

# ADM

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MAGAZINE

SERVING THE BUSINESS OF DEFENCE

## DEFENCE WEEK PREMIUM EDITION



A Tiger ARH has work conducted on it at night during the Regional Presence Deployment 2020.

DEFENCE

## AIRBUS CALLS FOR OPEN ARH REPLACEMENT COMPETITION

**Airbus Australia Pacific managing director Andrew Mathewson last week called for an open competition to fulfil Defence's requirement for 29 replacement armed reconnaissance helicopters, to be acquired under Land 4503.**

**NIGEL PITTAWAY & EWEN LEVICK | MELBOURNE & SYDNEY**

Mathewson's comments follow recent reports in some sections of the media that Defence is negotiating a sole-source acquisition of 29 Boeing AH-64E Apache helicopters, via the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) process.

Companies vying for the \$4-5 billion project to replace the Australian Army's current Airbus Helicopters Tiger ARH, with a proven, mature and off the shelf armed reconnaissance helicopter platform, include Boeing (AH-64E) and a Bell/BAE Systems Australia teaming arrangement (offering the Bell AH-1Z Viper).

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Airbus in turn is proposing an upgrade to the incumbent Tiger platform. Late last year it presented an unsolicited bid to Government, leveraging the 'Smart Buyer' methodology, to upgrade the 22 existing Tigers and supply seven new H145M light helicopters. It claimed that under a deal, Defence would save around \$3 billion out to 2040.

Mathewson confirmed last week that Defence has rejected the Airbus proposal and the company is now offering a more comprehensive Tiger upgrade, including seven additional airframes (for a total of 29), which he says can still realise a saving of up to \$3 billion, in a bid based on "capability, jobs and savings".

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**"OUR OBJECTIVE TODAY IS  
JUST TO COMPETE"**

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"Last week we received a letter from the Minister of Defence confirming our (original) bid had been rejected, but we also understand that times have moved on and our objective today is just to compete," Mathewson said on October 7. "We'll be offering an upgraded Tiger with a more extensive upgrade than the one we proposed in our previous campaign. We know we can save

them around \$3 billion, even with a more extensive upgrade, and we will work hard to find seven additional Tigers."

The European Tiger production line is now closed and while Mathewson says he can't confirm where the additional seven airframes will be coming from, he says work has already been undertaken to source them.

"I wouldn't like to disclose specifically which nation would be able to support us in that, but we wouldn't be making these comments without having done some homework in Europe," he said.

Besides the Australian Army the Tiger is operated by the armed forces of France, Germany and Spain.

Mathewson also declined to provide specific details of the wider ranging upgrade that now forms part of the new proposal, other than to say that it would include a Link 16 tactical data link (either fully integrated with the helicopter, or a federated system, depending on customer requirements) and would leverage the proposed European Tiger Mk.III upgrades as much as possible.

Eighteen of the Army's 22 Tigers were assembled by Airbus (as Australian Aerospace) in Brisbane and Mathewson says the upgrades, including the seven additional airframes, will also be done in Australia, using the company's local workforce and supplier base.

"Right now, we have 496 Australians whose job directly or indirectly supports the Tiger capability, and that's because we have been able to flow the supply chain from Europe to Australia in a very effective way," he said.

While the origin of the reports of an Apache sole-source FMS buy cannot be confirmed, Defence is seemingly awash with cash at the present time. As ADM's managing editor Katherine Ziesing observed in her analysis of last week's federal budget: "Defence's biggest problem will be getting the money out the door fast enough."

There has also been speculation that a defence underspend in the near-term could be at least partially addressed by acquiring capability via the relatively quick and straightforward FMS process, but a Defence spokesperson confirmed to ADM on Friday that a Land 4503 acquisition strategy is yet to be decided upon.

"A Request for Information (RFI) was released to market in July 2019, seeking information in support of the development of options for Land 4503," the spokesperson said. "No procurement pathway has been decided at this point in time. Defence continues to co-operatively consult with industry and engage with other defence forces to fully understand options for the Land 4503 project."

In a further statement at the end of last week, a Defence spokesperson confirmed that an FMS purchase of Apache had not even been discussed at the recent AUSMIN talks, held in the US in July, and Boeing Defence Australia also declined to comment on the media reports.

"Boeing respects that this is a decision that will be made by the Australian government," a BDA spokesperson told ADM late last week. "Boeing stands ready to support Australia with Apache's proven, reliable and value-for-money capability."

