

Minister Susan Close

A/ Minister for Defence Industries

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French, Japanese, Korean delegations in Adelaide for naval inspections

International interest in South Australia's shipbuilding is revving up, hot on the heels of last weekend's launch of the first of three Air Warfare Destroyers under construction at Techport Australia.

This week the State will host a series of visits from overseas defence bodies who are coming to get a first-hand look at every aspect of South Australia's naval shipbuilding sector.

A/ Minister for Defence Industries Susan Close says the strong interest in naval manufacturing presents a terrific opportunity to showcase our industry competencies and achievements.

"This week's visits give us a chance to demonstrate that South Australia is equipped, ready and capable of building world-class submarines and warships, right now.

"We have credentials as a centre for excellence in naval shipbuilding, and will be proudly spruiking our world class infrastructure and industry base," she said.

The first visit will be from French defence company DCNS, one of three bidders for Australia's future submarines program. The company was visited in France just last week by Defence Industries Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith.

"We're greatly encouraged by DCNC's enthusiastic interest in South Australia, and are ready to showcase everything local industry has to offer", Dr Close said.

A Japanese Government and Industry delegation, another bidder for the future submarines, will also be in Adelaide this week for a tour of the Techport Australia shipbuilding facility.

The delegation will also visit ASC's submarine yard and local companies involved in the Collins submarine project including BAE Systems, PMB Defence and Babcock.

Demonstrating the State's high level commitment to naval shipbuilding, Acting Premier Jack Snelling will host a private dinner for the delegation and the Defence Team Centre will hold an industry showcase.

Later in the week, Korean Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (DSME), one of two companies invited to tender for Australia's new replenishment ships, will be in town with their design partner BMT to identify potential supply chain partners.

"While we are disappointed the Commonwealth has chosen to build these two ships off-shore, we are working hard to ensure we maximise opportunities for local industry", Dr Close said.

"South Australia's naval shipbuilding industry has amassed a high-end skills base over the last 30 years and is critical to of our advanced manufacturing future. We're determined to see this sector grow and thrive into the future."

Defence remains a central pillar of the State's economy, employing 28,500 South Australians and contributing around \$2 billion to the economy annually.

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