



AVALON 2009 – DEFENCE TRADE EXPO DAILY Tuesday-Friday, 10-13 March 2009

www.diar.com - Australia's premier electronic defence-industry newsletter provided the daily news summary service for the Avalon 2009 International Air Show Defence Trade Expo. Each day, a hard copy edition was circulated to all major stand-holders, using the weekly DIAR.com e-Newsletter headline & extract information presentation format. Herein follows a consolidation of all the news items published in each of the four DIAR.com Defence Trade Expo printed editions.

Tuesday, 10 March 2009

AVALON 2009 OPENS TO THE SOUND OF THE RAAF BAND: Victorian Premier, John Brumby, has officially opened the 2009 Avalon International Air Show & Defence Trade Expo, to melodies of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) band. Brumby spoke of the 2009 air show's theme – 'Towards Tomorrow' – and how the event provided a perfect stage for Victorian companies to showcase, every two years, their products and services to a much wider audience. He acknowledged the importance of the event to the State's economy, noting over 180,000 people attended the 2007 event. The State Premier concluded saying of the Avalon 2009 air show & defence trade expo, "this event gets better and better every time."

AEROSPACE ACHIEVEMENTS A THEME AT AVALON 2009: Introducing the Minister for Defence Science & Personnel, Warren Snowdon (representing Defence Minister Fitzgibbon), the Chief Executive of Avalon 2009, Ian Honnery, said the air show this year marked the 40th anniversary of man's first landing on the moon, as further reflected by Dr Andy Thomas as the air show's official guest. Dr Thomas is Australia's own astronaut, and has accumulated 177 days in space over four Space Shuttle missions since 1996. Minister Snowdon took up the air show theme saying it was important the achievements of pioneers such as Dr Thomas were widely marketed in terms of encouraging Australia's youth to take up careers in aviation, aerospace and the defence forces. Snowdon also noted Dr Allan Baker's work in the use of composite bonding technologies to extend airframe lives. Dr Baker is this year's recipient of the prestigious Laurence Hargraves award.

DEFENCE MINISTER SPEAKS TO CHIEF OF AIR FORCE SYMPOSIUM: Addressing the Chief of Air Force Symposium in Melbourne, the Minister for Defence, Joel Fitzgibbon, has stressed the need to make the Defence organisation more efficient, and to prevent cost blow-outs and scheduling delay industry partners would "play a vital role in making this happen. Nothing eats more into the Defence Budget than problematic capability projects. Inevitably, when projects slip, budgets blow out and scope creeps, there will be fault on both sides. It is the nature of a very complex business." The Chief of Air Force Symposium, a new feature in the Avalon International Air Show calendar, is exclusively attended by overseas Chiefs of Air Force and senior military personnel. The Symposium, in particular explored industry support to air operations.

FITZGIBBON FINGERS INDUSTRY FOR PROCUREMENT SAVINGS: Fitzgibbon went on to highlight in his Chief of Air Force symposium address that the Government was 'doing its bit' in terms of facilitating time defence program delivery. He cited the Mortimer reforms, and their promise of "addressing many of the problems and inefficiencies which have bedevilled the procurement processes on our side of the fence. Improve we must. We have a number of multi-billion dollar projects in the pipeline. Even a five percent blow-out on a project of such value imposes on the taxpayer unplanned costs in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars." Fitzgibbon went on to acknowledge the Chief of Air Force Symposium as a major opportunity to explore how Air Force operations around the world could be enhanced through tailored and focussed industry support," he added. Following the Symposium, Fitzgibbon met with leaders of Defence industry.

GIFTS TO HONOUR THE 'CARIBOU'S' SERVICE TO AUSTRALIA: Defence Minister Fitzgibbon and Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, have announced the DHC-4 'Caribou' tactical transport aircraft's 45 years of operational service in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) will be honoured with one aircraft (A4-152) being gifted to the RAAF Museum at 'Point Cook' by early-2010, and one (A4-140) aircraft directed to the Australian War Memorial. The RAAF's current fleet of 13 'Caribou' aircraft will be retired from service by the end of 2009. Phase 2 of project Air 8000 will shortly look at their medium term replacement with either Lockheed Martin's C-27J or EADS-CASA's C-295, subject to directions in the forthcoming Defence White Paper. The Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) is to manage a disposal plan for the 'Caribou' fleet. As an interim measure, tasks traditionally performed by the 'Caribou' will be covered by B300 'King Air' and C-130 'Hercules' aircraft.

NAVY CELEBRATES BOOST TOWARDS ENLISTMENT TARGET: The Deputy Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Davyd Thomas, has welcomed 128 new sailors joining the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) around the country. He says, "this is a great day for Navy, and represents a very welcome upsurge in recruiting. Enlistment ceremonies have been held across Australia, notably in Anzac Square in Brisbane. Thomas adds that "while current figures are encouraging, the Royal Australian Navy is constructively working across a range of initiatives to further enhance conditions of service and employment to encourage recruitment and ongoing participation by its officers and sailors." During their time at HMAS 'Cerberus' (the sailor training facility on Mornington Peninsular), Thomas says young men and women from diverse backgrounds "will become a team the whole nation can rely upon." The new sailors will undergo eleven weeks of initial training before commencing their individual trade training.

DSTO INSECT VISION RESEARCH CREATES SMARTER WEAPONS: Studying how insects see and navigate is said to have resulted in the generation of a new smart weapon seeker, and guidance technology. According to the Minister for Defence Science & Personnel, Warren Snowdon, the 'insect vision' technology initially developed by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) has been further developed with the support of several small to medium enterprises - Associated Electronic Services, Cyber Technology (WA) and Davtec IT - under the Capability and Technology Demonstrator (CTD) Program. Snowdon unveiled this morning at the Avalon Air Show a demonstration technology - called 'Bioseeker' - which features a low cost, miniaturised and rugged add-on device that provides autonomous guidance to airborne systems. The 'Bioseeker' technology is pitched to enhance the capability of the rocket on the Australian project Air 97 'Tiger' helicopter, various air delivered weapons and shoulder launched or mortar based land weapons. 'Bioseeker' technology will undergo final testing in the second half of 2009, using the Australian developed 'Cybird' UAV as a platform.

MINISTER CARR OPENS INNOVATIVE MATERIALS INSTITUTE AT UOW: The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science & Research, Senator Kim Carr, has officially opened The University of Wollongong's (UoW) Australian Institute for Innovative Materials. Over 200 researchers and students will be gathered under the centre, working in the fields of materials science, chemistry, biology, physics and engineering. The institute's mission is to carry out world-class research into advanced technologies, developing real-world applications with the potential to benefit the economy and society at large. It will house two flagship research groups: the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute; and the Institute for Superconducting & Electronic Materials. Work will dovetail with the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science, which is also headquartered in the same building. The UoW also co-hosts the Materials Node of the Australian National Fabrication Facility.

AVALON AIR SHOW SETS THE STAGE FOR JP 129 RE-TENDER: At least five companies will be presenting their tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (TUAV) solutions at the 2009 Avalon Air Show, in the lead up to the Government's re-release of a new Request for Tender for tactical unmanned aerial vehicles (TUAVs) for Joint Project 129, with the new requirement potentially spanning phases 3 capabilities, including arming the subject UAVs. Addressing the broad range of JP 129 2/3 and other ADF related capability requirements, BAE Systems is displaying its 'Mantis' and 'Herti' unmanned aerial systems (UAS), Selex Galileo will present its 'Falco' UAV, while AAI Corporation is displaying its 'Shadow' 200. Thales will present its 'Hermes' 450 offering, possibly in a partnership with Raytheon supplying sensors and ground control station expertise. Elbit Systems is displaying both the 'Hermes' 450 and 900 tactical/MALE UAVs. Insitu (now owned by Boeing) has brought its 'Integrator' UAV to the Avalon air show. A feature story in Australian Defence Business Review (ADBR) magazine, to be released on Wednesday, explores stresses within the Australian Department of Defence in proceeding with JP 129 on the basis of the original 2004 requirements, or re-issuing the RFT incorporating broader phase 2 & 3 requirements. ADBR says Defence is not expecting to begin the preparation of a revised public UAS 'Roadmap' until after the new Defence White Paper is published.

PRODUCTION MOVES FORWARD ON RAAF 'SUPER HORNET': Boeing has reported the outer skin of the first F/A-18F 'Super Hornet' fighter being constructed for the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) under project Air 5349 has now been fitted to its forward fuselage on a pulse assembly line at the company's St Louis (Missouri) plant. The aircraft is said by the company to be approximately three months ahead of schedule, and is thus set for an early delivery date on 8 July. The RAAF has 24 Block 2 'Super Hornets' on order. Two US Navy F/A-18s will be flying at the 2009 Avalon air show, with Australian Aviation Editor, Gerard Frawley, taking in a flight on Thursday. Boeing's 'Super Hornet' trainer will also be on display for trialling by show attendees. Boeing has now delivered more than 380 F/A-18E/F 'Super Hornets' to the US Navy, which plans to operate them well into the future alongside the F-35C Joint Strike Fighter.

ST AEROSPACE RECOGNISED AS A BOEING 'CHINOOK' MRO CENTRE: Singapore Technologies Aerospace (ST Aerospace) has announced its subsidiary, ST Aerospace Systems (STA Systems), has been recognised by Boeing Integrated Defense Systems (IDS) as a Boeing maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) centre for the CH-47 'Chinook' helicopter engine transmission. Through this association, ST Aerospace's military service capability on the 'Chinook' transmission is to be positioned as part of the capabilities that Boeing can draw on to support 'Chinook' helicopter operators. The 'Chinook' engine transmission is the first Boeing IDS component set up for repair and overhaul by ST Aerospace, with the company poised to take on more repair and overhaul work, including potentially the F-15 fighter and AH-64 'Apache' helicopter.