*Note from the Managing Editor: The October edition of ADM has a spread on helicopters that sheds further light on some of the rotary wing fleet, now and into the future. See our current edition online or grab a hard copy to read the latest.*

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### PUBLISHED BY

Yaffa Media Pty Ltd  
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Surry Hills NSW 2010  
T: 02 9281 2333  
[greatmagazines.com.au](http://greatmagazines.com.au)

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# NEW SATELLITE GROUND STATION BECOMES OPERATIONAL

The new Satellite Ground Station near Geraldton, WA is now operational.

Satellite Ground Station – West, delivered under Joint Project 2008 Phase 3F in partnership with BAE Systems Australia, will provide an anchoring capability to Wideband Global Satellite (WGS) Communications satellites primarily located over the Indian Ocean.

The program includes two military hosted payloads on commercial satellites, a military satellite as part of the US WGS-Communications system, ground infrastructure across Australia and deployed terminals with accompanying network management capabilities.

**“THIS OFFERS REAL-TIME  
OPERATIONAL AND LOGISTICAL  
INFORMATION WHICH IS ESSENTIAL  
FOR COMMAND AND CONTROL”**

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said the new station in WA, which has now achieved Final Operating Capability, marked the first of three Defence satellite ground station projects to be completed.

“The ground system enables Australian deployed forces using wideband global satcom to interface with the Defence Wide Area Network and the Australian Defence headquarters along with support elements,” BAE Systems Australia Director Battlespace Integrated Solutions Steve Wynd said. “Our focus has been on the capability improvement in what has been a complex program and I am pleased that we have delivered a significant



A concept image of a satellite ground station planned for Kapooka, NSW.

DEFENCE



improved operating capability for our customer.”

“The Defence Satellite Communications Program is providing the ADF with a suite of strategic and tactical satellite communication capabilities,” Minister Reynolds said. “Satellite Ground Station – West will provide Defence with greater access to the overall capacity available from Wideband Global Satellite-Communications satellites.

“This offers real-time operational and logistical information which is essential for command and control of deployed forces.”

## LEIDOS CALLS FOR PARTNERS ON SEA 129 PHASE 5

**Leidos Australia has called for SMEs to join its response for Sea 129 Phase 5, which intends to acquire a new Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Targeting (ISR&T) capability for the RAN.**

The overall capability will enhance operational and tactical decision making by commanders whilst on maritime operations.

“Leidos Australia is seeking to maximise the opportunities available for competitive Australian industry, particularly SMEs and Indigenous Enterprises, to be considered for participation in our response for this project,” the company said.

The primary capabilities that Leidos is seeking are:

- Payloads for Tier 1 UAVs
- Payloads for Tier 2 UAVs



A technician inspecting the main rotor assembly on the Schiebel S-100 Camcopter prior to a flight from Jervis Bay airfield. DEFENCE

- Antenna systems – multi-band directional tracking antenna systems suitable for UAV datalinks; motorised telescopic antenna masts capable of lifting payloads of 10 kg or greater
- Marinisation solutions – treatments (chemical or otherwise) used to improve the survivability of electronic and mechatronic systems against sea-water intrusion
- Emerging MUAS and Unmanned technologies – including, but not limited to, Payloads, Future Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Targeting effects, Data Analysis Systems, IR Reduction technology etc.

**“LEIDOS AUSTRALIA IS SEEKING  
TO MAXIMISE THE OPPORTUNITIES  
AVAILABLE FOR COMPETITIVE  
AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY**

Leidos Australia is also seeking expressions of interest from Australian companies who are willing and able to supply Australian-manufactured Small Vertical Take Off and Landing (VTOL) UAVs with a minimum endurance of 45 minutes.

“Recognising the rapid technological developments within this class of UAV, and the lead time

before any potential procurement by the Commonwealth, we will continue to monitor the market and consider contemporary solutions for this capability should it be required under the project,” the company said.



**A NEW GENERATION OF  
WESCAM MX™ MARITIME SENSORS**

IMAGE COURTESY OF AUSTAL.



**L3HARRIS**

# INNOVATION HUB AWARDS SECOND-LARGEST CONTRACT

**The second biggest contract ever awarded by the Defence Innovation Hub is among nine new contracts worth more than \$28 million to have been signed with organisations across Australia.**

About 84 per cent of Defence Innovation Hub investment has now been with Australian small and medium sized businesses and research organisations.

"I'm delighted to see the Defence Innovation Hub continuing to provide Australian businesses with opportunities that could enhance Defence capability," Minister for Defence Industry Melissa Price said.

