

# ADM

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MAGAZINE

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## DEFENCE WEEK PREMIUM EDITION



HMAS Brisbane conducts an SM-2 standard missile live firing during off the NSW coast.

DEFENCE

## MISSILE PURCHASE PREPARES ADF FOR TAIWAN CONTINGENCY

This week the government announced that it will invest \$1 billion in outfitting the Navy with new missile capabilities to 'project and maintain sea control' as tensions over Taiwan heat up.

EWEN LEVICK | MELBOURNE

In a press release, Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said the RAN will get "leading-edge long-range anti-ship missiles, extended range surface-to-air missiles, advanced light weight torpedoes, and maritime land strike capabilities with ranges in excess of 370 kilometres for anti-ship and surface-to-air missiles, and 1,500 kilometres for maritime land strike missiles."

Minister Reynolds said the new capabilities will be spread across the future submarine and surface fleets but did not go into further detail.

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In fact, the only detail contained in the release is a 'continued investment' in the Evolved Sea Sparrow Block 2 missile program and a re-announcement of the acquisition of Raytheon's SM 2 Block IIIC and the SM 6 Block 1.

The announcement was no surprise given it was forecast in the Defence Strategy Update and Force Structure Plan released in July last year, which allocates up to \$24 billion in total for maritime guided weapons. (*Editor's Note:* There is potentially up to \$90 billion in missile spending on the cards for the ADF depending on how you break down the IIP and the more recent policy documents.)

**"NOT EVERY PROBLEM FACING AUSTRALIA IN THE NEXT TWO DECADES CAN JUST BE BLOWN OUT OF THE WATER FROM 1500 KILOMETRES AWAY"**

The 2020 update mentioned the purchase of Lockheed Martin AGM-158C long-range anti-ship missiles (LRASMs) to be mounted on Super Hornet aircraft – which was approved by the US State Department back in February, to the tune of up to \$1.47 billion for 200 missiles.

AGM-158Cs have a range of around 370 km and are also compatible with the Mk 41 launch systems on board RAN's Air Warfare destroyers, which means this week's press release could be (in part) a re-announcement of that purchase.

That leaves the new 1,500 km land attack missile as perhaps the main takeaway from Minister Reynold's announcement, although ADM understands that all options remain on the table and the solution may be more than one weapon.

Zooming out to a chessboard view of the Indo-Pacific, the announcement came around the same time that Taiwan reported that Chinese warplanes breached its air-defence identification zone. A second breach occurred after US President Joe Biden reaffirmed Washington's commitment to defend the island against attack – suggesting Chinese leader Xi Jinping is moving pawns to test Biden's resolve.

These events reconfirm that a war over Taiwan before 2049 (the 100 year anniversary of Communist Party rule over China) is the most likely contingency facing the ADF in the coming decades.

Although an invasion of the island would probably prove disastrous for the Chinese military – thanks to a combination of American naval power, the age-old problem of moving lots of troops over big stretches of water, and Taiwan's tough geography – the PLA's ability to inflict damage on US and allied warships has grown exponentially. Improving the RAN's ability to hit targets at a greater range will undoubtedly improve its ability to contribute to a US-led coalition in defence of Taiwan, as will joint Australian-US hypersonic missile programs.

But zoom out even further, and this week's announcement again highlights the government's disproportionate reliance on the ADF as Australia adapts to new strategic realities.



## MEET THE MAKERS

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Meet the local makers and hear their stories.

ADAY

As Minister Reynolds speaks of billions of dollars in new missiles, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is forced to cull staff due to budget constraints and consequently Australia has a diplomatic network that globally ranks far below its economic weight. The aid budget has been cut even more drastically, reducing our influence at the same time as China is increasing its own. We no longer have a shortwave radio presence in the Pacific and the government won't even set a date for achieving carbon neutrality despite Australia's strategically vital island neighbours asking us to do more.

