



Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld answers media enquiries during the official ceremony.

DEFENCE

FIRST F-35 INDUCTED INTO BAE SYSTEM'S MAINTENANCE DEPOT

An F-35 Joint Strike Fighter has been inducted into BAE Systems Australia's maintenance depot in Williamtown, NSW for the first time.

EWEN LEVICK | MELBOURNE

The Southern Pacific Regional F-35 Heavy Airframe Depot will perform maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade (MRO) work on regional F-35 fleets for the next three decades, which BAE Systems says will develop a specialist supply chain of around 76 SMEs and contribute some \$70 million to GDP by 2025.

An initial team of 32 technicians received a mix of training both in the US and alongside RAAF maintenance technicians at RAAF Williamtown ahead of sustainment work moving to the company's adjacent facilities.

IN THIS ISSUE

First F-35 inducted into BAE System's maintenance depot	1
DroneShield aims for India	3
Airbus extends MRO agreement with NZ	4
Ultra to provide variable depth sonar for Canada	5
Land Forces Innovation Awards open	6
2021 US Marine rotation set to arrive	8
RAAF re-establishes No. 100 Squadron	9
Forthcoming Events	11

Prime Minister Scott Morrison attended an official welcome ceremony for the aircraft, which is undergoing structural modifications. Specifically, technicians will review a number of the panel fasteners to ensure there are no corrosion issues.

Up to four other F-35s will undergo maintenance this year with the next slated for induction into the facility in May and the third in June.

ADM understands no two inductions will be the same and will depend on what capability upgrade modifications are available and allocated out of the US, although the same basic structural modifications will be required.

"This induction demonstrates the world leading capability of our local defence industry here in Australia," Prime Minister Morrison said. "We want to give as many opportunities to Australian companies as possible which is why there's already more than 50

local companies sharing in \$2.7 billion worth of contracts as part of the F-35 program."

**"THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC REGIONAL
F-35 HEAVY AIRFRAME DEPOT WILL
PERFORM MAINTENANCE, REPAIR,
OVERHAUL AND UPGRADE WORK"**

"We now have 41 fully trained RAAF pilots, nine of whom trained on home soil at RAAF Base Williamstown," Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said. "We also have more than 225 trained technicians as the RAAF's F-35A maintenance capability continues to develop."

The Williamstown depot is one of two in the Asia-Pacific, alongside another located at a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries facility in Japan's Aichi prefecture. That facility has responsibility for all F-35 fleets in the northern Asia-Pacific region, while the Australian facility has responsibility for those in the south - which is likely to include Singapore's fleet of F-35Bs and any US Marine Corps aircraft in the region.

Although there's been some speculation as to whether Singapore's aircraft will be serviced in Australia given an apparent lack of official confirmation, the Global Support Solution (GSS) framework is an opt-out model – meaning Singapore would have to negotiate with the GSS and pay additional fees to service its own aircraft (as the UK has done).

Interestingly, the same applies to the South Korean fleet, which would be serviced in Japan under the GSS model unless Seoul negotiates an alternative arrangement given tensions between the two countries.

Although the Australian facility is assigned as the regional centre for all F-35 variants, it is currently set up to service Australia's F-35A frames and will add the capacity to service F-35B and C variants as the flow plan for the depot rolls out over time.





DroneShield is looking to gain a foothold in India.

DRONESHIELD

DRONESHIELD AIMS FOR INDIA

DroneShield and M2K Technologies, a part of M2K Group with business interests in defence, have entered into an agreement to collaborate and distribute DroneShield solutions in the Indian market.

“M2K Technologies is a strong business partner in the Indian market, which has been seeing a rapid rise in the c-UAS requirements, being driven by non-state (such as criminal and terrorist) and state-based use of UAS, including escalation of the India-China border conflict along the Line of Actual Control,” Oleg Vornik, DroneShield’s CEO, said.

“WE ARE PLEASED TO PARTNER WITH DRONESHIELD FOR ADDRESSING THE IMMINENT THREAT EMERGING FROM ROGUE DRONES”

“We are pleased to partner with DroneShield for addressing the imminent threat emerging from rogue drones faced by forces and security agencies and provide solutions across industries to protect our borders, prisons, airports, petro-

chemical complexes and other critical infrastructures and VIPs,” Vikash Bhagchandka, President of M2K, said. “We are actively engaging in multiple procurement processes in India in the c-UAS space through our partnership.”