**"I'M DELIGHTED TO SEE THE DEFENCE INNOVATION HUB CONTINUING TO PROVIDE AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSES WITH OPPORTUNITIES"**

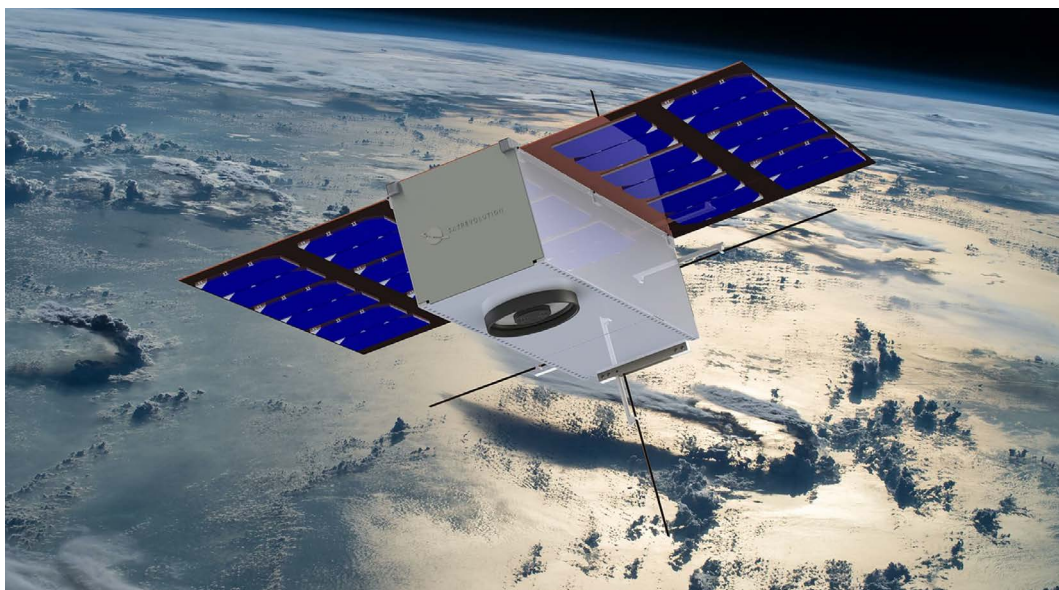
Two of these organisations, BlueZone Group and QinetiQ, were awarded contracts to further develop promising technologies that have previously received funding through the Defence Innovation Hub.

BlueZone Group won a second Defence Innovation Hub contract valued at more than \$7 million – the Hub's second biggest contract to date.

It will be used to continue the development of the Wave Glider Unmanned Surface Vehicle technology.

"BlueZone Group's technology has the potential to greatly improve the Navy's situational awareness when operating in marine environments," Minister Price said.

QinetiQ was awarded a \$4.8 million contract to develop an innovative technology



Spiral Blue, one of the DIH contract winners, is developing space-based computing technology.

SPIRAL BLUE

that could be used to better regulate air quality in submarines. This system has the potential to offer significant improvements on existing systems by significantly reducing size, weight and power requirements.

"These contracts demonstrate the significant investment the government is making in game-changing maritime technologies for our Navy," Minister Price said.

Other winners include: Thales Australia for its Blue Sentry autonomous sonar system; Silentium for its space surveillance passive radar technology; Armour Composite Engineering for curved body armour; Defendtex Research Labs for an enhanced drone platform; Mission Systems for mine neutralisation technology; Prism Systems for an integrated capability solution for RAN; and Spiral Blue for a cutting edge satellite imagery processing system.

The Defence Innovation Hub has awarded more than \$270 million in innovation contracts since December 2016.

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## TAE AEROSPACE TO PROVIDE LOCAL SUPPORT FOR HAWK ENGINES

**TAE Aerospace has signed an agreement with Rolls-Royce to provide in country maintenance support services on the Adour Mk871 engine that powers the RAAF's Hawk Lead In Fighter.**

As part of the agreement, TAE Aerospace will perform in country depot level maintenance and repair support services for the engine from its new Turbine Engine Maintenance Facility in Ipswich, Queensland, as well as periodic onsite Adour engine support at RAAF Williamtown and RAAF Pearce.



A Hawk 127 lead in fighter A27-10 over Port Stephens.

DEFENCE



## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Myriota have announced the appointment of their first VP of Engineering, hiring former Department of Defence Electrical Engineer, Dr Steve Winnall. Dr Winnall will drive Myriota's next generation of product development for its growing global customer base across industries including defence.

Rolls-Royce, as the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), have the propulsion support contract with BAE Systems Australia to maintain the Adour engine for the RAAF's fleet of 33 BAE Systems Hawk aircraft which are currently planned to be withdrawn from service in 2026.

