

# ADM

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MAGAZINE

SERVING THE BUSINESS OF DEFENCE

## DEFENCE WEEK PREMIUM EDITION



The Troposcatter Communication System bounces communications signals from the Earth's troposphere to provides the ADF with a long-range communications capability. BDA

## CURRAWONG ACHIEVES RELEASE 2 MILESTONE

Boeing Defence Australia (BDA) has received approval from the Commonwealth for the second major release of capability for Defence's Integrated Battlefield Telecommunications Network (IBTN), being delivered under Project Currawong (Joint Project 2072 Phase 2B).

**NIGEL PITTAWAY | MELBOURNE**

The signing of the System Acceptance Audit (SAA) on April 9 represents the completion of exhaustive testing activities of the capabilities covered under the release, and now clears the way for the equipment to be rolled out to Army and RAAF units.

"Completion of Release 2 provides significant battle-field communication capability not previously available to the ADF," BDA's project Director Ian Vett said.

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Release 2 builds on the Release 1 capability initially released to the ADF in September 2017, which supplied the core 'Black' (unsecured) network within man-portable units. A further equipment upgrade is expected to be delivered under Release 3 in the middle of 2021.

The enhanced capability being rolled out in Release 2 includes a Troposcatter Communication System, which uses pairs of 2.5 metre dishes to bounce communications signals from the Earth's troposphere. The system provides the ADF with a Beyond Line Of Sight, long-range communications capability (up to 300 km) without reliance on satellite communications systems.

A second key bearer delivered under the release is the External Network Access Point (ENAP) which allows deployed units to securely access public networks, such as the internet, to send and receive data.

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**"COMPLETION OF RELEASE 2 PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT BATTLEFIELD COMMUNICATION CAPABILITY NOT PREVIOUSLY AVAILABLE TO THE ADF"**

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"ENAP is a game-changer, as it allows Army and Air Force units to securely use the internet anywhere in the world. It effectively allows you to use the internet as a bearer and it adds a number of security layers to it," Vett explained.

Other aspects of the Release 2 capability include significant upgrades to the existing Mission System Manager delivered under the previous release.

BDA is responsible for initial training of ADF personnel and although this began earlier this year, ahead of the formal signing of the release, it has been somewhat complicated by the current restrictions on travel due to COVID-19. Delivery of equipment to units outside Queensland have also been affected by these restrictions but Vett says, providing these restrictions don't become more stringent, BDA remains on track to deliver all the contracted Release 2 capability within the required timeframes.

"At the moment all these problems have solutions and we're on time and we're on budget," he said.

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## NEW ICEBREAKER RSV NUYINA DELAYED

**Australia's new icebreaker, the RSV *Nuyina*, has been delayed as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic.**

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**EWEN LEVICK | SYDNEY**

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The delay forced the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) to find an alternative icebreaker to supply research stations on the white continent and on Macquarie Island. The AAD's existing icebreaker, the *Aurora Australis*, made its final voyage in March this year.

"The fit-out and testing schedule for the vessel is being severely impacted by travel



The temporary replacement MPV *Everest* was built in 2017 and will be used for a minimum of 90 days next Antarctic summer season. AAD

restrictions around the world, with specialist teams unable to get to the shipyard in Romania,” AAD General Manager of Operations and Safety, Charlton Clark, said.

### “WE DON’T KNOW WHEN THE SHIP WILL BE FINISHED”

“Due to the uncertainty around the coronavirus situation, we don’t know when the ship will be finished and ready to undergo the required sea-trials before being handed over to the AAD.”

The AAD has since contracted the MPV *Everest* to resupply its Antarctic stations and sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island next summer. The vessel is operated by Dutch company Maritime Construction Services and is capable of navigating in ice up to one metre thick.

“The MPV *Everest* was selected after a call for proposals and was identified as providing the best value for money,” Clark said. “The 140 metre long ship was built in 2017 and will be used for a minimum of 90 days next Antarctic summer season.

“The vessel can accommodate up to 100 expeditioners, has large fuel storage tanks and space for up to 96 twenty-foot cargo containers on its decks,” he said. “It also has a helipad above the bridge which will be used for ship-to-shore resupply operations.”