The Australia-India defence relationship has been strengthening in recent years, including through signing of multiple landmark defence arrangements between the countries in June 2020 as part of the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership announced by Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India is part of the 'Quad', which brings together the US, Australia, India and Japan for naval exercises.

Last year, Australia was invited to join Exercise Malabar alongside the other Quad members for the first time since 2007 that all four countries have conducted joint military training.

DroneShield participated in DefExpo 2020 in India as part of Team Defence Australia.

AIRBUS EXTENDS MRO AGREEMENT WITH NZ

Airbus Australia Pacific has agreed its Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul support to the NZ Defence Force.

Airbus has secured the work plan for the next two years of P3 Orion, C130 Hercules and SH-2 Seasprite maintenance activities, based in Blenheim on the South Island. More than 200 Airbus employees work in NZ and the contract continues to secure the company's position until at least 2022.

"Airbus and our predecessor organisations have been leaders in New Zealand's aviation scene for more than 70 years," Andrew Mathewson, Managing Director of Airbus Australia Pacific, said. "The ongoing trust placed in us by the New Zealand Government is testament to the commitment and long-term view of our Kiwi teams in delivering for our customers, every day."

"New Zealand's Defence Force is agile in their operations, and we are proud to work alongside them in their daily activities."

Known as Provision of Air MRO Services: Service Block 2, the agreement with the NZ Defence Force sets Defence's capacity requirement for the coming years.



The agreement covers NZ's SH-2 Seasprites.

DEFENCE



The Canadian Surface Combatant, like Australia's Hunter class, is based on the Type 26.

SUPPLIED

ULTRA TO PROVIDE VARIABLE DEPTH SONAR FOR CANADA

Ultra has announced a contract award to commence work on the Variable Depth Sonar (VDS) system for the Canadian Surface Combatant (CSC) program – named the Towed Low Frequency Active Sonar (TLFAS).

The subcontract moves the development of CSC's anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capability from the program definition phase into the full manufacture and delivery of the vessels suite of sonars.

"WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE COMPANIES LIKE ULTRA STEPPING UP TO PROVIDE LEADING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY"

The TLFAS system is designed and manufactured by Ultra in Nova Scotia.

In the two years since having been originally awarded program definition studies for CSC, Ultra's Canadian team has grown by over 150 employees, with another 80 roles expected to be made available in 2021.

"Ultra recognises our responsibility to provide, through CSC, the highest possible level of ASW capability to the Royal Canadian Navy," Bernard Mills, President of Ultra Maritime Sonar Systems, said. "We are therefore immensely proud of this contract award."

"As we work to build the future fleet of the Royal Canadian Navy, we are pleased to see companies like Ultra stepping up to provide leading-edge technology for our shipbuilding projects," Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, said.

"The National Shipbuilding Strategy continues to provide opportunities for Canadian businesses of all sizes, from coast to coast to coast."

The Canadian Surface Combatant is based on the Type 26 design that was also chosen for the Australian Hunter class frigate program. 32 ships of the BAE Systems base design are on order across three of the Five Eyes navies.

LAND FORCES INNOVATION AWARDS OPEN

Innovative individuals and companies in the land domain have until 16 April to enter the prestigious Land Forces Innovation Awards, to be presented at the Land Forces International Land Defence Exposition at Brisbane's Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1-3 June.

Innovation Awards will be presented in the following categories: Land Forces 2021 National Innovation Award; Land Forces 2021 SME Innovation Award; and Land Forces CES 2021 Young Innovator Award (including a \$15,000 cash award).

The award winners will be announced in advance of Land Forces and will be presented with their awards at the event.

"The awards reflect our altruistic purpose, which is to promote the development of aviation and Australia's industrial, manufacturing and information/communications technology resources in the fields of aviation, aerospace, maritime, defence and security," Ian Honnery, CEO of the AMDA Foundation, said. "Since we launched the Awards in 2012, we have presented nearly \$400,000 in SME Innovation Award Grants and Young



Soldiers are instructed on how to use the Ghost Robotics Quadruped Robot during a demonstration at Lavarack Barracks. DEFENCE

Innovator Awards, to encourage and reward excellence by our small companies and emerging engineers and scientists.