BAE SHOWCASES AUTONOMOUS SYSTEM CAPABILITY: In highlighting the capabilities of its 'Mantis' and High Endurance Rapid Technology Insertion ('Herti') unmanned aerial systems at the 2009 Avalon Air Show, BAE Systems (BAES) Australia has noted its responsibility for the development, integration and support of Autonomous Vehicle Management Systems (VMS) – said to be a significant element of the 'smart autonomy' capability the company is offering to military customers. The ground control environment supporting the 'Mantis' and 'Herti' is based on the ISR Management System concept developed by BAES Australia through a three-year, internally funded R&D program, and subsequently proven through earlier operations of the 'Herti', 'Raven', 'Corax' and Kingfisher UASs.

PRIME MINISTER OPENS HEADQUARTERS JOINT OPERATIONS COMMAND: On the eve of the 2009 Avalon Air Show, the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) new Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC) complex (located outside of Bungendore, NSW), has been officially opened and named by the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd. The PM noted that opening of the HQJOC - one of the first developments to proceed under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model - marked the culmination of two important initiatives to improve higher ADF command and control arrangements: completion of the General John Baker Complex; and the development and stand-up of the new integrated Headquarters Joint Operations Command organisation.

EMPLOYERS OF DEFENCE RESERVISTS VISIT SOLOMON ISLANDS: Twenty-four employers of Defence Reservists have travelled to the Solomon Islands as part of 'Boss Lift' - a Defence program designed to encourage employer support for the Defence Reserves. The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly, has confirmed that the employers will visit soldiers from the Adelaide-based 9 Brigade, who are currently on a four-month deployment to the Solomon Islands. While in the capital Honiara and surrounds, the employers will have the opportunity to see their Reservists on Operation Anode, the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) contribution to the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands.

DEFENCE AIR POWER TO BE DISPLAYED AT AVALON: A wide spectrum of the Australian Defence Force's air power will be on display during this week's Australian International Air Show. Around 50 ADF aircraft are on display, including nearly all types of aircraft flown by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Royal Australian Navy and Australian Army helicopters will also be on show. The Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mark Binskin, told DIAR.com the defence force's flying and ground displays at Avalon, "will aim to inspire the next generation of air crew and ground support teams. Defence Force Recruiting will have a significant presence." Air show visitors will welcome the next-generation RAAF fighter, the F/A-18F 'Super Hornet', while farewelling the F-111s and 'Caribou' tactical transports, before they are retired from operational service. Some 650 ADF personnel have deployed to Avalon from Defence bases throughout Victoria in support of the air show.

US COMPARATIVE TESTING OFFICE TEAM VISITING AVALON: The United States' Foreign Comparative Testing Office (CTO) - an element of the Office of the US Secretary of Defense - is attending the 2009 Avalon Airshow to provide briefings and to identify candidates for the 2009/2010 Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) Program. A brief to interested companies at Defence Plaza has just been completed this morning. Information relating to the presentation can be sought from Brendan Sullivan, Assistant Director Defence Export Unit, at brendan.sullivan3@defence.gov.au or on 0400 302 944 or 02 6127 2736.

DEFENCE AWARENESS BRIEFINGS IN LITHGOW & BATHURST: The Defence Materiel Organisation's (DMO) Business Access Office will be holding 'Defence Awareness Briefings' in Lithgow on 23-24 March, and in Bathurst on 25-26 March. The content of these sessions is being targeted at beginners in the challenge of selling to Defence, in particular, companies who have done little or no business with Defence and are looking for more information on how they could possibly start supplying products and services to the Australian Defence Organisation. For more information e-mail James Higgins, Graduate - Defence Industry Liaison, Business Access Office, NSW/ACT, at James.Higgins1@defence.gov.au

FIRST TURKISH PARTS HEAD FOR JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER: Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) - a major supplier to Northrop Grumman Corporation on the F-35 program - has produced and delivered its first composite parts for the new Joint Strike Fighter (JSF). The new parts - structural composite panels used to form the outer surface of the new fighter - represent a critical first step in TAI's plans to eventually produce 400 centre fuselages for the program. Northrop Grumman proposes to integrate the parts into the centre fuselages of the first two production F-35s. The composite panels represent the first F-35 parts produced in a new composites manufacturing facility opened by TAI last November in Ankara, Turkey. To date, Northrop Grumman has trained nearly two dozen TAI employees in the high precision fabrication techniques being used in that facility.

EADS PRESENTING ADVANCED HELICOPTERS PORTFOLIO AT AVALON: The European Aeronautic Defence & Space Company (EADS) is presenting at the 2009 Avalon air show, a line-up of aircraft from its portfolio of advanced helicopters. Business units represented at Avalon comprise: Airbus; Airbus Military; ATR; EADS Defence & Security; EADS Human Resources and Eurocopter. EADS is supporting a static display of five military and civil helicopters from Eurocopter's fleet, ranging from the latest in aircrew trainers (such as the Australian Army's EC 135s), to the NH90 NFH (Naval Frigate Helicopter) under consideration by the Australian Navy to replace its 'Seahawk' fleet in the aftermath of the scrapping of the project Sea 1411 'Super Seasprite' helicopter acquisition. Other aircraft to be displayed are the EC 120B, AS350 and EC 130B4.

THIRD A330 MRTT DELIVERED FOR SHIPMENT TO AUSTRALIA: EADS has reported its delivery of the third airframe for outfitting as a project Air 5402 Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) KC-30A A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport (MRTT), following completion of the subject aircraft's manufacture at its Toulouse plant in France. The aircraft was delivered from the A330/A340 production line in December, and will be subsequently delivered to the Qantas Australian Conversion Centre in Brisbane (Queensland), where it will undergo its conversion to the RAAF MRTT configuration. Qantas has responsibility, in cooperation with EADS, for outfitting four of the five A330 MRTTs ordered by the RAAF. It is currently working on the number 2 aircraft.

UNISYS ASSUMES IT SUPPORT FOR NINE DEFENCE REGIONS: Unisys reports it has transitioned information technology (IT) support services for the first nine (of twelve) regions for the Australian Department of Defence. Unisys' expanded IT role was covered by a contract announced in February 2008 - valued at A\$240m - and running for an initial five year term following the transition period, with potential for two, two-year, contract extensions. When completed, Unisys will provide a range of IT support services, including network security and infrastructure support for servers and desktops used by civilian and military areas of Defence across Australia. Unisys will also standardise IT support processes nationally. The three regions that remain to be transitioned in 2009 are the ACT and Southern NSW, the Northern Territory and Kimberley, and Northern Queensland.

'SCANEAGLE' COMPLETES SINGAPORE NAVY SEA TRIALS: Boeing (with subsidiary Insitu) have completed a ship-based trial of the 'ScanEagle' unmanned aircraft system (UAS) with the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). The trial included both an RSN Tank Landing Ship and a frigate. In the subject trial, the 'ScanEagle' was launched and recovered from the ship's helicopter deck, flying day missions using an electro-optical camera payload, and night missions, using an infrared camera payload. The 'ScanEagle' UAS is said to have successfully demonstrated sea-based launch and recovery capabilities, as well as the ease with which the physical ground support equipment and control hardware can be integrated onboard.

LAND DISPLAY ALSO A FEATURE OF AVALON 2009 AIR SHOW: BAE Systems Australia is showcasing at the Avalon air show its M777 155mm lightweight towed gun, a lead favourite for the Australian Army's new project Land 17 artillery replacement program. A decision remains to be made, however, in terms of the Raytheon/Samsung AS-9, or the Krauss Maffei Wegmann PzH2000 for the heavier self-propelled howitzer. Government consideration of the Land 17 requirement appears to have ranged across land-based heavily armoured systems, to more rapidly mobile helicopter-transportable systems, to air-based gunships such as the AC-130 'Spectre' sporting a 105mm cannon. A Land 17 'way forward' decision is expected upon tabling of the new Defence White Paper. BAE Systems is also displaying at Avalon its through-life support capabilities for fixed and rotary wing platforms, flight training and simulation, electronic warfare, remote sights, and services and solutions for national security customers.

RAN UPGRADES ITS ECPINS NAVIGATION/CHARTING SOFTWARE: OSI Geospatial has confirmed its International Systems Operations group has signed a US\$1.3m contract with the Royal Australian Navy to provide a software upgrade and 12 months of software support for its navigation/charting software. According to company officials, the Royal Australian Navy has decided to upgrade to its most advanced ECPINS software, and take the first step towards establishing a long term support arrangement. OSI Geospatial president & CEO, Ken Kirkpatrick, says "several of the company's customers have moved forward on establishing long-term support contracts, and we believe the Australian Navy will expand the duration of their agreement in the near future."

TENSYLON ARMOUR PANELS TO BOOST MILITARY TRUCK SAFETY: BAE Systems (BAES) has received a US\$2.6m contract from the US Army to supply 'Tensylon' composite-armour panels for Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) vehicles, tasked with the transport, deployment, recovery and evacuation of combat-loaded main battle tanks (and other heavy tracked and wheeled vehicles) to and from the battlefield. Tensylon has been developed exclusively by BAES to improve the readiness and sustainment of survivability products, including ground vehicles such as Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, and individual soldier equipment. The contract award is part of the US Army's Heavy Tactical Vehicle Armour Program, and is a direct result of BAES' Cooperative R&D Agreement with the US Army Research Labs (ARL). The ARL partnership, initiated in 2007, tests and evaluates composite armour solutions to defeat current and emerging threats in Iraq and Afghanistan.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO REVIEW SPECIAL FORCES SOLDIERS PAY: Following an accumulating fracas in Canberra, Defence Minister, Joel Fitzgibbon, has taken action to ensure any remaining pay concerns of

Australian Army Special Forces soldiers and their families have been put to rest. Following discussions between the Minister, the Chief of the Defence Force and the Secretary of the Department of Defence, a special investigation into the pay of the Special Forces soldiers will be undertaken. The CDF and the Secretary have been requested, by the Minister, to engage an independent financial auditor to complete the task thoroughly and efficiently. The independent audit, costing around A\$100,000, will be undertaken by KPMG, and will be led by KPMG Partner Nick Baker. The auditor's first report will be provided directly to the Minister by 10 March 2009. The final report will be provided a week later.