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



1. [Submarines and manned-unmanned teaming](#)
2. [Loyal Wingman marks new milestone](#)
3. [Second OPV keel laid](#)
4. [Raytheon and United Technologies complete merger](#)
5. [Lendlease wins contract for WA shipyard work](#)

# AUSTRALIAN COMPANY 3D-PRINTS ANTI- MICROBIAL COPPER

**Australian company SPEE3D has successfully developed and tested a fast and affordable way to 3D print anti-microbial copper onto metal surfaces.**

Laboratory tests have shown that touch surfaces modified by this process 'contact kills' 96 per cent of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in just two hours. Recent studies have shown that the COVID-19 virus may remain on surfaces or objects for up to 72 hours depending on the surface and conditions.

The process, known as ACTIVAT3D copper, has been developed by modifying SPEE3D's 3D printing technology, using new algorithms for controlling their metal printers to allow existing metal parts to be coated with copper. Copper parts are difficult to produce using traditional methods and thus 3D printing may be the only tool available to rapidly deploy copper.

Australian NATA accredited clinical trial speciality laboratory, 360Biolabs, tested the effect of ACTIVAT3D copper on live SARS-CoV-2 in their Physical Containment 3 (PC3) laboratory. The results showed that 96 per cent of the virus is killed in two hours and 99.2 per cent of the virus killed in five hours, while stainless steel showed no reduction in the same time frame. Stainless steel is currently the material typically used in hygiene environments.

The SPEE3D team then developed a process to coat a stainless-steel door touch plate and other handles in five minutes. The digital print files were then sent to participating partners around the globe, allowing the simultaneous installation of newly-coated parts in buildings in the US, Asia and Australia. In a matter of days, copper fixtures were installed in buildings at Charles Darwin University (CDU) in Darwin, Swinburne University in Melbourne, the University of Delaware in the USA and in Japan.



Copper breaks down virus cell walls and destroys their genomes.

SPEE3D

SPEE3D CEO, Byron Kennedy said the company has focused on developing a solution that can be rapidly deployed and is more efficient than printing solid copper parts from scratch. "The lab results show ACTIVAT3D copper surfaces behave much better than traditional stainless, which may offer a promising solution to a global problem. The technology can be used globally addressing local requirements, be they in hospitals, schools, on ships or shopping centres," he said.

SPEE3D developed the unique technique to harness copper's proven abilities to eradicate bacteria, yeasts and viruses rapidly on contact by breaking down the cell wall and

destroying the genome. By comparison, SARS-CoV-2 can survive on traditional surfaces like stainless steel and plastic for up to three days if they are not regularly disinfected.

**"TOUCH SURFACES  
MODIFIED BY THIS PROCESS  
'CONTACT KILLS' 96 PER  
CENT OF SARS-COV-2 IN  
JUST TWO HOURS"**

"Recognising supply chain shortfalls over the last couple of months, it was clear to this team that fabrication speed was a priority," Assistant Director of Digital Design and Additive Manufacturing at the University of Delaware, Larry (LJ) Holmes, said. "Using this technology, we are able to rapidly transition safe options for high-touch surfaces."

SPEE3D has worked in close collaboration with the Advanced Manufacturing Alliance (AMA) at CDU. The initial testing of ACTIVAT3D copper and future studies have been funded and supported by the National Energy Resources Australia (NERA).

SPEE3D has worked with the RAN and Army on 3D printing trials to significantly increase parts available compared to what the regular supply chain can provide. Defence has invested \$1.5 million in the technology.

## CDIC TO BE REVIEWED

**An independent review of the Centre for Defence Industry Capability (CDIC) will aim to strengthen support for small and regional businesses to take up opportunities in Australia's growing defence industry.**

Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price released the Terms of Reference for the review.

"The CDIC is a key initiative of the 2016 Defence White Paper, which was formed to help grow a competitive, sustainable defence industry base," Minister Price said. "I have been listening carefully to feedback from defence companies across Australia and I am determined to help a great industry to grow stronger."

"The CDIC is often referred to as the front door for service support for local defence companies. I want to throw those doors wide open and this review aims to help us to achieve that. We'll be engaging defence companies on ways to boost this help."

Co-chairs of the CDIC Advisory Board Kate Carnell, the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman and Tony Fraser, Deputy Secretary of CASG, will lead the review.





Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price released the Terms of Reference for the review.

MINISTER PRICE VIA TWITTER

### “I WANT TO THROW THOSE DOORS WIDE OPEN”

The co-chairs will release a discussion paper seeking views from industry which will be used to inform the review and its recommendations to Government.

The CDIC service is delivered by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources on behalf of Defence and it will be consulted as part of the review.

The review and its recommendations will be delivered to the Minister mid-year.

**ADM Comment:** Despite the Minister saying the review of the CDIC is ‘independent’, one would have to question how independent such a review is when it is being run by the chairs of the organisation to be reviewed.

