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM 2021

DATE 20-22 April 2021
LOCATION Townsville
WEBSITE tasdcrc.com.au/symposium2021

Trusted Autonomous Systems is pleased to launch information and registrations for the Accelerating Trusted Autonomous Systems Symposium, 20-22 April 2021 at 'The Ville' Townsville. There will be a breadth of perspectives on offer and interactions for those in academia and industry to senior Australian Defence Force (ADF) in leadership roles in Robotics, Autonomous Systems and Artificial Intelligence (RASAI). The Symposium is focussed toward a physical audience with a comprehensive technical capability to support virtual attendance and participation.

HUNTER DEFENCE CONFERENCE

DATE 22-23 April 2021
LOCATION Crown Plaza, Hunter Valley
WEBSITE www.hunterdefence.org.au

The Hunter Defence Conference will be held in April next year at the Crown Plaza in the Hunter valley. More details will be available soon.

D.START IGNITE WINTER 2021

DATE: 24 May - 19 July 2021
LOCATION: Online
WEBSITE: <https://www.business.gov.au/cdic/news-for-defence-industry/dstart-ignite-applications-now-open>

D.Start is an innovation and entrepreneurship program that empowers Australian researchers and small to medium businesses to connect with Defence, identify real-world science or technology applications, and attract the resources needed to translate the application to a capability. The D.Start Ignite program is an eight-week hands-on learning experience designed for research teams of 2 to 5 members to work on projects with the potential to shape Australia's security or give our Defence Force an edge.



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FUNDAMENTALS OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

DATE: 17 – 19 May 2021

LOCATION: Online

WEBSITE: <https://www.edvirtus.com/courses/communications-systems/fundamentals-of-communications-systems>

Dr Mike Ryan presents an edVirtus professional education course, Fundamentals of Communications Systems, which introduces attendees to the fundamental principles, concepts, technologies, and systems associated with modern communications systems. No prior technical or communications knowledge is assumed—in fact, the course is ideally suited to those who do not necessarily have a technical background. Attendees receive a copy of the presenter's book Fundamentals of Communications and Information Systems.

LAND FORCES 2021

DATE June 1-3 2021

LOCATION Brisbane Convention Centre

WEBSITE 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 2021 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.

ROTORTECH 2021

DATE 15-17 June 2021

LOCATION Royal International Convention Centre, Brisbane

WEBSITE rotortech.com.au

The new dates for Rotortech will be Tuesday 15 June to Thursday 17 June 2021. The venue, the Royal International Convention Centre in Brisbane, is unchanged. Rotortech is the region's premier helicopter and unmanned flight systems showcase and forum, featuring more than 100 participating companies and key speakers from industry and government. We believe that deferring Rotortech to its new June 2021 dates will achieve this goal by moving the event to a time where the COVID situation will have improved and the current uncertainties will have passed.

SUBMARINE INSTITUTE NUCLEAR SEMINAR 2021

DATE 15 July 2021
LOCATION Australian Strategic Policy Institute Auditorium
WEBSITE submarineinstitute.com/events/Nuclear-Seminar

In October 2019 the Submarine Institute of Australia and UNSW, hosted a single day seminar, aimed at stimulating national discussion on a holistic approach to a nuclear industry. The 'conversation' is to be continued with the next seminar focusing more specifically on nuclear propulsion for submarines and the associated industry. Nuclear powered propulsion should be considered as an option for submarines entering service at some time in the 2040s and beyond.

PROJECT AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

DATE 10-12 August 2021 (rescheduled dates)
LOCATION Canberra Rex Hotel
WEBSITE pgcsymposium.org.au

Foresight is more valuable than hindsight! PGCS 2021 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. Creating the organisational capability needed to underpin the consistent delivery of successful projects in the 2020s starts at the top. Now in its 8th year, PGCS 2021 will focus on ways to build the foundations needed to create project and program success

AVALON 2021

DATE 23-28 November 2021
LOCATION Avalon Airport
WEBSITE www.airshow.com.au/airshow2021

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.

2022

INDO PACIFIC 2022

DATE 12 May 2022
LOCATION ICC Sydney
WEBSITE pacificexpo.com.au

INDO PACIFIC, the biennial International Maritime Exposition, will combine an extensive exhibition presence, a comprehensive conference program and a schedule of networking and promotional opportunities. It will be the 12th iteration of this internationally renowned event, and will be a critical link event for Defence, government and industry as Australia defines how it will invest \$90 billion on new ships, submarines and their systems and support.

2022 MARITIME ROBOTX CHALLENGE

DATE 11-17 November 2022
LOCATION Sydney International Regatta Centre
WEBSITE dst.defence.gov.au/event/2022-maritime-robotx-challenge

Robonation and Defence Science and Technology Group are hosting the 2022 Maritime RobotX Challenge, an international autonomous maritime robotic vehicles competition. This competition will give teams of university students a unique opportunity to develop their autonomy skills. Using the WAM-V surface craft, participants will develop an autonomous maritime system that will be put through its paces in a series of tasks in the maritime domain.

VARIOUS DATES

ASDEFCON TD /IP ONLINE COURSES

DATE Various
LOCATION Online
WEBSITE defence@majortraining.com.au

Defence have begun online delivery of its short course on the Technical Data / Intellectual Property (TD/IP) clauses in its ASDEFCON suite of templates. These clauses provide far more flexibility and scope to deal with TD/IP issues than the previous ones. Defence will offer a number of spaces to Defence Industry on each online course to ensure the new TD/IP regime is successfully adopted by industry. These positions are centrally funded by Defence.

ICCPM ONLINE WORKSHOPS

DATE Various
LOCATION Online
WEBSITE iccpm.com/online-workshop-webinars

Designed to support project teams who are experiencing new challenges due to COVID-19 concerns – Learn how to mitigate new risk levels, effectively deploy virtual teams, manage messy problems and more. ICCPM Online Workshops and Webinars provide you with an easily accessible and engaging option to continue your training from anywhere in the world. These options provide you and your team with a conducive learning environment to support your complex project success.

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