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Northern Territory Defence Support Industry Development Strategy

On 27 November 2007 the Minister for Defence Support, The Hon Kon Vatskalis, announced the release of the Northern Territory Defence Support Industry Development Strategy 2007-2017. The release of the strategy is a milestone event for the defence support industry and for the government.

Establishing the strategy has been a joint initiative of the Northern Territory branch of the Australian Industry and Defence Network (AIDN-NT) and the Northern Territory Government. It aims to identify industry development priorities to ensure the benefits and opportunities offered by the Defence presence in the Northern Territory are not lost but are realised through the provision of high quality reliable support to Defence.

The strategy articulates the priorities and directions that the Northern Territory industry, with the support of the Northern Territory Government, must address over the coming decade if it is to optimise its engagement in the Defence sector.

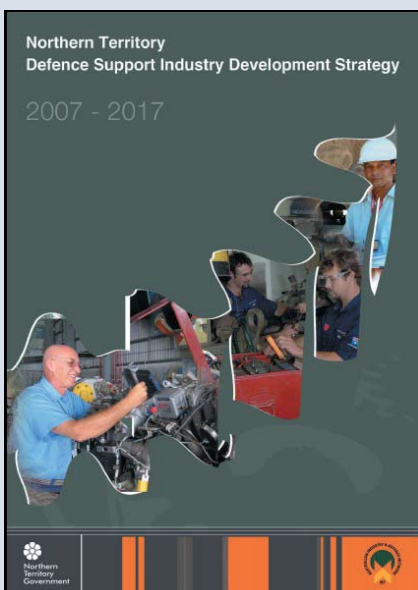
The strength of this industry development strategy lies in the level of consultation undertaken, the level of input delivered by stakeholders and the consequential level of ownership by stakeholders.

During April and May 2007, 500 copies of a discussion paper were distributed to stakeholders informing them of the key issues relating to the industry, inviting them to participate in the consultative process and provide input to the development of the strategy.

Consultative forums were held in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs to canvas the issues and capture the views of stakeholders. The forums were attended by over 100 representatives from Defence and industry.

While this is a strategy for the Northern Territory defence support industry, it needed to reflect the views of Defence and the prime contractors. Face-to-face consultations were undertaken with Department of Defence officials in Canberra and Chief Executive Officers of Defence prime contractors around Australia.

Comments received from the Minister for Defence, a number of Defence organisations and industry during the consultation process commended the Northern Territory Government and AIDN-NT on this initiative and paid tribute to the quality of the consultative process and the substance of the discussion paper. During consultations, industry and Defence identified a number of areas that should be addressed and actions necessary in order to develop and grow the industry.



The Northern Territory Defence Support Industry Development Strategy 2007-2017 can be found at www.defencesupport.nt.gov.au.

These have been coalesced into seven major points of focus which are:

1. Workforce Development
2. Building Business Capabilities
3. Linking Industry to Opportunity
4. Profiling and Promoting Industry Capability
5. Developing Strategic Infrastructure
6. Establishing Strategic Partnerships, and
7. Research and Development.

The strategy describes each point of focus and lists strategic directions that stakeholders believe important. The strategy also identifies those organisations that could contribute in a collaborative approach to achieving a successful outcome.

The large Defence presence in the Northern Territory requires a high level of industry support for its operations. Adopting a more strategic approach to capture more defence related work locally will benefit local businesses, create new jobs and help grow the Northern Territory economy. Growing the capability and capacity of the defence support industry in the Northern Territory will contribute to the capability of Defence as well as contribute to the sustainability and profitability of businesses.

While the government and AIDN-NT have worked very closely on developing the strategy, the real challenge now lies ahead. AIDN-NT has already commenced developing its action plans and has a clear vision of where it is heading and what needs to be done to get there. The president of AIDN-NT, Mr Mark Smith, has called on the large number of industry, government, academic, union, and defence stakeholders who all contributed to its development to now support its implementation.

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The Northern Territory Government supports the Northern Territory Defence Support Industry Development Strategy and all those with an interest in developing the industry are encouraged to also get behind it and support its implementation.

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Business and skilled migration opportunities

Our colleagues in the Business and Skilled Migration Unit of the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development have received resumes from qualified people located in the United Kingdom who are seeking sponsorship from a local company. If your company requires skills in the following areas, contact us via defencesupport@nt.gov.au for more information and a copy of their resumes.

- Former Telecommunications Operator/Engineer UK Armed Forces. Currently self employed with NVQ Level 3 in Communications, Telecommunications Operator trade certificate from the Royal School of Signals, possess a wide knowledge of all aspects of cable installations techniques.
- Former Marine Engineer in Nuclear Submarines UK Navy. Chartered Marine Engineer to Masters Level, Master of Business Administration, BA (Honours) Degree in History, Post Graduate Diploma in Nuclear Systems Engineering, Nuclear Propulsion Charge Course, and Four Year Marine Engineering Apprenticeship. Currently Operations Manager, British Energy at Hinkley Point B power station.



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