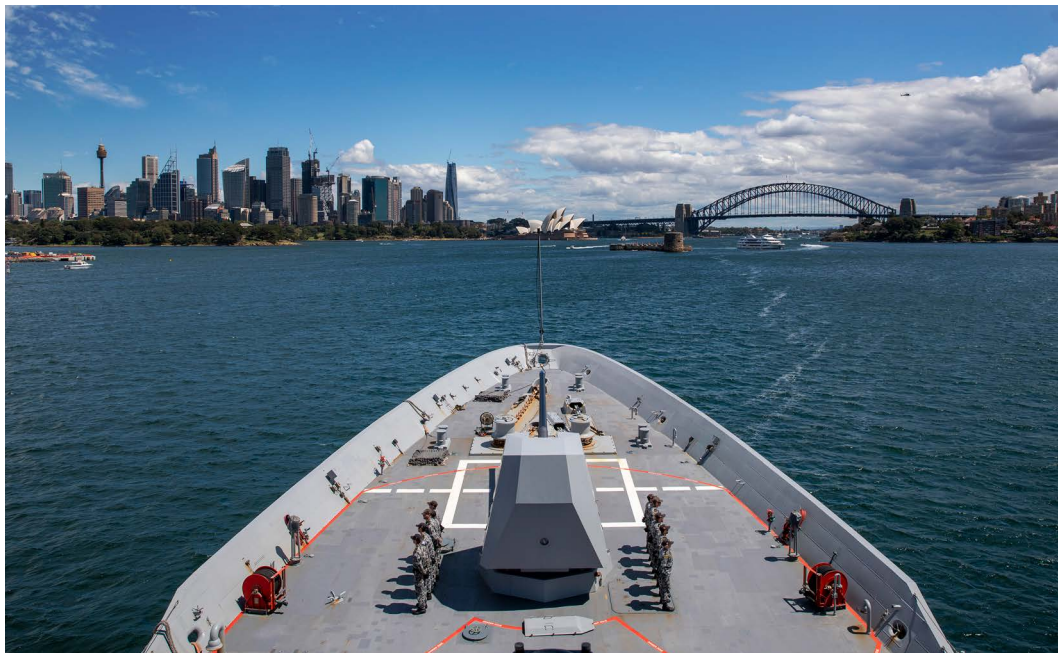
**“THIS ALSO OPENS POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY TO ATTRACT BUSINESS FROM OTHER REGIONAL OPERATORS OF THE HAWK AIRCRAFT”**

“We are delighted to now be working with TAE Aerospace,” Rolls-Royce Adour MRO representative Garry King said. “Australia is a key defence market for Rolls-Royce and linking with TAE Aerospace's established Maintenance Repair and Overhaul capabilities will help continue our support of the Adour engine in Australia.

“We are excited to be able to expand our turbine engine MRO capabilities to now include the Rolls-Royce Adour engine in our new Turbine Engine Maintenance Facility in Ipswich and increase employment opportunities in the region,” TAE Aerospace CEO Andrew Sanderson said. “Working with Rolls-Royce is another important step for our company as we continue to build our reputation as a trusted partner for all turbine engine manufacturers here in Australia.

“This also opens potential opportunity to attract business from other regional operators of the Hawk aircraft, such as Malaysia and Indonesia.”





HMAS Hobart returns to her home port of Fleet Base East in Sydney.

DEFENCE

## RAN COMPLETES LARGEST DEPLOYMENT OF THE YEAR

The RAN has completed its largest deployment of the year, with all of the Task Group ships returning home after three months of engagement with regional partners across Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

As HMAS Hobart sailed into Sydney this week, it marked the final ship arriving home after a busy Regional Presence Deployment 2020.

**“THE REGIONAL PRESENCE DEPLOYMENT 2020 WAS CONDUCTED DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC WHICH PRESENTED NEW CHALLENGES”**

The remainder of the Task Group included HMA Ships *Canberra*, *Stuart*, *Arunta* and *Sirius*.

Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds said the Navy had further strengthened Australia's relationships with regional partners during the deployment.

“The ADF conducts regular military-to-military engagements throughout the Indo-Pacific, to demonstrate that our commitment to our regional partners remains solid and our desire for a stable and secure region is a priority,” Minister Reynolds said. “I commend the more than 700 ADF personnel who spent the last three months working alongside our partners, demonstrating our capability and showing themselves to be professional and resilient.

“I also thank their families, because without their support, the deployment of our ADF personnel would not be possible.”

