

News Release

51-09

25 November 2009

Thales Australia strengthens commitment to local industry with Global Supply Chain Deed

Thales has strengthened its links with Australian industry, signing a Global Supply Chain Deed with the Defence Material Organisation.

The GSC Deed is part of Defence's Global Supply Chain program, and actively facilitates opportunities for Australian industry to compete in Thales's global supply chains and those of the company's major supply partners.

Chris Jenkins, Thales Australia's Managing Director, said the company has a demonstrated commitment to supporting local industry and opening up international opportunities.

"Thales has a long and successful track record of working closely with numerous supply chain partners in Australia, especially in the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector generating substantial technology-based exports for this country."

"Thales programs such as the Bushmaster have opened up new local and international opportunities for our local partners. The supply chain comprises around 120 Australian SMEs, with more than 100 based in Victoria and 30 in the Bendigo area. This generates long term revenues for a wide range of local component manufacturers."

"As we develop new products such as the next generation Hawkei Australian Light Protected Vehicle, we will open up new markets and deliver growth opportunities across the board."

"The signing of this Deed reflects the strengthening of our ongoing commitment, and our significant role as an access point into global programs."

"However, this commitment also extends beyond sales opportunities and involves helping SMEs enhance their competitiveness, for example by providing training using our extensive in-house resources in conjunction with the Skilling Australia's Defence Industry (SADI) program."

"We are making these training resources available to defence industry SMEs, and welcome their interest in the program."

"Thales is also committed to supporting industry associations such as the Australian Industry & Defence Network (AIDN), the Australian Industry Group, and the Defence Industry Innovation Centre."

"These organisations working across our nation's industry are vital in preparing Australia for the defence challenges of the future."

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About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Aerospace and Space, Defence, Security and Transportation markets. In 2008, the company generated revenues of 12.7 billion euros (equivalent of AUD 22.1 billion) with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 25,000 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint, with operations around the world working with customers as local partners. www.thalesgroup.com

Thales Australia is a trusted partner of the Australian Defence Force and is also present in commercial sectors ranging from air traffic management to security systems and services. Employing around 3,500 people in over 35 sites across the country, Thales Australia recorded revenues of more than AUD1 billion in 2008.

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