So yes, new missiles will prove helpful if Beijing decides to invade Taiwan – but not every problem facing Australia in the next two decades can just be blown out of the water from 1,500 kilometres away.

## BRITISH ARMY TAKES AUSTRALIAN DRONE TO MALI

**Drone40, an Australian-developed expendable loitering munition, will see operational use in Mali with the British Army's Royal Anglian regiment.**

EWEN LEVICK | MELBOURNE

The drone, which is roughly the size of a standard 40mm low velocity grenade, will likely be used in a reconnaissance role. It will also be deployed to Poland for an exercise.

Drone40 was first exhibited at Army Innovation Day 2016 and DefendTex subsequently received a Defence Innovation Contract to fund its development. The team expanded from two people to the current number of 103, and DefendTex has since acquired Alfatron, an electrical componentry manufacturer, to localise the munition's supply chain. The company says the Australian Industry Content in Drone40 stands at 90 per cent.

**"DRONE40 WAS FIRST EXHIBITED AT ARMY INNOVATION DAY 2016"**

"Drone40 has evolved from a stand-alone loitering munition to be the centre piece of a number of research and development efforts including but not

limited to Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence CRC, Counter Improvised Threats Grand Challenge and Human Machine Teaming Program," a DefendTex spokesperson said to ADM. "Investment from Five Eyes military partners has evolved the Drone40





The Australian drone will likely be used in a reconnaissance role in Mali.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE VIA MEDIUM

into a family of drones now covering 60, 81 and 155 mm derivatives with greater payload and range capacities.”

The spokesperson would not disclose the commercial value of the British contract, although *ADM* understands that several hundred systems are being acquired with options for continued supply.

The Royal Anglian will use Drone40 as part of Operation Newcombe, which provides logistical heavy-lift support to French counter-terror efforts and conducts long-range reconnaissance patrols to gather intelligence on behalf of the UN mission in the country.

## DEFENCE DOWN-SELECTS OPV VARIANT TO REPLACE HUON CLASS

**Defence has made a down-select decision to explore a variant of the offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) for the new Mine Countermeasures and Survey Vessels under Project Sea 1905 Phase 1.**

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds made the announcement during a visit to the Henderson maritime precinct and also said the replacement will be brought forward to the middle of this decade.

“Following the election commitment made by the Federal Government in 2019, we are bringing forward the replacement of the Huon class vessel from the 2030s to the mid 2020s,” Minister Reynolds said. “We are also committed to constructing a new hydrographic capability.

“These vessels will help Navy navigate more confidently throughout the region, and safely clear minefields with the use of autonomous technologies.”

Defence has released an Invitation to Register and Request for Information on Austender for various components of the mission management system, the integration of the system, and the construction of a toolbox of Robotic and Autonomous Systems that the new vessels will require. Details are available in ADM's Tender Bulletin.

Currently, three classes of vessels are under construction at Henderson, including 21 Guardian class vessels, 10 of the 12 Arafura class offshore patrol vessels, and six Evolved Cape class vessels.