HOVE NEW CHIEF OF OSHKOSH DEFENCE BUSINESS DIVISION: Oshkosh Corporation has announced the appointment of Andy Hove as executive vice president and president, Defense, succeeding John Stoddart. Hove will be responsible for all aspects of the company's approximately US\$2 billion defence business segment, including tactical wheeled vehicle programs, technology development and after market parts and service. Hove is a former US Army officer who served in tank and mechanised infantry units during his 11-year military career. Most recently at BAE Systems, Hove served as vice president, Combat Systems Programs.

GOVERNMENT SUSPENDS AIR 7000 PHASE 1B PLANS: The Minister for Defence, Joel Fitzgibbon, confirmed on the eve of the Avalon Air Show the Government's decision not to proceed into to the next partnership phase of the United States Navy Broad Area Maritime Surveillance (BAMS) program. Under project Air 7000 Phase 1B, Defence had aimed to acquire an uninhabited aerial surveillance system based on the 'Global Hawk' aircraft, built by Northrop Grumman. Fitzgibbon says the BAMS delivery schedule has slipped from that proposed initially, and resulting in the earliest possible in-service date for the BAMS aircraft moving out to 2015. The Minister added, "introducing such an advanced new aircraft at this time would have caused incredible workforce pressures on the ADF, particularly given the requirement to transition the extant AP-3C 'Orion' fleet to a new manned surveillance aircraft in the same time period." Defence is to continue to closely monitor the progression of BAMS, although the Defence White Paper is expected to throw ADF unmanned aircraft program requirements back out to open tender.

NGC REMAINS CONFIDENT 'GLOBAL HAWK' IS IDEAL FOR AUSTRALIA: Northrop Grumman Corporation has expressed its disappointment that Australia will not be joining the system design and development phase of the US Navy's Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Unmanned Aircraft System (BAMS UAS) program. Australia was the only international participant in the BAMS UAS selection process that saw Northrop Grumman's high altitude, long endurance 'Global Hawk' chosen as the basis of the US Navy's unmanned maritime surveillance capability. According to the president of Northrop Grumman International, John Brooks, "we are not yet aware of the details of the Australian decision, although we understand that financial pressures on the Australian defence budget were a major factor. We remain confident of the 'Global Hawk' UAS' suitability for Australia as an ideal platform for demanding military and civilian surveillance requirements. "We hope to talk with US and Australian government officials in the near future to agree on a solution that delivers this capability to Australia, within its resource constraints," said Brooks.

F-35 PRODUCTION, TESTING SHIFT INTO HIGH GEAR: Lockheed Martin officials have advised that in 2009 the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program will complete all remaining System Development and Demonstration (SDD) aircraft, and will deliver the first production-model F-35s to the US armed services. Full-scale flight-test operations will also be initiated this year at 'Edwards' Air Force Base (California), and NAS Patuxent River, in Maryland. Lockheed Martin executive vice president and F-35 program general manager, Dan Crowley, notes the company has already delivered eight (of 19) SDD jets, "and we are moving aircraft off the assembly line at a rate of about one per month, a pace that continues to accelerate." Crowley was speaking at the Air Force Association's 2009 Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida.

JSF CUSTOMER SUPPORT STRENGTHENS AS MISSION SYSTEMS MATURE: Crowley went on to say that in 2009, the JSF program would also continue to validate the F-35's highly evolved mission systems software and hardware, by adding to the more than 1,100 hours of flight-testing and 115,000 hours of laboratory testing already completed. He notes that as Lockheed Martin matures the F-35, the company expects to see "evidence of ever-strengthening customer support - in the US Air Force's request for stepped-up production, in the US Navy's call for reinstatement of three early-production F-35Cs, and in Norway's and the Netherlands' endorsement of the F-35 as their future fighter. We will see more of the same in 2009, as we prove out the Lightning II's capabilities, and as our international partners begin ordering their first aeroplanes." Australia will decide around mid-year as to whether up to 75 Block III F-35s will be ordered under project Air 6000.

Wednesday, 11 March 2009

JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER SCHEDULE TURNING THE CORNER: Lockheed Martin's executive vice president for F-35 Program Integration, Tom Burbage, has told Avalon air show media that F-35 'Lightning II' flight testing is on track, and the aircraft is performing extremely well. Burbage said the aircraft and its systems "are proving to be significantly more mature at this stage of testing than those of past programs. Milestones achieved in 2008 and 2009 continue to validate the F-35's continued success, including: the successful first flight of F-35 BF-1 on 11 June 2008; deployment of F-35 AA-1 to 'Edwards' AFB (California) with all tests accomplished ahead of schedule; and recently, the successful first flight of F-35 BF-2 on 25 February 2009. The

program remains on schedule to deliver the first production-model F-35s to 'Eglin' Air Force Base (Florida), in 2010, and to meet all services' Initial Operational Capability dates, starting in 2012."

2009 A YEAR OF HARD DECISIONS FOR ALL JSF PARTNER NATIONS: Burbage expects 2009 to be 'a big year' for all international Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) partners. He told media that nearly every international partner is facing some major decision this year in relation to the program. "In the case of the UK and The Netherlands, it has to do with the purchase of aeroplanes as part of the next production lot to be part of our operational test program. In the case of Australia, it's [part of] the Defence White Paper release and 'second pass' review (under project Air 6000), later on this year. In the case of Italy, it's a parliamentary review for the purchase of all their aeroplanes. For Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands, it's ratification of decisions to go with the F-35. Every single partner country is facing a major decision this year, leading to a firm decision to buy operational jets in the next couple of years."

STUDY FINDS JSF QUIETER THAN 'RAPTOR' AND 'SUPER HORNET': A recently completed environmental study at 'Eglin' Air Force Base is said to have confirmed that the JSF is not as noisy as the F-22 'Raptor' or the F-18E/F 'Super Hornet' - being comparable instead to the F-16 and F-15. The F-14D was also found to be louder. Lockheed Martin officials indicated the noise study incorporated earlier research using the AA-1 platform, however, this was considered too brief and incomprehensive to draw solid findings. "Is the aeroplane loud? Absolutely, but is it louder by a factor of two than most of the aeroplanes now flying? Definitely not," says US Major General (Select) David Heinz, JSF Deputy Program Executive Officer, who becomes the new F-35 PEO 3 April.

AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE TO AIRCRAFT NOISE PROBLEMS: Air Vice-Marshal John Harvey, Program Manager for the ADF's New Air Combat Capability, RAAF, says the JSF is not much noisier than the classic Hornets now in service with the RAAF. Harvey adds that Australia, which also took part in the 'Eglin' noise study, already has JSF mitigation measures in place. The new noise data will help predict how the JSF will impact communities living close to bases operating the aircraft. Heinz noted it will be up to an individual base to determine their noise abatement procedures, adding that 85% of missions can take-off without afterburn. Burbage said the F-35 had flown over 100 flights over Fort Worth (Texas), and Lockheed Martin had not received a single complaint from residents of the surrounding communities. "The F-35 is the first-ever aeroplane in the US that is Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliant. Technology on the JSF has been designed to protect the hearing of maintainers standing next to the aircraft while it is running", he says.

DEFENCE INNOVATION PROGRAM GETS A MOVE ON: Four successfully demonstrated Defence technology projects are now to have their development fast-tracked via assistance from the Capability and Technology Demonstrator (CTD) Extension Program. Defence Science & Personnel Minister Snowdon says \$13m will be invested in Avalon Systems' new missile early warning system, Sentient's aerial system for tracking moving targets on a PC, GKN Aerospace's system to increase infrared guided-missile protection for ADF aircraft, and Deakin University's robot that lets you "feel" suspicious objects from a safe distance. Under the CTD Extension Program (managed by the Defence Science and Technology Organisation - DSTO), selected technologies that meet the test with their initial Defence trials, are funded for further development as per Department of Defence priorities.

AP-3C 'ORION' LONGEVITY DISCUSSED IN DEFENCE SCIENCE CIRCLES: Overviews broad movements in new frontline Air Force capabilities at the 13th Australian International Aerospace Congress in Melbourne, Defence Science & Personnel Minister Snowdon has noted Defence is currently investigating the replacement of the AP-3C 'Orion' long-range maritime aircraft for a new maritime surveillance and patrol platform, following the Government's decision to decline more intensive involvement in the US Broad Area Maritime Surveillance (BAMS) system. Snowdon went on to say, however, that "unmanned systems, hypersonics, computing power, communications and networking, sensors and data fusion, and new materials are all impacting on our capabilities ... with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation spearheading research into new and emerging technologies for future aerospace applications." According to Snowdon, "we're leading the world in hypersonics research, upgrading our JORN radar network and making innovative advances in the application of miniaturised, low cost unmanned aerial systems. We're also researching new space-based systems to support ADF ground forces.

FIGHTER ENGINE TEAM ADVISES ON ENGINE SUSTAINMENT REGIME: Responding to a request from the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program Office and the Australian Department of Defence for advice on how the Royal Australian Air Force might most cost effectively maintain the engines on its future project Air 6000 JSF aircraft, the GE/Rolls-Royce Fighter Engine Team has submitted its recommendations for maintenance and repair of engines for the future 'Lightning II' aircraft. The companies have recommended that future F-35 propulsion systems be maintained through a Performance-Based Logistics (PBL) contracting process, in which military customers receive guarantees of the quantum of in-service engines at an 'agreed-to level', as opposed to a traditional time and materials-based contract.