"Australia's defence industry is now recognised by the Department of Defence as a Fundamental Input to Defence Capability (FIC) and Defence is putting ever-greater emphasis on industry innovation.

**"INDUSTRY'S ABILITY TO DELIVER
FOR DEFENCE AND THE ADF IS
UNDERPINNED BY ITS ABILITY
TO INNOVATE"**

"Industry's ability to deliver for Defence and the ADF is underpinned by its ability to innovate and bring to the market new defence products and services. That is what our awards seek to encourage."

The awards are open to Australian companies or the Australian subsidiaries of overseas parent companies. The innovation could be anything from a new product or service to a new approach to business. Entries will be judged on originality and their understanding of user needs.

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ENTRIES NOW OPEN

ENTRIES CLOSE 4PM,
FRIDAY 31 MARCH 2021

2021 US MARINE ROTATION SET TO ARRIVE

The drumbeat of US Marine Corps rotations to the Territory continues with the upcoming arrival of the tenth Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D).

Each group to arrive will be between 200-500 personnel.

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said the rotation would build on the success of last year's modified deployment.

"The ability for this year's MRF-D to go ahead under challenging global circumstances, is a testament to the endurance and adaptability of the Australia-US Alliance," Minister Reynolds said.

**"THE ADF AND MRF-D WILL ALSO
TRAIN WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR"**

"The MRF-D and Australian Defence Force (ADF) will conduct a comprehensive range of training activities, including humanitarian assistance, security operations and high-end live-fire exercises.

"COVID-19 permitting, the ADF and MRF-D will also train with partner countries throughout the year, including exercise Talisman Sabre.

These opportunities are a priority for the US Force Posture Initiatives, developing people-to-people links, interoperability and the sharing of expertise."



Last year's rotation also arrived under the shadow of Covid-19.

DEFENCE

A total of around 2,200 personnel will arrive in Darwin by June. To accommodate the US Marines this year, the MRF-D has leased a secure facility outside Darwin for the majority of personnel to complete the mandatory 14-day quarantine.

However, the first two groups will quarantine in isolated accommodation on a Defence base.

RAAF RE-ESTABLISHES NO. 100 SQUADRON

Ahead of centenary commemorations of the RAAF, No. 100 Squadron will be re-formed as the Air Force Heritage Squadron, operating from two locations: RAAF Base Point Cook and Temora.

Minister for Defence Personnel Darren Chester said 100 Squadron had a proud history and after a 75-year absence it was fitting that RAAF reactivates it in the same year as it commemorates its first 100 years.

"First established during the Second World War in February 1942 at RAAF Base Richmond, 100 Squadron was an Air Force bomber and maritime patrol squadron, trained on Australian-built Bristol Beauforts," Mr Chester said.

**"THE HERITAGE FLEET OF 100
SQUADRON WILL CONTINUE
TO RECOGNISE THE SERVICE OF
PREVIOUS GENERATIONS"**

"The squadron conducted several successful missions throughout the war, taking part in the famous Battle of the Bismarck Sea in March 1943, and eventually disbanding in New Guinea on 19 August 1946.

"The heritage fleet of 100 Squadron will



This aircraft was the last Spitfire acquired by the RAAF and was built by Supermarine in England in 1944.

DEFENCE

continue to recognise the service of previous generations and inspiring the next generation of pilots.”

No. 100 Squadron will fly a number of aircraft from the current heritage fleet from Point Cook, Victoria, and Temora, NSW.

Deputy Prime Minister and Member for Riverina Michael McCormack welcomed Temora’s involvement in marking the RAAF’s centenary.

“Temora has an extensive aviation history dating back to the Second World War, where pilots trained at RAAF’s No. 10 Elementary Flying Training School,” Deputy Prime Minister McCormack said.

“The training school closed after the Second World War on 12 March 1946, but since then Temora has maintained a strong aviation focus, which will now include being part of the rejuvenated No. 100 Squadron.

“Temora Historic Flight will build on to the Riverina’s lengthy contribution to the RAAF, which includes RAAF Base Wagga and the former 5 Service Flying Training School at Uranquinty.

“The Temora Aviation Museum, of course, has played a special role in preserving RAAF history since 2000 by flying and displaying some iconic warplanes, such as the Spitfire.”

