

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence Industries

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Italian frigate presents opportunities for SA defence supply chain

South Australians will have the chance to see one of the world's most advanced naval ships when the Italian FREMM-class frigate *Carabiniere* arrives in Adelaide today.

The ship will be here for the next five days, as its shipbuilder Fincantieri arrives to meet with local defence industry companies contesting for a role in the \$35 billion Future Frigate program.

Ahead of the frigate docking in Outer Harbor today, Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith said the visit gives local industry the chance to engage with Fincantieri and gain an understanding of their supply chain requirements. Fincantieri will host an industry engagement forum on Thursday (9 February).

He also urged firms to join the public at the on-board open day where visitors will get to view the ship, berthed at Outer Harbor, and open between 10am to noon and 2pm until 4pm, on Tuesday, (7 February).

Fincantieri's frigate is one of three ship designs in the running for the program, along with Spanish shipbuilder Navantia with a redesigned F100 class vessel and the UK's BAE Systems with its Type 26 Frigate.

Minister Hamilton-Smith said he expects the Australian Government to continue with plans to include maximum Australian industry content for upcoming naval shipbuilding programs including Offshore Patrol Vessel, Future Frigate and Future Submarine. This is in line with the Defence Teaming Centre's Australian-made Defence Campaign for a long-term continuous plan for shipbuilding in Australia.

Background

Techport Australia is the confirmed build location of the Future Frigate program, a fleet of nine vessels to replace the in-service ANZAC class frigates. The program is scheduled to commence in 2020 as part of a continuous build.

The new frigates will be larger and more capable than the ANZACs, with a heavy emphasis on anti-submarine warfare. The design and construction phase of the program is valued at approximately \$35 billion with the program expected to create more than 2000 jobs in South Australia.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith

South Australia's defence industry is engaged and ready to play a crucial role in upcoming naval shipbuilding programs, including Future Frigate, Future Submarine and Offshore Patrol Vessels.

Our industry is world-class having successfully delivered some of the most complex projects in our nation's history and we have to continue to compete for this work and to be the best.

We mustn't forget about the reasons we successfully fought so hard for a continuous build program for naval ships and submarines. It was to create jobs for Australian workers, while creating sovereign capability for our nation.

If we don't engage the local supply chain in the programs, we will not achieve our goals, meaning we must ensure the Australian Government stays true to their word about maximising Australian industry content.

This visit to Adelaide will give Fincantieri further insight into the state's extensive capabilities, in terms of both industry and infrastructure. Last year we visited Fincantieri's shipyard in Genoa with 13 South Australian companies.

The South Australian Government remains committed to supporting local industry to maximise their involvement in defence programs and economic benefits for the state.

Media Contact: Catherine Bauer 0478 855 367