C-130 'SUPER HERCULES' STILL A SUPER OPTION FOR THE RAAF: Briefing reporters attending the 2009 Avalon Air Show, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics vice president for Business Development, George Standridge has said the C-130J continues to be "the platform of choice to meet growing worldwide demand for tactical air

mobility." Standridge went on to explain how the C-130J had been uniquely designed to 'do whatever it takes', by performing a wide variety of missions, including: air combat (both airland, and airdrop); air-refuelling; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR); weather-reconnaissance; electronic combat; and fire-fighting. LM Aeronautics currently has a backlog of 86 C-130Js, which Standridge says "is the highest we have had since the program was initiated ... (and) securing production well into 2012." The DMO's Head of Aerospace Systems, Air Vice Marshal Colin Thorne, along with representatives from Australian Aerospace and Lockheed Martin, has signed at the air show a multi-million dollar contract for the through life support of RAAF's C-130J 'Hercules' fleet.

FITZGIBBON CHARGED WITH MISMANAGEMENT & MISINFORMATION: Opposition spokesperson for Defence, Bob Baldwin, has criticised Defence Minister, Joel Fitzgibbon, referring to Fitzgibbon's recent comments on the state of Aero Medical Evacuation (AME) capability available to Australian troops in Afghanistan. Baldwin has accused the Minister of having misled frontline troops in Afghanistan about the adequacy of existing AME capabilities, having said "one thing to our troops on the ground (in Afghanistan), and another to the media back home. Baldwin adds, "this is not hypocrisy this is treachery." Lead media in late-2008 picked up on delays in project Air 5416 and the installation of electronic warfare self protection kits in the Army's 'Black Hawk' helicopters, that would have also made them suitable to conduct AME operations. Baldwin notes correspondence signed off by the Minister in August 2008 attesting to his satisfaction "that the allocation of AME assets ... meet not only Australia's needs, but also the wider Coalition's requirements", with comments made to the ABC 20 February whereby Fitzgibbon is said to have admitted "I've been concerned for sometime now, about AME times, but also want our special forces to fly over improvised explosive devices, not drive over them."

OBAMA SURGE TO SAVE FITZGIBBON'S BACON ON AME DEFICIT: According to Bob Baldwin, in a statement to the House of Representatives on 23 February, Defence Minister Fitzgibbon had outlined a commitment by the US Aviation Combat Brigade to provide an additional 93 helicopters into southern Afghanistan in the context of laying down the Government's four-point criteria for considering an increased troop deployment to Afghanistan, with the safety of our troops on the ground, says Baldwin, "coming in as a fourth order priority." The consideration criteria included: making a strategic difference; the need for a new broader plan for greater success and faster progress; and consideration of the request in the context of commitments from other partner countries. Baldwin points out, almost as an afterthought, the Minister then added, "of course, the Government would also need to be convinced that the risk to the safety of our troops in any additional role is an acceptable one."

PROJECT 'ECHIDNA' MILESTONE GETTING CLOSER EVERY DAY: The delivery of an Electronic Warfare Self Protection (EWSP) capability for the Australian Army's fleets of 'Black Hawk' and 'Chinook' aircraft is said to be a major step closer, with BAE Systems (BAES) confirming it has successfully carried out a flight test on its "Echidna" EWSP system, using a specially configured electronics pod mounted on a Lear jet. The initial flight trial, which was conducted north of Adelaide, concentrated on the detection, identification and tracking of emitters. The same configuration was tested in BAES laboratories prior to the flight. BAE Systems Australia Managing Director, Jim McDowell, told DIAR.com that both the lab and flight trials had provided valuable data towards helping to finalise system integration. He added, "the trials have also given us significant confidence in the maturity of the 'Echidna' system as it entered the final stages of acceptance testing." The 'Echidna' technology is designed to enhance the EWSP capabilities of selected ADF aircraft, thereby improving their survivability in combat.

EUROPEAN STYLE MARKS SELEX GALILEO PRESENCE AT AVALON: Finmeccanica-owned SELEX Galileo is emphasising its strengths in surveillance, targeting, electronic warfare & air navigation at the 2009 Avalon International Air Show. Building on the Company's recent contract with Surveillance Australia Pty Ltd (SAPL) for the supply of twelve airborne surveillance mission systems (SIMS) to be installed on Customs 'Coastwatch' fleet, SELEX Galileo is advancing its 'Falco' tactical unmanned aircraft for the re-tender of Joint Project 129, complemented with a new Common Ground Control Station (CGCS), and world leading sensors and payload systems. For Joint Project 66, SELEX Galileo is advancing its 'Mirach' 100/5 multi-role threat simulation system, which includes an aerial target drone and modern ground control station, with a wide selection of mission payloads able to qualify and exercise all required ADF weapon systems.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN PROFILING NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES: Northrop Grumman Corporation is highlighting at Avalon 2009 a wide range of key capabilities, including: unmanned aerial vehicles; airborne early warning & control systems; fire control radars and infrared countermeasures. Among the exhibits being featured in the Northrop Grumman pavilion are the company's multi-role electronically scanned array (MESA) radar capabilities, which are currently being integrated into Australia's project Air 5077 'Wedgetail' AEW&C aircraft, and the MQ-8B 'Fire Scout' vertical take-off and landing unmanned aerial vehicle (VTUAV). Other programs available for viewing include: the directional infrared countermeasures (DIRCM), the Enhanced Tactical Automated Security System (eTASS), Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS), and the 'Litening' advanced airborne targeting and sensor pod.

LOCALLY-BUILT HELICOPTERS FIND THEIR LEGS ON LAND & SEA: Australian Aerospace (AAe) is presenting this week at the 2009 Avalon Air Show an impressive line-up of advanced military and civil helicopters. A total of five helicopters will be on display at the air show, including the latest word in aircrew

trainers, the EC135 – now in service with the Australian Army – and the NH90 NFH (NATO Frigate Helicopter), which is expected to be a strong contender for the Australian project Air 9000 Navy 'Seahawk' and 'Seasprite' helicopter replacements. Commenting on the aircraft on display, AAe Chief Executive, Jens Goennemann, told DIAR.com, "by any measure, they make a powerful statement about the depth and quality of the products we manufacture and support in the military & civil aviation markets of the Australia-Pacific region, and the opportunities we're exploring to meet our customers' needs."

EO-OPTIC ASSEMBLY & TEST LABORATORY CAPABILITY RECOGNISED: The Point Trading Group's 22 year reputation for delivering quality products and customer service to Defence has been recognised via an article on the company's activities in the most recent DMO e-Newsletter. Sustaining this record is something the company attributes to its R&D program, says the company's General Manager, Gadi Bichler, who told DIAR.com "Point Trading invests heavily in research and development. Our understanding of how our products are used by the user in their operations enables us to continually improve the products, and develop accessories that enhance their benefit." Located in three facilities in Victoria, the company's Head Office is based in South Melbourne, with its R&D and electro-optical facility located in the south eastern suburbs, along with a warehousing facility in the south eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

'MADE IN GERMANY' QUALITY SIGN IN SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIOS: Rohde & Schwarz Australia is presenting at the Avalon Air Show its M3xR Software Defined Radio family for Joint and Combined operations. Interoperability and high security are said by the company to be major advantages of these quality products, which are 'Made in Germany'. Also on display at the company's Avalon Air Show stand is the Series 4200 Air Traffic Control radio, which provides VOIP and VDL mode 2 capability, while still being the smallest ATC radio on the market. Customers world-wide are said to be appreciating the excellent products and good support of Rohde & Schwarz, which is also presenting at Avalon the new 'state-of-the-art' in spectrum analysis via the FSV family, said to offer outstanding performance with up to 1000 sweeps/s and a 40MHz analysis bandwidth, lowest measurement uncertainty available up to 7GHz and a touch screen for the most convenient operations. The product is fully supported and calibrated at Rohde & Schwarz's offices in Sydney.

DTC LAUNCHES 2009 CAPABILITY CATALOGUE: The South Australian Defence Teaming Centre, has published the 2009 version of its member 'Capability Catalogue', a document which profiles the products and services of over 150 member companies, and attesting to their ability to service the Defence industry, both locally and nationally. In collaboration with the DTC's online Capability Catalogue, the searchable catalogue provides a detailed insight into the depth and strength of the South Australian Defence industry. Sponsored by MBA Financial Strategists (as part of its promotion of the new Defence Contractors Superfund), the DTC Capability Catalogue can be viewed online at www.dtc.org.au.

RAYTHEON TAKES 'STATIC LINE' APPROACH TO AVALON MARKETING: The Chief Executive Officer of the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO), Dr Stephen Gumley, has officially opened Raytheon's static line display at the Australian International Air Show. Raytheon Australia Managing Director, Ron Fisher, told DIAR.com "a focal point of our activities during the Australian International Air Show will be the presence on the static line. Raytheon's display features two trailers demonstrating the company's capabilities for Aerospace Training Solutions (ATS), and Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance (ISR), as well as aircraft platforms." Raytheon's ATS Training Concept Demonstrator shows how the company's systems engineering approach will increase the effectiveness of military flying training. The display shows how Raytheon and its partners will seek to meet the challenges of the project Air 5428 (Pilot Training System) and Air 9000/Phase 7 (Helicopter Aircrew Training System), by tailoring training systems to deliver quantifiable results, operational readiness and enhanced decision superiority for military aviators. Raytheon is offering up the CT-4F and Beechcraft T-6C aircraft for the pilot training platform.

GAINS CLAIMED ON HIGH FREQUENCY MODERNISATION PROJECT: Boeing Defence Australia reports it has achieved a significant milestone toward delivery of the Modernised High Frequency Communications System (MHFCS) to the Australian Defence Force. The land-and-sea Generic Mobile Upgrade System, the first of two mobile high-frequency (HF) communications systems for MHFCS, is now said to have passed formal testing. The final phase of testing, conducted at Boeing Defence Australia's Brisbane site over two weeks, involved executing 44 test cases and testing more than 200 requirements. The MHFCS consists of two phases: the core system and the final system. The core system, delivered in 2005, replaced three of the Defence's aging HF communications systems with a single integrated system consisting of four HF radio stations, and two purpose-built control centres. The final system will provide greater levels of automation, performance and capability for ADF users; a backup network management facility; and two Generic Mobile Upgrade Systems -- one land-and-sea component and one air platforms component. Final MHFCS acceptance is planned for 2010. The next step requires Boeing to complete testing on the air platforms component, which is currently scheduled for May.