MOST READ ONLINE AT WWW.AUSTRALIANDEFENCE.COM.AU



1. [Defence announces amphibious fleet acquisition plan](#)
2. [Team Sabre formed in response to Land 125 Phase 4](#)
3. [Details emerge on Sea 1300 Phase 1](#)
4. [Electric VTOL is a game changer](#)
5. [Large turnout at ADM Congress 2021](#)

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

REDARC has welcomed Graham McFarland to the role of Area Sales Manager NSW. Graham is based in Sydney and comes to REDARC with over 30 years of consumer electronics and automotive radio and navigation systems experience.





NEW direct flights
 Canberra/Hobart &
 Canberra/Newcastle
linkairways.com

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

WOMEN IN STEM

DATE 25 February 2021
LOCATION Online (NSW, VIC, QLD)
WEBSITE <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/women-in-stem-join-event-eeon-neeopa-dpa-tickets-135113336627?aff=DPA>

DPA, NEEOPA and EEON are joining forces to present a panel conversation discussing women in STEM and how to tackle the prevailing barriers in creating more gender-equal industries. The expert panel will explore the following themes and provide practical strategies you can use immediately in your workplace, or in your entrepreneurial endeavours: attraction and how to inspire the next generation and end under-representation; how we reshape the stories we share about STEM to address enduring myths; rethinking attraction to grow our pipeline, including the role of research and universities; why women leave STEM: the challenges of culture and covert discriminatory practices; and practical strategies to make schools, universities and workplaces ready and more inclusive. This virtual event will be free to attend.

MARCH 2021 AVIATION AUCTION

DATE 12 March 2021
LOCATION 80 Beach Road, Lara, Victoria
WEBSITE australianfrontlinemachinery.com.au/march-2021-aviation-auction

With Australian Frontline Machinery – This huge ex-Military Aviation Auction includes 8 Pilatus PC-9/A Aircraft, 4 Schleicher ASK 21 Mi Gliders, an Aermacchi MB-326 'Macchi' grounded Jet Training Aid and over 200,000 Spare Parts direct from ADF up for auction on the 12th March 2021. Please check individual listings for each aircraft. Inspection held on 15th – 19th March 2021*. Inspection advised, video inspections available. *Subject to change

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.

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.

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.



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.

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.



MEET THE MAKERS

START TOUR

Do you know who made your clothes?
Step inside an interactive 360 Degree Virtual Tour
of Australia's largest remaining uniform manufacturing facility.
Meet the local makers and hear their stories.

ADAY

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

2022 MARITIME ROBOTX CHALLENGE

DATE 11-17 November 2022
LOCATION Sydney International Regatta Centre
WEBSITE <https://www.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.

AVALON 2021

DATE 23-28 November 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.



CELEBRATING SUCCESSFUL
WOMEN IN THE DEFENCE COMMUNITY

#WIDA2021

2022

INDO PACIFIC 2022

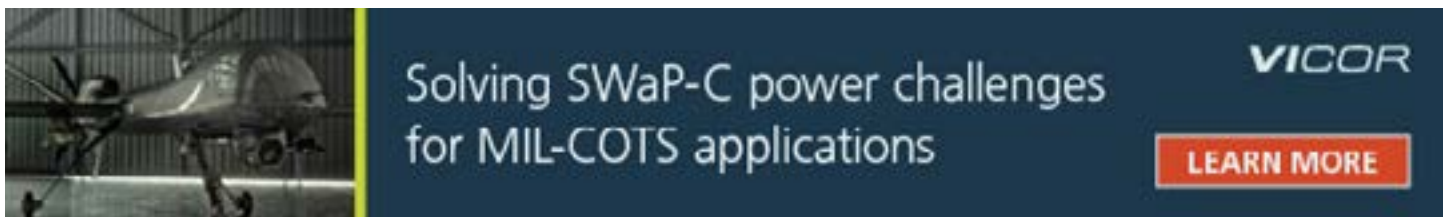
DATE 12 May 2022
LOCATION ICC Sydney
WEBSITE pacificexpo.com.au

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.

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.



The advertisement banner features a dark blue background. On the left, there is a grayscale image of a military aircraft. To the right of the image, the text 'Solving SWaP-C power challenges for MIL-COTS applications' is written in a light blue, sans-serif font. In the top right corner, the 'VICOR' logo is displayed in white. Below the logo, there is a red rectangular button with the text 'LEARN MORE' in white, uppercase letters.

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.

CHANGING OUR WORLD