## DEFENCE TURNS TO INDUSTRY FOR SEA BOAT CAPABILITIES

**Defence has issued a request for information (RFI) to ‘gain an appreciation’ of Australian industry capabilities to design, manufacture and sustain military sea boats.**

Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group’s (CASG) First Assistant Secretary Ships, Sheryl Lutz, said the four-week RFI would help inform procurement options for Australian-manufactured sea boats.

“The RFI will help CASG determine a baseline level of Australian Industry Content to



The sea boat is an essential enabler of maritime capability.

DEFENCE

inform future sea boat procurements across the RAN,” Lutz said. “The military sea boat is launched and recovered from a warship or submarine for the purpose of conducting naval operations at sea and is considered an essential enabler of maritime capability.”

#### THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RFI INCLUDE ESTABLISHING WHAT AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY CAPABILITIES CURRENTLY EXIST

ADM has previously exposed significant shortcomings in RAN’s existing fleet of J3 sea boats, including a number of capsizing events, their subsequent inability to carry enough operators to board large vessels in rough seas, and their contribution to high rates of chronic medical issues amongst RAN’s most experienced personnel with no exposure management or health monitoring system in place.

“The objectives of the RFI include establishing what Australian industry capabilities currently exist, and could potentially be developed, to design, manufacture and support sea boats for the RAN,” Lutz said. “Normally Defence would host industry briefings around the country for such a significant RFI, however, given the current government guidelines around COVID-19 and mass gatherings we have pursued alternative information sharing options such as social media.”

The RFI closes on April 30, 2020.

More information is available in this week’s [\*ADM Tenders\*](#).

# SYPAQ ACQUIRES BELLINGER SYSTEMS

**SYPAQ Systems has acquired 100 per cent of the shares of Bellinger Systems.**

**B**ellinger, founded in 1967, provides design, manufacture and through life support for a significant scope of electrical, electronic and communications equipment operated by Defence. Customers include all three branches of the ADF with a particular focus on naval capability. Projects have included tactical data links (L11/16/22), surveillance receivers and recorders, communications equipment, radar, navigation & GPS, sonar, power supplies, control systems and more.

**BELLINGER'S TECHNICAL  
CAPABILITY COMPLIMENTS SYPAQ'S  
EXISTING C4ISREW AND DEFENCE  
MISSION SYSTEMS PORTFOLIO**

"Bellinger's technical capability compliments SYPAQ's existing C4ISREW and Defence mission systems portfolio, enabling us to deliver end to end integrated communications solutions to our defence and industry partners," SYPAQ's

CEO Amanda Holt said. "This further reinforces our leadership in the areas of tactical data links and maritime systems, including design, engineering, installation, integration, support, maintenance, repair and overhaul."

"At a time when traditional global supply chains are being tested, this acquisition reassures our customers of our truly sovereign industrial capability,



Bellinger equipment is found on a range of naval vessels, including the Collins class submarines.

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ensuring responsiveness, continuity, resilience and war fighting superiority for our Defence force.”

Holt also paid tribute to Bellinger’s former owner Jim Hardie who stepped in to support the business in 2019.

“Jim’s contribution to the ongoing success of the business cannot be overstated,” Holt said. “SYPAQ looks forward to working with Jim in the future, as he remains an integral part of the business going forward.”

Bellinger will retain its current branding, forming a wholly owned subsidiary of SYPAQ, and will continue to operate from its headquarters in Western Sydney.

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## MILITARY PERSONNEL TO OPERATE TASMANIAN HOSPITAL

**The ADF has deployed personnel to Tasmania as part of an Australian Medical Assistance Team-led Commonwealth response, following a request for assistance from the Tasmanian Government.**

Around 40 Defence and seven civilian medical professionals arrived in Burnie by Air from Queensland before moving to the North West Regional Hospital once the deep clean was completed.

Once in location, the personnel began to reopen and operate the facility’s emergency department, after staff were sent home for two weeks quarantine following an outbreak of COVID-19.



ADF medical and scientific personnel boarded a C-130J Hercules aircraft to assist with a recent COVID-19 outbreak at North West Regional Hospital in Burnie, Tasmania.

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Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said Defence prioritised the request following notification from Emergency Management Australia, as part of the National Coordination Mechanism.

“The temporary closure of the North West Regional Hospital and its emergency department would deprive the community of much needed medical assistance at a crucial time,” Minister Reynolds said.