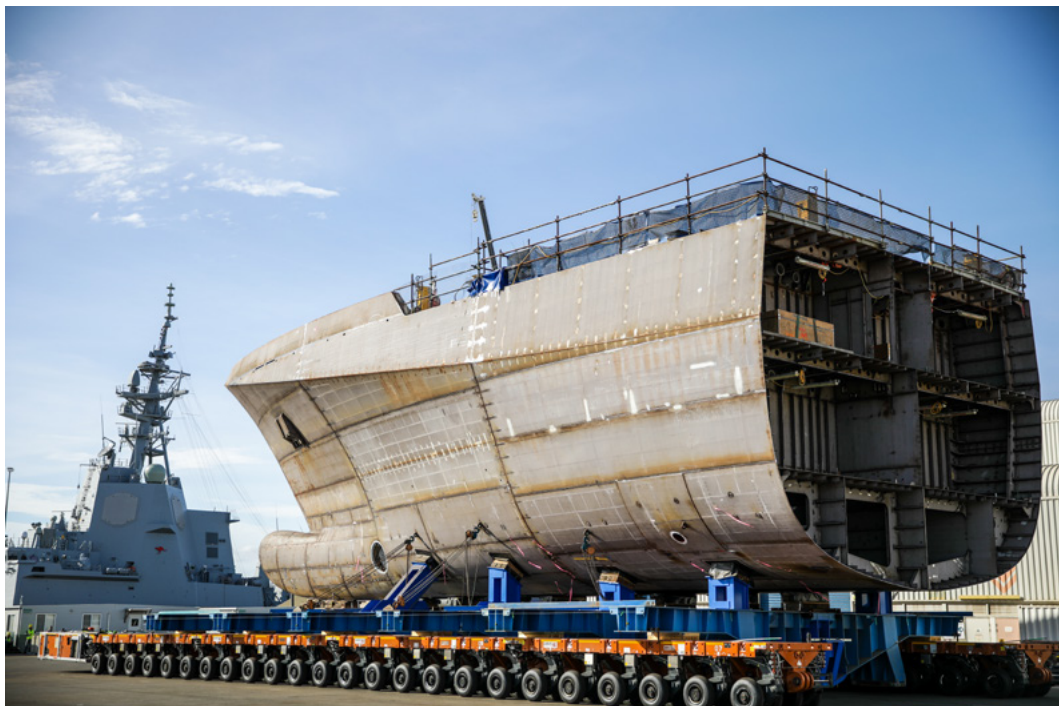
**“WE ARE BRINGING FORWARD  
THE REPLACEMENT OF THE  
HUON CLASS VESSEL FROM  
THE 2030S TO THE MID 2020S”**

Since the 2016 Defence White Paper, eight ships have been built and delivered in WA, with another eight ships currently under construction at Henderson.

Minister Reynolds also foreshadowed the need for additional docking facilities to supplement the Captain Cook Graving Dock at Garden Island in Sydney.

“With plans highlighted in the 2020 Force Structure Plan to build two multi-role sealift and replenishment ships, a Pacific Support Vessel, and an ice-rated replacement for Ocean Protector in Australia, additional major docking facilities will be required in the near future to supplement the capability of the Captain Cook Graving Dock in Sydney,” Minister Reynolds said.

**ADM Comment:** It also remains to be seen where future Full Cycle Dockings will occur for the Collins class submarines. With space at a premium in SA's Osborne facility and WA angling for the work, the announcement is long overdue. Readers can only hope an announcement will come in 2021.



The Huon class replacement will be a variant of the OPVs, which are under construction in WA.

DEFENCE



TacMed will help develop an ambulance variant of the Lynx.

SUPPLIED

## TACMED BECOMES LATEST ADDITION TO TEAM LYNX

TacMed Australia has formed a partnership with Rheinmetall Defence Australia (RDA) to develop a Lynx KF 41 Ambulance Variant to be offered in RDA's tender submission for Land 400 Phase 3.

TacMed, an emergency medical company that develops equipment, training and consulting solutions for high risk organisations and environments, has joined Team Lynx following the Commonwealth's Australian Industry Capability roadshow in the first half of 2020.

TacMed CEO Jeremy Holder said RDA selected the company because of its 'unique tactical medical experience and ability to provide specialised consulting services in the design of the vital Ambulance variant to support modern day warriors on the battlefield.'

**"TACMED WILL USE ITS EXPERIENCE ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN TO PLAY A ROLE"**

"This is a significant partnership for TacMed Australia and it aligns with our mission of zero preventable deaths at the point of injury, no matter the environment. It cements our position as a leader in the field of critical casualty care in high-threat and complex environments," Holder said.

"With over half of our company being former serving members of the ADF, TacMed will use its experience on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan to play a role in developing the next generation of Australia's armoured vehicles to protect and save soldiers' lives."

