

Hon Leesa Vlahos MP

Acting Minister for Defence Industries

Thursday 16 March, 2017

SA unis to take advantage of new Next Generation Technologies Fund

The new national \$730 million Next Generation Technologies Fund will boost the research of South Australian universities already undertaking work in the priority areas, including space capabilities, identified by the fund.

Acting South Australian Minister for Defence Industries Leesa Vlahos has welcomed the Federal Government's NGTF announcement today and said South Australian universities were well-placed to access the funding via the recently established Defence Innovation Partnership.

Defence will work closely with Government and industry bodies across Australia, providing greater opportunities for collaboration and leverage of the substantial national investment in research and development.

Background

The 2016 Defence Industry Policy Statement identified \$730 million (over the decade to FY 2025-26) to be invested in strategic next generation technologies that have the potential to deliver game-changing Defence capabilities.

The Defence Science and Technology Group will take a lead role in conducting and integrating research in next generation technologies.

Examples of priority areas of work for the Next Generation Technologies Fund, as identified in the Integrated Investment Program, include:

- integrated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance
- space capabilities
- enhanced human performance
- medical countermeasure products
- multidisciplinary material sciences
- quantum technologies
- trusted autonomous systems
- cyber
- advanced sensors, hypersonics, and directed energy capabilities.

South Australia's Defence Innovation Partnership will connect federal and state governments, the Defence Science and Technology Group, which will contribute up to \$150,000 a year, universities, local and international defence industry.

Media Contact: Jason Gillick 0417 152 137

The new organisation is a partnership between the South Australian Government, the Defence Science and Technology Group and the three local universities; Adelaide University, Flinders University and the University of South Australia.

Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Defence Industries Leesa Vlahos

The priority research areas identified for the Next Generation Technologies Fund match well with the research expertise of South Australia's universities.

The South Australian Government has already put its support behind the generation of defence-related research and development activity for the state, having recently announced funding for the establishment of the Defence Innovation Partnership, a collaborative organisation which will facilitate new research partnerships between Defence, industry and the research sector.

The Defence Innovation Partnership will maximise South Australia's ability to benefit from future defence research, driving jobs and investment for the state.