

Monday, 11 January 2010

\$610,000 TO DEVELOP DEFENCE INDUSTRY LEADERS

Employment, Training and Further Education Minister, Michael O'Brien today announced a new \$610,000 project offering high level training and development for 50 future leaders in the State's defence industry.

The **Defence Industry Leadership Program** is a joint initiative under the State Government's Industry Partnership Program, in collaboration with the Defence Teaming Centre, who will manage the project.

"The 50 executives from relevant defence companies in SA will be provided with targeted and defence oriented professional development under the project," Mr O'Brien said.

"More than 11,000 people are currently directly employed in the state's defence sector. This figure is expected to grow to 15,000 within 3 years with \$1.7 billion worth of infrastructure investment currently underway to support a range of defence projects.

"This program will help to meet the priorities of the defence industry by providing participants with up-to-date current information on defence initiatives at a national and international level.

"Key industry speakers will address the 50 executives on critical Australian defence and national security issues.

"Participants will also visit defence and infrastructure facilities including power stations, power generation and distribution plants, desalination plants, oil refineries and state emergency services," Mr O'Brien said.

Other key objectives of the Defence Industry Leadership Program include:

- Design, development and implementation of a leadership program to support the defence industry to meet current and future workforce skill development and succession planning
- Mapping the leadership program against the Advanced Diploma in Management to enable participants to gain recognition within the full qualification
- Selecting 50 existing leaders to undertake the leadership program over a two-year period, with each eight month program comprising 25 participants

The State Government is providing \$250,000 towards the 2-year project, with \$360,000 coming from the defence industry.