

Thursday, 3 August 2006

## SA COMPANIES ALREADY WINNING FROM AWD PROJECT

Acting Premier Kevin Foley says more than \$7 million worth of contracts have been awarded in South Australia since the beginning of the year – mostly to local companies - as a result of the Air Warfare Destroyer project.

“The economic spin-offs for local companies are already evident.

“These contracts are centred at this stage around initial works and services needed to establish the Techport Australia shipbuilding site out at Osborne.

“And of course this will grow exponentially over the next few years, as the pace of work accelerates.

“Today’s AWD Systems Centre opening, to which the State Government is contributing about \$10 million, is another clear demonstration that work is underway to get this massive defence contract off and running.

“Of the 200 “high-end” jobs created by the Systems Centre, there are already 170 on site. They include systems engineers and project managers as well as managers of the supply chain, naval architects and warship design and systems integration engineers.

**“About 70 of these Systems Centre workers have come from NSW, the ACT and WA as well as the US and the UK to settle here – and we’re very happy to welcome them and their families to South Australia.**

“The State Government is contributing in total nearly \$250 million worth of infrastructure to the AWD project and to ensure South Australia has one of the most state-the-art and efficient multi-use shipbuilding facilities in the Southern Hemisphere.

“For this Government, it’s not just about building ships, it’s about building a whole new industry for the future.

“The AWD contract alone is estimated to add at least \$250 million a year to South Australia’s economic growth when fully operational.

“Estimates also indicate that over the 10 year life of the AWD project, it will make a direct impact of \$574 million with another \$609 million in spin-off benefits.

“We’re talking about the creation of 3,000 jobs, 1,700 of them directly and another 1,300 from the flow-on effects.

“Eight months ago, we created the Port Adelaide Maritime Corporation (PAMC) to manage the operations at Techport Australia and since then, key contracts include:

- **McConnell Dowell ξ Built Environs Joint Venture** appointed as managing contractor for the planning and design phases of the CUF infrastructure program
- **Rolls Royce, Bosch Rex Roth and Schiess de Friess** short-listed to tender for the supply, installation and commissioning of the shiplift and transfer system
- **Maunsell, Colliers and Jensen Planning** appointed to develop a master plan for 500 hectares of strategic government-owned industrial land on the Le Fevre Peninsula and environs
- **Woodhead International, Rider Hunt, Wallbridge & Gilbert and Lincoln Scott** appointed to undertake conceptual planning of the Maritime Skills Centre, AWD Systems Centre and associated commercial and retail facilities
- **Connell Wagner, Coffey Geosciences and Bardavcol** appointed to assist with innovative site remediation and bulk earthworks trials, and
- **Realty Solutions** appointed to advise on commercial structures and models appropriate for industrial precinct development.

“In the meantime, we are delighted with the opening today of the Systems Centre, which will manage the design schedule, budgets and work breakdown structures of the AWD project.

“This was another big win for South Australia – given the intense competition from interstate to have it located outside of South Australia.

“We believe it was the right decision by the Federal Government to bring it to South Australia which is now the defence capital of Australia,” Mr Foley said.