OBAMA TO DELAY USAF TANKERS & CANCEL FOLLOW-ON BOMBER?: News reports from Washington indicate the White House has given the Pentagon guidance to delay procurement of new aerial refuelling tankers by five years, and cancel plans for a new long-range bomber. Whilst no final decisions have been made, news reports suggest the recommendations are part of negotiations between the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Defense Department over possible budget trade-offs this year. The guidance represents two of the offset options that OMB gave the Pentagon last month regarding the fiscal 2010 Defense budget

request. President Obama released limited details of his upcoming US\$533.7 billion fiscal 2010 Defense budget on 26 February, with full details expected to be released in April.

EADS TURNS IN STRONG FINANCIAL RESULT DESPITE DOWNTURN: EADS reports it has achieved satisfying results for the full year 2008, delivering an earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) of €2.8 billion. The Group is said to have benefited from strong underlying performance and foreign currency effects, while moving to deal with challenges in critical programs, such as the A400M. Further, EADS' order book achieved a new record of more than €400 billion, while Net Cash reached an unprecedented level of € 9.2 billion, thanks to better than expected Free Cash Flow generation. The Group also achieved high levels of deliveries in 2008: Airbus handed over 483 aircraft to customers – more than ever before – and assisted by Eurocopter achieving a new delivery record of 588 helicopters. Good order intake in the defence businesses – especially for MRTT tankers – is said to have led to a stable defence order book of around €55 billion, providing the basis for a more balanced business in the years to come. The Group's space and defence businesses are also said to have continued to grow profitability demonstrating the robust competitive position they have achieved through innovation and efficiency measures.

LOOKING FOR DEFENCE CONTRACTING ADVICE AT AVALON 2009?: Dr Karen McDowell, the principal of K F McDowell & Associates – and well-known defence-industry/aerospace and maritime lawyer – is making herself available from the ADBR/Australian Aviation stand (2C25, Hall B) during the trade show week to discuss Defence contracting issues with exhibitors. As a special service for the Pacific 2008 maritime show, exhibitors replying to this notification by 31 March will be able access Dr McDowell's advice on defence contracting for an initial half hour without charge. Call Karen's mobile direct - 0408-222860 – or email kfm@iprimus.com.au to arrange a meeting.

Thursday, 12 March 2009

BAE SYSTEMS COMMITS TO NOWRA FOR 'SEAHAWK' SUPPORT CONTRACT: BAE Systems (BAES) is planning to establish a world class aviation maintenance facility in Nowra (NSW), if it secures the contract to support the Royal Australian Navy's S-70B-2 'Seahawk' helicopter fleet. The company's managing director, Jim McDowell, says the deeper maintenance facility at the Albatross Aviation Technology Park – to be known as the Navy Helicopter Support Centre – will incorporate the previous project Sea 1411 'Seasprite' facility, and a purpose built maintenance facility. Together with partners Raytheon Australia, Rosebank Engineering, Asia Pacific Aerospace and Air Affairs, BAES is leading a defence helicopter industry alliance, known as the 'Seahawk' Support Team. McDowell adds, "The release of the RFT for an initial period of seven years, and lifting a restriction that mandated government furnished facilities at HMAS Albatross has allowed the Team to offer the Navy a much improved industry support model for the Seahawk helicopter."

JLTV LAND 121 COMMITMENT REALLY SACRIFICING AUSTRALIAN JOBS? The Shadow Minister for Defence, Bob Baldwin MP, has expressed serious concern at news the Government has invested \$40 million in the American Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) program. The Government is said to be funding nine prototypes, which may ultimately move onto a purchase of vehicles under phase 4 of project Land 121. Baldwin asks, "Why would the Government not back the (local) development of a lighter variant for the program? ... The Minister for Defence must explain to the Australian people why this Government is risking nearly 400 Australian jobs by backing an American prototype vehicle to the tune of \$40 million." The JLTV is being designed principally to replace the US' extensive fleet of 'Humvee' vehicles.

DMO PRESENTATION ON JP 2048 AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS: Phillip Brown, manager of the DMO's Amphibious Deployment & Sustainment project will present today at Avalon a progress report on planning for support of the ships in-service, and in identifying the business opportunities this will provide for local industry. The two land ships/helicopter and dock, are to be delivered in 2014 and 2015, with initial in-service support contracts to be in place before then. The presentation is aimed at small to medium companies wishing to explore business opportunities in Defence or expand their current involvement, and will run from 1.45pm to 3.30pm in External Conference Room 1.

MBDA SHOWCASES 'MARTE' MK2 ANTI-SHIP MISSILE SYSTEM: MBDA Missile Systems is showcasing its latest generation 'Marte' Mk2 medium-range, lightweight anti-ship missile system at the 2009 Avalon Air Show. The 'Marte' Mk2/S is a helicopter-launched missile, designed and developed for the Italian Navy to provide medium-heavy weight helicopters with a stand-off anti-ship capability. It weighs 324kg (90kg less than the Kongsberg 'Penguin' missile on the cancelled project Sea 1411 'Seasprite' helicopters), and has a range in excess of 30km. It is already fully integrated on the NH90 NATO Frigate Helicopter (NFH), a lead contender for the RAN's 'Seahawk' helicopter replacement under phase 8 of project Air 9000. Enhanced versions of the 'Marte' Mk2 are in service with Italian Navy SH-3D helicopters. The scrapping of the 'Seasprite' helicopter program has focused attention on the eventual replacement of the Navy's remaining 'Seahawks' from 2015, to be progressed through project Air 9000 Phase 8. MBDA's Italian Business Coordination Director, Stefano Chiatti, says the missile's ready compatibility with the MRH90, and NFH aircraft, means integrating the new weapon would be far less risky and expensive. Up against the NFH/Marte combination is Sikorsky, offering its MH-60 'Romeo' helicopter coupled with the 'Hellfire' missile.

AEROSONDE MARK 4.7 UAV UNVEILED AT AVALON: Textron Systems-owned AAI Corporation has unveiled the Mark 4.7, the newest addition to its family of 'Aerosonde' small unmanned aircraft systems (SUAS), at the 2009 Australian International Air Show. The aircraft is said to have successfully completed test flights at the Yuma Proving Grounds (in Arizona), during February. The Mark 4.7's design is said to leverage the current trend toward miniaturisation of sensor technology, and carries a multi-sensor payload combining high-fidelity electro-optic, infrared and laser range finder/pointer capabilities, as well as a common data link. The aircraft also builds upon the proven features of the 'Aerosonde' Mark 4.4 by using the same power plant and avionics, while incorporating a larger wing and fuselage that enable the system to conduct endurance missions in excess of 12 hours. The Mark 4.7 is compatible with AAI's Expeditionary Ground Control Station for fast, easy setup and launch, as well as with AAI's NATO standardisation agreement 4586-compliant 'One System' Ground Control Station. In addition, the system deploys a newly integrated launch and recovery system for space-constrained field and shipboard operations.

F-35 TRAINING CENTRE TO OPEN LATER THIS YEAR: Lockheed Martin Corporation is to stand-up its Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Centre at 'Eglin' Air Force Base (Florida) late this northern hemisphere fall, with full activation in Spring 2010 upon arrival of the first two low rate initial production (LRIP 1) Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) aircraft. The Director of Flight Solutions for Lockheed Martin, John Quelly says many of the new pilots who will be flying the F-35 are currently attending college, and many of those who will maintain the fifth generation fighter are currently in high school. The new training regime is a blended solution that flows across all three variants of the aircraft – a key in maintaining affordability while providing flexibility for partner nations. Australia and other international partners can purchase any of the training elements to meet their sovereign nation requirements. Lockheed Martin will use sovereign nation contractors in country to run, operate and maintain the training centres.

REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRES PUSH F-35 AFFORDABILITY: Quelly says pilot and maintainer training has traditionally been stove piped, but the Integrated Training Centre was designed for use by both groups. The training syllabus consists of initial qualification, transition syllabus, refresher syllabus and continuation training. Students do not need to sit in a high fidelity simulator - they can take the courseware and even the throttle home with them to familiarise themselves with it. The F-35 Integrated Training Centre comprises pilot simulators, full mission simulators, a deployable mission rehearsal trainer (DMRT), a mission rehearsal trainer (MRT), an aircraft systems maintenance trainer, an ejection system maintenance trainer, and a weapons loading trainer. Service specific training is also possible. Australia can purchase any of the training elements to meet its national requirements. The centre is authorised to initially undertake pilot training for 59 Joint Strike Fighters, which will later increase to 120. Quelly says the Australian footprint is yet to be determined.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT TRAINING PROGRAMS DELIVERING VALUE TO CUSTOMERS: Lockheed Martin International Flight Training Programs in Singapore and the UK are said to be delivering value to their customers and validating that integrated training systems coupled with private public initiatives (PPIs) can play a vital role in military flight training. Many countries are looking to upgrade or replace their aging training aircraft, while preparing for the fifth generation fighters that will be delivered during the next decade. Peter Coker, business development director at Lockheed Martin Simulation, Training & Support says the success of the Republic of Singapore 'Basic Wings' course - which graduated its first student in February – "is evidence that the concept of 'turnkey training' works. 'It is a holistic approach which focuses on the individual student using a cost-effective public-private initiative that maintains the service ethos, an important element of military flight training."