**“AUSMAT IS ONE OF A FEW WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION GLOBALLY-VERIFIED TYPE-2 EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAMS IN THE WORLD”**

“The deployment of Defence medical practitioners will ensure critical services are maintained.”

Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, said the AUSMAT deployment would strengthen North West Tasmania’s hospital system during the unprecedented COVID-19 health emergency.

“Team members are highly skilled medical professionals and this rapid deployment is further evidence of Australia’s world class health system in action and the scalable nature of the Australian Government’s response to COVID-19,” Minister Hunt said.

“AUSMAT is one of a few World Health Organization globally-verified Type-2 Emergency Medical Teams in the world.”

AUSMAT personnel will provide leadership across clinical, logistic, infection prevention and control, epidemiology and health information, and pre-hospital admission liaison.

ADF medical personnel deploying include general duties medical officers, emergency nurses, a pharmacist, radiographer and an environmental health officer.

Personnel will support the hospital until staff are able to return to work and take over full function of the facility.

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### PUBLISHED BY

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Surry Hills NSW 2010  
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greatmagazines.com.au

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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## ADM EVENTS

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

- [ADM STEM and Defence Summit](#) – Cancelled
- [ADM Defence Estate and Base Services Summit](#) – 15 September 2020 | Canberra
- [ADM Women in Defence Awards](#) – 23 October 2020
- [Defence in the North](#) – 28 October 2020 | Darwin Convention Centre
- [ADM Space Summit](#) – 3 December 2020, Hyatt Hotel | Canberra

## AIRBUS DEFENCE AND SPACE INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT ROADSHOW

**DATE** postponed until further notice

**LOCATION** Various

**WEBSITE** [www.airbus.com/space.html](http://www.airbus.com/space.html)

The purpose of the briefings is to engage Australian industry and identify potential roles in the pursuit, delivery and support of projects of interest to Airbus Defence and Space such as but not limited to satellite and terrestrial communication networks, processing of imagery and data and surveillance sensors. Airbus are particularly interested in companies with the following capabilities, but not exclusive to: Advanced manufacturing; Electronics/Electrical engineering; Antenna design and manufacturing; Mobile Terminals; Electrical harness; Software development; Payload development; Infrastructure.

## CYBER DEFENCE NEXT GENERATION TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE CONFERENCE

**DATE:** postponed until further notice

**LOCATION:** Brisbane

**WEBSITE:** [wp.csiro.au/cdng](http://wp.csiro.au/cdng)

The Cyber Defence Next Generation Technology and Science Conference, is a first of its kind scientific and technology focused Cyber Defence Conference. The aim is to have the community of cyber-security under the “Next Generation Defence Technologies | Cyber Research” program in collaboration with DST-Data61 and partner universities meet together, expose relevant research activities and discuss future collaborations.

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

**DATE** postponed until further notice  
**LOCATION** to be confirmed  
**WEBSITE** [iccpm.com/events/certificate-iv-canberra-2020](https://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** postponed until further notice  
**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** postponed until next year  
**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.

## **ROTORTECH 2020**

**DATE** 14-16 October 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 pro-gram, RotorTech 2020 will also feature manufacturers technical workshops and an industry exhibition showcasing more than 100 helicopter and unmanned flight related companies.



## **QUANTUM TECHX**

**DATE** 08 June, 2020  
**LOCATION** TBC  
**WEBSITE** [www.quantumtx.com.au/qtx-program](http://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.

## **2020 VERNON PARKER ORATION AND DINNER**

**DATE** 17 June 2020  
**LOCATION** Hotel Realm, Canberra  
**WEBSITE** [navalinstitute.com.au/2020-vernon-parker-oration-and-dinner](http://navalinstitute.com.au/2020-vernon-parker-oration-and-dinner)

Sir Peter Cosgrove has kindly agreed to deliver the 2020 Vernon Parker Oration on 17 June. Sir Peter was Governor-General from 2014-2019 and former Chief of the Defence Force. In January 2020 Sir Peter accepted the voluntary role as chairman of the Business Council of Australia's Community Rebuilding Initiative in response to the 2019/20 bushfires.

## **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 workshoping 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.

## **AUSCERT 2020**

**DATE:** 15-18 September  
**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.

## 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** postponed until further notice**LOCATION** Various**WEBSITE** [bit.ly/37fipjH](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** [iccpm.com/2020-rs](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.

## **ICCPM ONLINE WORKSHOPS**

**DATE** Various  
**LOCATION** Online  
**WEBSITE** [www.iccpm.com/online-workshop-webinars](https://www.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.