Rheinmetall has delivered three Lynx vehicles to compete in risk mitigation activity trials, which will put vehicles through lethality, mobility and blast tests.

If successful, the Lynx fleet will be manufactured in Queensland at Rheinmetall's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank south west of Brisbane.

Other suppliers announced in recent weeks include Defcon Technologies, Minecorp, Rockpress and Queensland Gaskets.

## LOCKHEED MARTIN SELECTS AUSTRALIAN SYSTEM FOR ROTARY ISR

**An Australian-developed intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) system has been selected by Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company, to undergo a testing and development program.**

**M**elbourne's Sentient Vision Systems (Sentient) has been awarded a contract to further test and develop the ViDAR (Visual Detection and Ranging) system that could see the Australian capability integrated with the sensor suites on the MH-60R Seahawk.

Lockheed Martin will work with Sentient to further evolve the capability of the ViDAR system, which is a persistent wide area motion imaging (WAMI) system that is designed to autonomously detect, geo-locate, track and classify objects over vast areas of terrain below an aircraft or UAS.

Joe North, Chief Executive, Lockheed Martin Australia and NZ congratulated Sentient on the development of the ViDAR system.

"Sentient Vision Systems is a global leader in ISR technology solutions and we are proud to have had a long association, initially through R&D integration and testing of their Kestrel detection software for future rotary capability and potentially now with ViDAR as well," North said.

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



1. [Senate Estimates follow up reveals hidden gems](#)
2. [ADM's Top 40 Defence Contractors 2020](#)
3. [Apache chosen as armed helicopter replacement](#)
4. [Australian naval shipbuilding – first things first](#)
5. [Shipbuilding plan full steam ahead](#)

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\*National Association of Testing Laboratories. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3QJ0AVn>





The Australian capability could be integrated with the sensor suites on the MH-60R Seahawk.

SUPPLIED

**“WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE  
POTENTIAL FOR VIDAR TO BE  
INTEGRATED WITH SENSOR SUITES  
ACROSS LOCKHEED MARTIN’S  
MH-60R SEAHAWK PLATFORMS”**

Paul Boxer, Managing Director of Sentient Vision Systems, welcomed Lockheed Martin’s contract award.

“We are excited about the potential for ViDAR to be integrated with sensor suites across Lockheed Martin’s MH-60R Seahawk platforms globally as this represents a significant opportunity for Sentient,” Boxer said. “We look forward to working closely with their engineers to complete the

testing, development and integration validation phases for the system.”

Sentient Vision Systems has had success with Lockheed Martin in the past through the Kestrel detection software, which was successfully trialled in the MH-60R Software Integration Lab for consideration of future MH-60R capability enhancements.

ViDAR is currently used by many agencies and forces including the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, RAN and the US Coast Guard for a broad range of search missions.

## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Navantia Australia has announced the retirement of Warren King as Chair of the Board, effective 31 December 2020. King was appointed Chairman of the Board for Navantia Australia in September 2017 after his time heading up the former Defence Materiel Organisation.

## Disaster Management UAVs



[Read More](#)



# THALES CHOSEN FOR NATO DEFENCE CLOUD

**NATO has selected Thales to provide the first certified defence cloud solution that can be deployed in the theatre of operations in less than 24 hours.**

Thales was selected after a worldwide competitive tendering process.

The Nexium defence cloud will enable forces to analyse and share data in real time from the command centre to the theatre of operations, pursue their digital transformation in complete security, and accelerate the decision cycle to gain and maintain an operational advantage.

Until now, it could take several months and dozens of specialised engineers working at sites close to the combat zone to deploy the assets required. The defence cloud

instead allows a small team of experts can deploy IT services and applications to locations thousands of kilometres away in just a few hours.

Nexium Defence Cloud offers configurations ranging from scalable infrastructure for command headquarters to containerised systems that transform a forward base into a new cloud node in just a few hours.

