



Anthony Roberts
Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy

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DEFENCE OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND IN ILLAWARRA

Several businesses based in the Illawarra will attend Land Forces 2016 - Australia's prime defence expo in Adelaide in September, Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, Anthony Roberts, announced today during a visit to the NSW node of the Defence Materials Technology Centre at the University of Wollongong.

Mr Roberts said Wollongong and the broader Illawarra/Shoalhaven region is in a strong position to benefit from increased defence spending announced by the Commonwealth Government earlier this year.

"The time is ripe for more businesses to get on board and benefit from the wealth of opportunities available from Defence over the next decade.

"Wollongong has a well-developed and sophisticated innovation ecosystem that ensures it is at the cutting edge of applied research and industry collaboration and this is essential in servicing the defence industry.

"As a traditional steel manufacturing hub, the Illawarra has a track record in converting technical know-how into defence capability which protects our defence force service personnel.

"For example, the region developed and manufactured the armoured steel for the Collins-class submarines, Adelaide-class frigates, Hobart-class Air Warfare Destroyers and Australian Army Bushmasters.

"Wollongong's strategic location just over an hour's drive south of Sydney, and with easy access to the Port Kembla international trade hub, combined with a skilled, stable workforce and strong connections to the University of Wollongong and TAFE NSW, makes Wollongong a strong contender for defence sector contracts and I encourage local businesses to explore the opportunities," he said.

Local businesses attending Land Forces 2016 with the NSW Government include:

- South Nowra based Global Defence Solutions;
- Phoenix Australasia, ship repairs and maintenance specialists in Unanderra;
- Advantage Wollongong, a collaboration between the NSW Department of Industry, Wollongong City Council and the University of Wollongong to promote Wollongong as a centre for business and innovation.

For more information on Land Forces 2016 visit: www.industry.nsw.gov.au