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

1. [Defence Budget 2020: rivers of gold](#)
2. [RAN's first new oiler arrives in Australia](#)
3. [Loyal Wingman to be manufactured in Queensland](#)
4. [Hanwha to build self-propelled howitzers in Geelong](#)
5. [Companies line up for potential Hawk replacement opportunity](#)

The Task Group exercised with 11 regional partners, conducted advanced air-sea integration drills with the RAAF and the US Navy in waters off Guam, participated in the successful search and rescue of three sailors in the Federated States of Micronesia, participated in Exercise RIMPAC, and the Commander of the Task Group, Captain Phillipa Hay, became the first female to lead an exercise Task Force in the exercise's 49-year history.

Captain Hay said it had been an honour to lead the Task Group and she was extremely grateful and proud of the efforts of the professional RAN's officers and sailors.

"The Regional Presence Deployment 2020 was conducted during a global pandemic which presented new challenges to how we conduct military operations," CAPT Hay said. "The mission has also been enormously successful."

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the ships conducted only a few logistics visits outside of Australia, resupplying and refuelling in accordance with strict protocols that mitigate COVID-19-related risks.

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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## ADM EVENTS

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

- [ADM Women in Defence Awards](#) – 23 October 2020 | Online
- [Northern Australia Defence Summit](#) – 28 October 2020 | Online
- [ADM Space Summit](#) – 2 December 2020, Hyatt Hotel | Canberra and online
- [ADM Congress](#) – 3 February 2021, Hyatt Hotel | Canberra and Online
- [ADM Defence Estate and Base Services Summit](#) – 23 February 2021, Hotel Realm | Canberra and Online

## ASDEFCON TD /IP ONLINE COURSES

<b>DATE</b>	Various
<b>LOCATION</b>	Online
<b>WEBSITE</b>	<a href="mailto:defence@majortraining.com.au">defence@majortraining.com.au</a>

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.

## D+I ONLINE CONFERENCE 2020

<b>DATE</b>	15 October 2020
<b>LOCATION</b>	Online
<b>WEBSITE</b>	<a href="mailto:defenceandindustry.conference@defence.gov.au">defenceandindustry.conference@defence.gov.au</a>

The D+I Conference 2020 is going ahead in an online format due to COVID-19 travel and gathering restrictions, with all sessions streamed nationwide on 15 October 2020 including on the Defence Protected Network (DPN).

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## 4TH IEEE ANNUAL SYSTEMS MODELLING CONFERENCE

**DATE** 27 October 2020  
**LOCATION** Online  
**WEBSITE** [www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/conferences/SMC-2020](http://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/conferences/SMC-2020)

The Capability Systems Centre runs one-day conference on the use of whole-systems approach to design and manage complex problem in socio-technical and socio-ecological systems. The daylong virtual conference on October 27th will feature showcases on the use of systems thinking and systems modelling in a wide range of areas.

## ONLINE COMPLEX PROJECT SIMULATION

**DATE** 13 November 2020  
**LOCATION** Online  
**WEBSITE** <https://iccpm.com/events/simulation-november-2020/>

The next delivery for our Online Complex Project Simulation will be on the 13th November 2020. The Spatium Simulation provides a realistic environment for you to put your complex project management skills to the test and work with project leaders from different industries.

## 10TH BIENNIAL SIA CONFERENCE 2020

**DATE:** 17-18 November 2020  
**LOCATION** Hotel Realm, Canberra and online  
**WEBSITE** [submarineinstitute.com/sia-conferences](http://submarineinstitute.com/sia-conferences)

The 10th Biennial SIA Conference will be held 17-18 November 2020 at the Hotel Realm, Canberra. This year's theme is 'Submarine Build and Sustainment Programs: The Strategic Nature of Reliable, Sovereign Supply Chains'. The Call for Presentations is available on the website.



2021

**43RD COSPAR SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY**

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

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

**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.

**LAND FORCES 2021**

**DATE** June 1-3 2021  
**LOCATION** Brisbane Convention Centre  
**WEBSITE** [landforces.com.au](https://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.

## **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 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. Creating the organisational capability needed to underpin the consistent delivery of successful projects in the 2020's starts at the top. Now in its 8th year, PGCS 2020 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](https://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****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.

**ICCPM ONLINE WORKSHOPS**

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



## **ICCPM ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOPS**

**DATE** Various  
**LOCATION** Various  
**WEBSITE** [iccpm.com/2020-rs](https://iccpm.com/2020-rs)

ICCPM, with Series Partner QUTeX, is pleased to confirm the upcoming Workshops for the 2020 International Roundtable Series Harnessing Emergence in Complex Projects: Risk, Uncertainty and Opportunity. The International Roundtable Series is an exciting Thought Leadership initiative where senior practitioners and leading academics come together and discuss the Series Theme to produce new insights and practical steps to improve complex project success. Registrations for in-person workshops are strictly limited to comply with COVID-19 venue safety guidelines. Please refer to each event page for more details.