VICTORIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

### Victoria is the home of advanced manufacturing, and world class research and development capabilities

# Proven Expertise

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Defence is a key sector of Victoria’s economy, contributing up to $8 billion annually. The state has proven expertise across the spectrum of defence capabilities: land, aerospace, maritime, weapons and munitions, digital/cyber security, and research and development. The state’s robust and responsive local supply chain network plays a vital role in building and sustaining multiple defence platforms. Victoria has a highly skilled workforce and a strong record in delivering complex defence projects for the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army, and Royal Australian Air Force.

## Maritime Systems

Victoria has world-class maritime R&D, design and engineering capabilities, and deep knowledge of naval shipbuilding, dating back to the 1940s. Through the state’s extensive shipbuilding history and leading manufacturing and scientific research capability, Victoria has the expertise and the supply chain partners to make a significant contribution   
to Australia’s naval submarine and shipbuilding programs. More than 270 Victorian companies have proven   
and forward-looking maritime capabilities, and more than 240 companies have submarine capabilities.

## Digital/Cyber Security

Victoria’s globally competitive capabilities in digital technologies, cyber security and data services make it well placed to lead on the advanced technology aspects of major defence projects. ICT and cyber expertise is fostered in Victoria, with a wide range of capabilities in cyber security, electronic surveillance and countermeasures, radar and sonar systems, communications systems and robotics. Victoria produces 36 per cent of Australia’s digital tech graduates – more   
than any other state.

The state is building the largest cyber security cluster in Australia which has seen the establishment of the Oceania Cyber Security Centre and the CSIRO’s Data61 Cyber Security and Innovation Hub at Melbourne’s Docklands.

## Land Systems

Victoria has a proven record in the delivery and support of land equipment, products, systems and services to the Australian Defence Force, as well as substantial engineering and research and development capabilities. More than 300 businesses are involved in land defence systems in Victoria, including manufacture of protected vehicles, combat systems, munitions and defence apparel.

## Aerospace Systems

Victoria’s innovative world-class aerospace design and manufacturing capabilities make a significant contribution to Australia’s military aerospace industry. Around 240 aerospace companies supply the Australian and global defence industry. Victorian companies have been awarded 64% by value of all Australian contracts for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter project – the most of any state. Success in projects like this demonstrates the ability of Victorian-based companies to deliver leading-edge military technology into global supply chains. Victoria is also home to significant capability in Unmanned Aerial Systems.

## R&D

Victoria has one of the largest R&D clusters in the southern hemisphere and produces commercially focussed and   
ground-breaking research. Defence technology research is undertaken by Victoria’s tertiary institutions, often in collaboration with the Department of Defence, industry and other national and international institutions. Victoria receives approximately 28 per cent ($2.8 billion) of national university R&D spend and approximately 32 per cent ($19.5 million) of national university defence R&D spend. The Defence Science Institute, the Defence Science and Technology Group, the Defence Materials Technology Centre, the Australian Manufacturing and Materials precinct, and IBM’s Global R&D Laboratory all have facilities in Melbourne.

## Space

Around one-in-five Australian space-related science and technology companies are based in Victoria. Several of the state’s universities have space related research and development capabilities that are world class. The Victoria Space Sciences Education Centre is a world leader in providing STEM learning using space as the catalyst to engage an enthral young students. Some of the world’s biggest names in aerospace – including Lockheed Martin, Thales, Boeing and BAE Systems – carry out aerospace research, development and manufacturing activity in Victoria. In addition, many Victorian SMEs have specialised space-related capability in research, design, engineering and manufacturing.

## Working together with industry

The Victorian Government’s vision is for an innovative, globally competitive, highly skilled and adaptive defence industry that maintains its position at the leading edge of providers serving the Australian Defence Force and global supply chains. With proven expertise in delivering complex defence projects and recognised globally for innovation and world class defence industry capabilities, Victoria can make an important contribution to Australia’s future defence needs.

The Victorian Government actively liaises with the Commonwealth Department of Defence and defence industry to identify and ensure that Victoria’s defence industry can capitalise on future opportunities, including in domestic and international defence programs.

### Victoria’s defence sector is an important part of the state’s economy, contributing up to$8 billion annually. The sector employs approximately 20,000 people in industry and the Australian Defence Organisation, and has more than 400 businesses which make equipment and provide services for defence activities.

## Further information

#### Defence, Aerospace & Security Sector

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#### **Victorian Defence Alliances**

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