LONG-TERM INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES FROM JSF PROGRAM: Bob Price, F-35 program manager for Australia believes that Australian companies have the potential to benefit from long-term business opportunities worth billions of dollars as the Joint Strike Fighter transitions into full-rate production. Further, these opportunities will endure throughout the life of the F-35 program. Several Australian companies, including Marand Precision Engineering and Lovitt Technologies have already been awarded contracts. Since 2003 Lockheed Martin has been developing an Industrial Participation (IP) plan that enables Australia to benefit not only from the aircraft it purchases for its own fleet, but also from the F35s sold worldwide. "These kinds of opportunities represent a unique and important entry into advanced manufacturing for Australian companies. Never before has there been a chance to provide components, services and systems to a fleet that is expected to grow more than 3,000 aircraft," Price said.

BAE SYSTEMS SHOWCASES SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER PZH 2000: Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) and through life support partner BAE Systems Australia are featuring at the Avalon Air Show the Panzerhaubitze 2000 (PzH 2000) Self-Propelled Howitzer (SPH), and its suitability for the project Land 17 Artillery Replacement Program. BAE Systems Australia's Managing Director, Jim McDowell, says the PzH 2000 is an attractive option for the Department of Defence because it offers considerably lower procurement risk. Other key features include: delivery of five rounds in less than two seconds on a single target (Multiple Rounds Simultaneous Impact capability); combat load of 60 rounds, with rapid resupply (60 rounds in less than 12 minutes), and ability to fire all types of NATO approved ammunition; full 360 degree target engagement at all ranges from a stationary PzH 2000; proven 30 kilometres combat range for standard 155mm HE projectiles and up to 56 kilometres with boosted munitions; no need for a specialised armoured resupply vehicle; proven deployability and US certification for strategic lift in C17 aircraft; high automation levels mean reduced crew numbers (only two are required for static firing missions); and unmatched safety features, with charges stored

in a protected compartment separate from the crew space and the gun crew contained within a safety cage in the turret to prevent injury during firing.

FULL AIR AND MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM CAPABILITIES ON DISPLAY: Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd is displaying at the Avalon Air Show its complete air and missile defence system of systems solution. Rafael's system of systems (R-SOS) is a layered concept, composed of two separate double-tiered solutions that tackle two different types of threats. The Iron Dome will be used for missile defence against short range artillery rockets, and David's Sling - produced and developed together with Raytheon - will be used against medium and long range rockets, short range ballistic missiles and cruise missiles. Both systems are in the testing phase of development and have been chosen by the Israeli Ministry of Defense for Israel's critical air defence missions. Rafael's other double-tiered solution is the 'Spyder' Air Defense System, comprising a -SR slant-launched SHORAD system, and a -MR vertical-launched medium range system which are designed to protect against attack aircraft, combat helicopters, bombers, UAVs and UCAVs and stand off weapons. Both systems use Rafael's Derby, air-to-air active radar, beyond visual range (BVR) missile and Python 5, air-to-air dual band imaging infrared (IIR) missile.

QANTAS OVERLOOKED IN NEW ERA FOR C-130J THROUGH LIFE SUPPORT: The Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) has contracted Australian Aerospace and sub-contractor Lockheed Martin to provide Through Life Support services for the RAAF fleet of C-130J Hercules aircraft. DMO's Head of Aerospace Division, Air Vice-Marshal, Colin Thorne said the Through Life Support Contract, was valued at \$292 million. The five-year performance based contract links annual contract extensions to contractor performance and cost reduction, thereby promoting efficiency and delivering real cost savings. Subject to contractor performance, support of C-130J aircraft will continue under this contracting strategy until the fleet's planned withdrawal date. Over 80 additional industry jobs will be created in the Sydney/Richmond area over the next twelve months.

SENTIENT AWARDED KESTREL UAV VISON CONTRACT: Defence Science & Personnel Minister Snowdon has confirmed at the Avalon Air Show the awarding of a \$3 million contract to Sentient Vision Systems to further develop the 'Kestrel' UAV Vision System, which currently produces ground target indication outputs in high resolution imagery, with up to 5 MegaPixels of imagery being processed on-board each UAV in real-time. Snowdon says the new contract will see the technology enhanced to include ground change detection on successive overflights, along with air-to-air sense and avoid capabilities. Existing maritime target indication prototype outputs will also be upgraded to operate in higher sea states.

COMMON GROUND CONTROL STATION FOR 'FALCO' UAS: Finmeccanica-owned SELEX Galileo says its 14-18 hour duration 'Falco' tactical unmanned aerial system is to be supported via a new NATO compliant, Common Ground Control Station (CGCS), currently in pre-production at the company's site in Basildon, UK. The new CGCS is to be fully compliant with NATO's STANAG 4586 guidelines, and related standards for imagery, and command & control. The CGCS is based on a common operating architecture and designed for maximum flexibility and speed of operation with the addition of 'plug-in' exploitation modules to ensure that the CGCS can be easily updated to suit changing requirements, and to allow for quick upgrades with the immersion of new technology.

DMO & BOEING USA SIGN THE INDUSTRY CAPABILITY DEED: The Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) signed a revised Australian Industry Capability (AIC) Deed with Boeing USA. DMO's Head of Industry Division, Mr Kerry Clarke says the revised AIC Deed does not change the present arrangements, but establishes a head of agreement which enables other Australian Defence Force (ADF) projects engaging with Boeing to extend and build on the original AIC initiative. In addition, the AIC Deed is said to provide selected training and mentoring to Australian companies to enable them to be more globally competitive. In establishing the Deed, Boeing indicated it is seeking to display its strong commitment to Australia by becoming the first US prime contractor to actively open up access to its global supply chain for Australian suppliers who have the required capability, capacity, standards and value for money.

OPERATIONAL FLIGHT TRAINER FOR 'WEDGETAIL' AEW&C PROGRAM: Boeing has delivered an operational flight trainer (OFT) to Australia for the project 5077 'Wedgetail' airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) program. The AEW&C hosting aircraft is a derivative of the commercial 737-700, with the OFT based on next-generation 737 simulator platforms. The motion-based flight simulator was designed, built and installed by Thales, and managed under a subcontract by Boeing Defence Australia. "Delivering the OFT is a major step forward in the program because it enables the training of RAAF pilots in anticipation of delivery of the first two 'Wedgetail' aircraft later this year," said Maureen Dougherty, Boeing vice president, AEW&C Program. Prior to delivery, the OFT passed a series of certification tests and was awarded zero flight time status, the highest level of accreditation under Australian standards. This accreditation allows experienced pilots to train using this type of simulator instead of an actual aircraft. The simulator was installed at the Wedgetail AEW&C Support Centre at RAAF Base 'Williamstown'.

ENGINE SUPPORT CONTRACT SIGNED WITH AUSTRALIAN AEROSPACE: Rolls-Royce Turbomeca (RRTM) and Australian Aerospace have signed an agreement to provide Through-Life Support (TLS) for the Australian Army's new fleet of MRH90 Helicopters. Under the contract, RRTM will provide technical, logistics and supply support services for the RTM322-01/9 engine installed on the MRH90 helicopter. In-country support will be provided by Turbomeca Australasia. The contract will run for five years with a follow-on option of a further five

years, and is one of several key sub-contracts to be awarded by Australian Aerospace, the prime contractor for the MRH90 programme, in the establishment of a comprehensive TLS arrangement for the Australian helicopter fleet. The Australian Department of Defence selected the Rolls-Royce Turbomeca RTM322 to power the initial batch of 12 MRH90 multi-role helicopters in 2005 and placed a follow-on order to power an additional 34 helicopters in 2007.

QINETIQ GOES GREEN ON MILITARY VEHICLE PROPULSION: QinetiQ (teamed with BAE Systems and Provector Ltd) has started work on a £3.5m contract to investigate how the generation and distribution of electrical power on defence vehicles can be improved by using 610 Volt technologies, against a background of ever increasing demands for electrical power. The program runs through to the end of 2009, and aims to demonstrate improved electrical power capability in Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs). Awarded by the Ministry of Defence's Future Business Group, the subject technology demonstration programme will see the existing 28 Volt system up-rated in a demonstrator 'Warrior' 2000 AFV, to a system that can generate and safely distribute electrical power at 610 Volts for high demand loads, yet still deliver 28 Volt supplies to existing equipment.

SUN MICROSYSTEMS SHOWCASES MULTI-LEVEL COP AT AVALON: Based on the same technology that is used by the US Air Force Research Labs (AFRL) to deliver a multi-level desktop to the US Department of Defense's IIS community, Sun is showcasing a multi-level common operating picture built on Solaris 10TX. Using a multi-level mashup to combine multiple operational pictures into a single common operating picture, the Bluespace multi-level C2 provides a different view to each user based on their logical access rights, while simultaneously integrating military messaging and chat from different domains. Solaris 10TX has EAL4+ with Labelled Security Protection Profile (LSPP) certification, which demonstrates the capacity of the multi-level server to connect to different classification networks without allowing unauthorised data transfer between the networks. The Sun ultra-thin client ensures that no residual data resides on the desktop, eliminating the risk of unauthorised access to previously viewed data on the desktop. Sun Microsystems are located on the Defence SA stand in Hall C.

'SUPER HORNET' TO BE OFFERED TO GREECE FOR NEXT-GEN FIGHTER: Boeing is to promote the Block 2 F/A-18E/F 'Super Hornet' fighter to Greece as the next-generation fighter for the Hellenic Republic Air Force. The aircraft is the first operationally deployed strike fighter to incorporate next-generation capabilities, such as the Raytheon APG-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar integrated with advanced electronic-warfare systems. Boeing says it has now delivered more than 380 Super Hornets to the US Navy, all on or ahead of original production schedule, and is in discussions with several other international customers about their interest in procuring the Super Hornet. Australia is procuring 24 Super Hornets to bolster its fleet of F/A-18 Hornets via project Air 5349.