Thales says its defence cloud solution was designed to comply with the requirements of NATO's

Federated Mission Networking (FMN) standard, which establishes the framework for cooperation between command-and-control networks for coalition forces.

**"NEXIUM DEFENCE CLOUD OFFERS CONFIGURATIONS RANGING FROM SCALABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMMAND HEADQUARTERS TO CONTAINERISED SYSTEMS"**



The Nexium defence cloud will enable forces to analyse and share data in real time.

THALES

# EIGHT COMPANIES AMONGST LATEST SICP GRANTS

**Eight Australian small businesses will share in more than \$3.4 million in grants in the latest round.**

Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price said the latest Sovereign Industrial Capability Priority grants would provide the businesses and the wider Australian economy with a major boost.

"These grants support our bounce back from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen our sovereign defence industrial base," Minister Price said.

**"GILMOUR SPACE TECHNOLOGIES' TESTING FACILITY WILL ENSURE THE SAFETY AND RELIABILITY OF DEFENCE PLATFORMS"**

"Weld Australia, based in NSW, is a great example of how beneficial these grants can be. It is bringing a welding accreditation to Australia, developing Australian supply chains for the Land 400 Phase 2 project and beyond, and ensuring we have the skills in Australia to deliver and sustain critical defence capabilities."

Canberra-based Penten, Australian Performance Vehicles and Gilmour Space Technologies will use their grant funding to upgrade their infrastructure used to test and evaluate emerging technologies and capabilities.

"Gilmour Space Technologies' testing facility will ensure the safety and reliability of Defence platforms and vehicles across a range of domains, and enhance Australia's sovereign ability to gain maximum benefit from our capability," Minister Price said.



Gilmour Space Technologies has secured an SICP grant.

GILMOUR SPACE

“Penten’s grant will support the construction of a secure facility fitted with information communications technology infrastructure.

“I was fortunate enough to visit Penten in Canberra in November and witness first-hand the important work it is doing to help ensure the ADF maintains its capability edge well into the future.”

Other recipients announced this week include: Terra Schwartz, to purchase capital equipment; Profluid, to purchase specialised machinery; BE Switchcraft, to enable additional switchboard manufacturing work; Amiga Engineering, to fund factory improvements; Weld Australia, to undertake training and accreditation; and Australian Performance Vehicles, to expand current commercial testing services.

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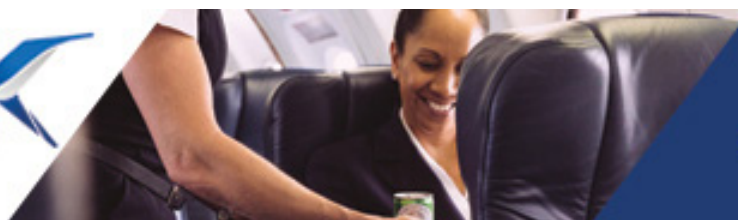
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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## ADM EVENTS

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

- [ADM Congress](#) – 3 February 2021, NCC | Canberra and Online
- [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

## 43RD COSPAR SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY

**DATE** 28 Jan-4 Feb 2021  
**LOCATION** International Convention Centre Sydney  
**WEBSITE** [cospar2020.org](http://cospar2020.org)

The Australian space research community enthusiastically extends the invitation to you, to meet with us for COSPAR 2021, and in so doing to forge the friendships and opportunities that will connect space research for global impact. The 2021 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.

## MARCH 2021 AVIATION AUCTION

**DATE** 12 March 2021  
**LOCATION** 80 Beach Road, Lara, Victoria  
**WEBSITE** [australianfrontlinemachinery.com.au/march-2021-aviation-auction](http://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](https://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**PROJECT AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM**

**DATE** 10 – 12 August 2021 (rescheduled dates)  
**LOCATION** Canberra Rex Hotel  
**WEBSITE** [pgcsymposium.org.au](http://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

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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.