

News Release

www.premier.sa.gov.au
twitter.com/PremierMikeRann



Premier Mike Rann

Minister for Economic Development
Minister for Social Inclusion
Minister for the Arts
Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change

COPENHAGEN Monday, 14 December 2009

BIG PITCH FOR SUBMARINES DESIGN CENTRE

The South Australian Government has launched an all-out pitch to secure for Adelaide the Design Centre for the next generation of submarines.

Mr Rann says a decision about where to locate the Centre is due to be announced by the Federal Government next year, and South Australia is keen to secure the more than 400 - 600 high-tech, high-skilled jobs it will generate over the coming years.

“I spent two days in Canberra last week in a series of meetings with Ministers, defence and naval chiefs and the Defence Materiel Organisation in a bid to push South Australia’s naval shipbuilding credentials and win this lucrative Centre.

“In the past five years, South Australia has won billions of dollars of defence contracts, but we are hoping for more.

“Over the next 20 years, the Royal Australian Navy will require 48 new vessels that, with through-life support and maintenance, is likely to cost in real terms about **\$250 billion** according to our Defence SA Advisory Board.

“That is a quarter-trillion dollar infrastructure investment, the like of which this nation has never seen before.

“Even the \$30 billion production of 12 new submarines guaranteed for Adelaide will be bigger and much more complex than the nation-building Snowy Mountains Scheme.

“South Australia is not big enough to support all of these building projects on its own – but we do intend building our naval defence industry into a long-term, continuous, stable and sustainable one.

“That’s why we are building Techport Australia at Osborne – so that we have the capability of handling a range of projects simultaneously.

“So far, we have secured more than \$44 billion of the current and future defence contracts for our State – including the three \$8 billion Air Warfare Destroyers and 12 new Hobart-class submarines worth an estimated \$30 billion.

“These new Hobart-class subs will be, by far, the largest conventional submarines ever built in the world.

“Australia has the largest marine jurisdiction in the world, so it makes a lot of sense for our nation’s future to have a fleet of first-class long-range submarines to patrol our vast waters.

“Over the next decade, the Submarine Design Centre will be charged with the massive undertaking of planning the biggest and most complex non-nuclear submarine ever built anywhere on the planet.

“Through our hard-won AWD Systems Integration Centre now based in Flexitow, our State has been amassing an impressive intellectual skills base for complex naval vessel design and weapons systems.

“We believe the Felixtow Centre would be a perfect place to locate the new Submarine Design Centre after the AWD Systems Centre relocates its facilities early next year to Techport at Osborne.

“Our bid for this Centre forms part of this Government’s vision to build on our capabilities with better infrastructure and a highly-skilled workforce and remain the defence capital of Australia,” Mr Rann said.