UAV VISION LAUNCHES CM160 MULTI-SENSOR GIMBAL FOR UAV INDUSTRY: Sydney-based UAV Vision, a manufacturer of gyro-stabilised camera systems for the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) industry and small aircraft, has publicly released their new CM160 multi-sensor gimbal at the 2009 Avalon Air Show. The CM160 is currently being flown on the 'Cyber Eye II' observation platform, on display at the company's stand (3A-35 in Hall C). The UK firm 'The GPS Store' has already used the CM160 system for pipeline surveillance. UAV Vision says most similar systems have traditionally been developed and exported from the US and Israel, but the CM160 is fully designed and manufactured in Australia, and is now exporting to the US and Israel. The company's family of stabilised electro optic (EO) systems range in weight from 1kg (for UAVs) to 26kg (for the Jet Ranger helicopter, for instance). UAV Vision says its main advantage is its delivery times: while other manufacturers take up to six months, UAV Vision takes just one month. The CM160 payload can be controlled via a RS232 protocol (38400Baud) that has been implemented by UAV navigation and MicroPilot to operate seamlessly with their Autopilots.

Friday, 13 March 2009

AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS IN-SERVICE SUPPORT STRATEGY ALMOST COMPLETE: DMO Amphibious Deployment and Sustainment Program Manager, Phillip Brown, has told a 2009 Avalon Air Show briefing that the in-service support strategy for the RAN's new Joint Project 2048 amphibious ships (LHDs) is progressively being developed through 2009, with a sustainment strategy to be ready by the middle of the year. A 'whole of ship' design review is also to be completed by July. Brown says LHD engineering and maintenance support will be sought via 'organic' programs run by the Navy, as well as 'external' programs to be mainly run by industry. In shaping support requirements, Brown says "We are not locked into military standards, as in the past. Defence is exploring systems synergies with other defence assets to save costs and raise efficiencies, based on a four pillar support philosophy: materiel support with integrated personnel teams; maintenance in class; obsolescence management through continuous upgrades; and availability through continuous external maintenance." Tenders for in-service support will be issued in 2011.

THALES CONFIRMS 'HERMES' 450 TUAV DERIVATIVE OFFERING FOR JP 129: Outlining potential offerings for the re-tender of Joint Project 129 amid alleged pressing needs for Defence to field a new tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (TUAS) capability in Afghanistan by end-2009, Thales officials have advised media at the 2009 Avalon Air Show that a derivative of its 'Hermes' 450 TUAS will be offered to the ADF in light of its

growth path UK 'Watchkeeper' UAS not being fully matured until 2010. The 'Hermes' 450 is currently in operation with the Israeli Defense Forces and UK Forces. Thales also has an air vehicle ground control system on display at Avalon, which has been fitted inside a 'Bushmaster' infantry mobility vehicle. Thales currently provides an intelligence, surveillance, targeting and reconnaissance (ISTAR) by-the hour service to UK forces with the 'Hermes' 450, via its joint venture with Israeli-based Elbit.

FIRMS LINE UP TO BID FOR PHASE 1 OF PROJECT AIR 5431: ITT is showcasing at Avalon its latest air traffic control (ATC) and tactical air surveillance radar solutions being pitched for the \$50-60m phase 1 of project Air 5431, anticipated to be awarded in 2010. The project seeks to replace the capability currently provided by Alenia radars integrated into the Australian Defence Air Traffic System (ADATS). No 44 Wing at RAAF Base 'Williamstown' uses Alenia radars to provide ATC radar services at RAAF Bases 'Tindal' and 'East Sale', and Army Aviation at 'Oakey' (Qld). The new Air 5431 capability will need to integrate with current ATC and air defence systems, including projects Air 5186 (ADATS), Air 5333 (Vigilare) and Air 5375 (Tactical Air Defence Radars). The solution will also need to integrate with the national Air Traffic Management System. Companies have already submitted an RFI for two sub-system elements: one for fixed radars at bases, the other for the replacement of all tactical radars deployed in theatre.

ITT SOLUTION FOR DEFENCE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL: In response to the project Air 5431/1 requirement, ITT has offered its TASR 2020 next generation Terminal Airport Surveillance Radar that provides dual use Air Traffic Control capabilities for civil and military aircraft, as well as Defense Surveillance (DS) gap-filler capabilities. ITT's current precision approach radar technology is being developed with add-on capability to eventually turn the products into Automatic Dependant Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) units, as previously developed for the US Federal Aviation Authority. ITT told DIAR.com it was the first company to implement true ADS-B capabilities in ATC radars. ITT is also offering its GCA-2000/AN/ MPN-25 radar (currently used by US Forces in Afghanistan) as part of the Air 5431 phase 1 solution to address fixed, transportable and mobile configurations.

BOEING 'SUPER HORNET' PROGRAM COMPLETES IRST TESTS: Boeing's F/A-18E/F 'Super Hornet' Infrared Search and Track (IRST) initiative has successfully completed a series of risk-reduction flight tests that have demonstrated the compatibility and effectiveness of the IRST system on the strike fighter. IRST is a passive, long-range sensor system that searches for and detects IR emissions within its field of view. It can track several targets simultaneously and provide an effective air-to-air targeting capability, even when facing advanced threats equipped with radar-jamming technology. Chris Wedewer, F/A-18E/F IRST program manager for Boeing, says the flight tests allow for low-risk entry into the development phase of the program. He says "Boeing and Lockheed Martin successfully demonstrated transfer alignment, long-range target detection, and the ability to operate in a fuel tank. Boeing also demonstrated integration of the IRST into the F/A-18E/F's multi-source integration algorithms, allowing for the fusion of IRST tracking data with data from other sensors." Boeing is currently offering IRST to the RAAF as an upgrade capability for the 24 Super Hornets being delivered under project Air 5349.

MARAND RECEIVES LOCKHEED MARTIN SUPPLIER EXCELLENCE AWARD: Lockheed Martin Executive Vice President & General Manager, Joint Strike Fighter Program, Tom Burbage, has reinforced his company's commitment to Australian aerospace supplier Marand Precision Engineering during the 2009 Avalon Air Show. At a presentation on Wednesday, Burbage formally acknowledged the work and capabilities of Marand by presenting the company's general manager, Rohan Stocker, with the Lockheed Martin Award for Supplier Excellence. Burbage said it was Marand's determination to complete and exceed Lockheed Martin's schedules that impressed the company so much. LM initially had given Marand nine months to provide 123 tools for the program, then later asked the Australian company to shave a total of four months off the schedule. To date, Marand has duly shipped 320 tools to Lockheed Martin, as well as the JSF Engine Installation and Removal Trailers.

ADF RESERVISTS STRETCH SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYERS: Thirty employers from South Australia have spent a few days at RAAF Base 'Edinburgh' this week discovering the benefits of Reserve service. They have been participating in Exercise 'Executive Stretch' (EES), which gives business executives the opportunity to observe and experience the personal, technical and professional skills training their employees receive during Defence Reserves service. The Head of the Reserve & Employer Support Division, Major General Greg Melick, says EES provides employers with an opportunity to directly experience some of the leadership and management skills that a Reservist can bring to the civilian workplace. The scheme provides up to A\$1,123.30 per week to qualified employers who release their employees for Reserve service.

DB SCHENKER WINS AEROSPACE LOGISTICS COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARD: At the Frost & Sullivan (F&S) Asia Pacific Aerospace and Defence Awards, held last week in Singapore, the efforts of DB Schenker were recognised via its confirmation of the Asia Pacific Aerospace Logistics Company of the Year award. The award follows DB Schenker's achievement, at the beginning of 2009, of becoming the first third Party Logistics Service Provider in the Asia Pacific to be AS9120 certified, in regard to its comprehensive quality management system that meets the stringent requirements and global standards adopted by the aerospace industry. DB Schenker has more than 15 years of specialised expertise in the aerospace industry, in managing regional distribution centres for leading aircraft manufacturers, Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) and Original Equipment

Manufacturers (OEMs). In 2007, Boeing located its Integrated Material Management Asia Regional Centre at DB Schenker's Singapore Megahub at the Airport Logistics Park of Singapore.

AUSTRALIAN ADVISER NEEDED IN AFGHANISTAN: Shadow Defence Minister, David Johnston, has backed calls from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) for Australia to provide an adviser to contribute to a wider strategy of rebuilding a stable Afghanistan. Johnston says the Rudd Government was asked three months ago for a high-level adviser to be placed in southern Afghanistan - to work with NATO countries in the region - but the request has gone unanswered. He notes that when Joel Fitzgibbon became Defence Minister in 2007, "he was adamant that NATO and its allied forces must overhaul both military and civilian programs aimed at fostering stability in Afghanistan, but he hasn't backed up his rhetoric with action." He added that if Australia continued to lecture its allies involved in Afghanistan while at the same time "sitting on our hands in limbo, our standing and credibility will be lowered on the global stage". Of the contributing partners in Afghanistan, the US, Britain, Canada and the Netherlands have all provided advisers for this role, however Australia has not. Prime Minister Rudd will meet President Obama on 24 March to discuss what additional force elements and related stabilisation and construction assets might be needed to help resource Coalition 'surge' efforts in Afghanistan.

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW 2009 - STAND AWARDS: The organizers of the 2009 Australian International Air Show have announced the winners of the 2009 defence trade expo stand awards. The Chairman's Award has gone to EADS, and the USA Pavilion. The best custom stand, 72sqm and over, has been awarded to Aviall. The best custom stand under 72sqm has been awarded to Rolls Royce, while Plasan was voted as having the best land system display. The best single wall stand has been awarded to Platypus Outdoor Group. Cyber Technology was considered to have the best multiple-wall stand. The best group stand was awarded to the State of Victoria.

CDM WINS ICT SUBCONTRACT FOR NAVY'S NEW AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS: Communications Design & Management (CDM) has confirmed its award earlier in the month of a competitively-bid contract by L-3 Communication Systems-East (L-3) - a division of L-3 Communications - to design and commission the IT Networks, CCTV System, PABX, Entertainment & Training, and Ships Time Systems for the Royal Australian Navy's two Canberra-Class Landing ships Helicopter & Dock (LHDs), being built at Ferrol (in Spain) under Joint Project 2048. L-3 Communications is a major supplier to BAE Systems which is the prime contractor for Phase 4A/B of JP 2048. Under the contract, CDM will design and deliver to L-3 various information technology based sub-systems to be integrated into L-3's communication's system for the two LHDs.

DSTO ADVISORY BOARD HOLDS ITS FIRST MEETING: The first meeting of the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) Advisory Board has been held in Canberra. The Board was established by the Australian Government to assist the DSTO maintain and enhance Australia's Defence Force capability into the future. Defence Science & Personnel Minister, Warren Snowdon, says he's confident the Board will provide invaluable strategic thinking about defence research, in accordance with the forthcoming Defence White Paper. Snowdon says the Board will strengthen the quality and diversity of defence science and technology counsel offered to the newly appointed Chief Defence Scientist, Professor Bob Clark, as well as to himself. It will also advise on the balance between short-term research to address immediate needs, and long-range research to anticipate future requirements, and reinforce the governance of DSTO's operations, introducing a greater degree of transparency." The DSTO Advisory Board will be chaired by Dr Allan Hawke, former Chancellor of the Australian National University, and a former Secretary of the Department of Defence. The Board has been appointed for an initial period of two years.

ELBIT SYSTEMS REPORTS RECORD FOURTH QUARTER 2008 RESULTS: Elbit Systems has reported its consolidated results for the fourth quarter, and full year ended 31 December 2008. Consolidated revenues for the fourth quarter increased by 18.1% to US\$697.9 million (from \$591.1 m in the fourth quarter of 2007. Gross profit for the fourth quarter of 2008 increased by 30.2% to \$203.4m (29.1% of revenues), as compared with gross profit of \$156.2m (26.4% of revenues) in the fourth quarter of 2007. Operating income for the fourth quarter of 2008 increased 62.7% to \$62.2m (8.9% of revenues), as compared with operating income of \$38.2m (6.5% of revenues) in the fourth quarter of 2007. During the fourth quarter the Company had a \$1 million of intellectual property-related R&D expense due to the acquisition of Innovative Concepts, a wireless communications technology firm in the US. The company also purchased Mediguide Inc (from St Jude Medical) during the fourth quarter.

GOODRICH AUSTRALIA DELIVERS JSF CV LANDING GEAR COMPONENTS: Goodrich Corporation's Customer Services facility in Sydney has delivered its first production landing gear components for the carrier variant (F-35C) of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF). The components, including landing gear downlock and retract actuators, were assembled and tested in Sydney before being shipped to Goodrich's Cleveland (Ohio) Landing Gear facility for installation. The Goodrich team in Sydney sources most of the components for the F-35's landing gear actuation system through its Australian supply chain, with Rosebank Engineering in Victoria as the primary machining and processing supplier. Other key suppliers in Australia include Queensland-based Heat Treatment Australia, and South Australian-based Levett Engineering. The Goodrich facility in Sydney also produces actuators for the F-35's weapons bay door drive system.

LM PARTNERSHIPS ENHANCE MILITARY AIRCRAFT READINESS: Chris Antone, vice president, Global Sustainment Business Development for Lockheed Martin (LM) Aeronautics, has commented at the 2009 Avalon Air Show on the increased need for contractor partnerships to enhance military aircraft readiness in a changing operational landscape. Antone said "LM Global Sustainment is the component of our company that helps our customers remain combat ready ... (they) can depend on us to provide the expertise to maintain sortie generation rates - allowing them to accomplish their missions." Antone added that the company's partnerships in sustainment provide military customers with enterprise support solutions to meet the numerous challenges faced through increasing operational deployments, tightening budgets and aging weapons systems. He said LM embraces the performance-based logistics (PBL) concept and has a number of award-winning examples of successful partnerships that leverage the experience from post production programs.

2009 DEFENCE SALARY SURVEY SHOWS INCREASE IN PROFESSIONALS: Contract and permanent recruitment solution providers to the Department of Defence and the Aerospace industries - Kinetic Defence Services - has launched its 2009 Defence Salary Survey. The survey notes that over the past two years, there has been an increase in the number of professionals with six to fifteen years experience, whilst there has been a fall in the number of those with more than sixteen years experience. Kinetic says this effect can be attributed to mass retirements of 'baby boomers' and, with the passage of time, an increase in the years of experience held by generation 'x' and 'y' employees. To obtain a complimentary copy of the 2009 Survey, telephone Angelo on 0408 239 013.

NEW CHAIR FOR SA DEFENCE RESERVES COMMITTEE: Touring the 2009 Avalon Air Show, the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly, earlier in the week announced the appointment of the first female Chair of the South Australian Committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council (DRSC). The new appointee, Dr Pamela Schulz, is a well-respected university lecturer, and a public relations and community education professional, which Dr Kelly says "will make an outstanding contribution to the DRSC in South Australia." Dr Schulz is currently a private consultant in communication management and has qualifications in social work, communication and education. She is also a lecturer in communications at the University of South Australia's School of Communications and International Studies.

METAL STORM EXPANDS US OPERATIONS: Brisbane-based Metal Storm Limited has confirmed that Metal Storm Incorporated (MSI) has expanded its operations in the United States, with the commissioning of a remote test facility in Chantilly (Virginia), near MSI's United States office in Arlington. The expansion will enable Metal Storm to consolidate weapons testing at a single facility whereas, until now, testing has been conducted at a number of third party private ranges. As Metal Storm transitions from the laboratory to the marketplace, the company is spending an increasing amount of our time on test firing ranges. Metal Storm Limited CEO, Dr Lee Finniear, said the expansion of the US facilities was "a boost to the company's ballistics research capabilities."

F-35 PROGRAM ON VERGE OF EXPANDING INTO HIGH RATE PRODUCTION: Lockheed Martin's executive vice president for F-35 Program Integration, Tom Burbage, has told a 2009 Avalon Air Show media briefing the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program was on the verge of opening up production infrastructure to build the aeroplane at relatively high production rates. "We expect to get up to one a day within the next six years. If you look at 2014, in that year, we will be delivering aeroplanes at about 120 a year - 10 a month. Today we are delivering one a month. Between now and then we have to bring our industrial infrastructure alive to handle these very high production rates." All System Development and Demonstration (SDD) aircraft and the first six low rate initial production (LRIP) aircraft are already in assembly.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR JSF PROGRAM STRONG: Also attending Avalon 2009 this week was US Marine Corps Major General (select) David Heinz, JSF Deputy Program Executive Officer, who becomes the new F-35 program executive officer on 3 April. Heinz says all the indications he now has - in terms of support in the US for the F-35 program - are that "the support to the two services in the Congress are going to match at least the expectations of the budget from the previous administration. I believe the support from both services involved and the administration is strong". Heinz stressed it was important for the program to continue to focus on affordability and interoperability "in the kind of [economic] environment we are going into in the future." Tom Burbage also added, "we have the military services' commitment to procure the aircraft in large quantities, and that is important to keeping the cost down and the program affordable".

F-35 TEST FLIGHT PROGRAM "EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING": MajGen (select) Heinz said the largely unforeseen global economic events over the past 12 months had not changed "the premise of the promise of what JSF is supposed to deliver," in terms of the F-35 program constituting real acquisition reform. "We spent US\$5 billion at the beginning of this program not to repeat the mistakes that have been done in previous programs. Although I have the largest part of the test flight program in front of me, the indications are extremely encouraging. I am 99% complete with the design of all three aircraft. I have produced today 69% of the overall software - almost 80% of the software that's flying on this aeroplane. We have already done that. It is already stable in the laboratory." Heinz conceded this did not mean the program would not have its surprises. "But I truly believe if we look at the tools and the lab facilities we have laid in, even over the F-22 or the F-18, a processing speed that has increased by a magnitude of 64. The models that have been used for the flight-test simulation have increased a 100 fold, in terms of the number of elements. When I look at the test data and I look at the model, the match is amazing."

GAO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ARRIVES FOR F-35 PROGRAM: Turning to observations of the JSF program by the US Government Accountability Office (GAO), MajGen (select) Heinz said the GAO in the past had only ever compared the F-35 program against the performance of legacy aircraft, and not assessed the program against its own processes. "They said based on F-18 and F-22 experience, we believe it's going to take you longer to flight test the program to deliver the capability." However, said Heinz, in the most recent update by the GAO, they have, for the first time, acknowledged the program's 'world-rate' software production, and that "no other program in existence is achieving the rate of software that we are producing today. They have also acknowledged that the span time that we told them we would be able to reduce on our manufacturing line, is actually being accomplished today." The program remains on schedule to deliver the first production-model F-35s to 'Eglin' Air Force Base, in Florida, in 2010, and to meet all services' Initial Operational Capability dates starting in 2012.

BUSHFIRE VICTIMS TO ENJOY A DAY AT THE AVALON AIR SHOW: Tyabb (Victorian)-based FunFlight - a not-for-profit volunteer organisation - has arranged for 56 children affected by the recent Victorian bushfires to be flown to the 2009 Avalon Air Show this weekend for a day of thrills, paying for their entry tickets as well. The children, and some of their parents, will be flown into Avalon from the Lilydale and Mangalore airports.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR PRESS RELEASE IN THE WEEKLY DIAR.COM?: Staff from Australia's premier weekly defence e-Newsletter, DIAR.com, are relocating back to Canberra this weekend to recommence publication of the weekly Defence Industry & Aerospace Report (DIAR.com) e-Newsletter. If you would like to have your company's press releases included in each weekly edition, email them to newsroom@busicom.com.au by 5.00pm each Friday.

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