

SAGE's \$2.8m navy deal

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BIG BUILD: SAGE Automation chief executive Adrian Fahey at their Melrose Park manufacturing plant. Picture: MATT TURNER

TONSLEY manufacturing and software company SAGE Automation has secured a \$2.8 million contract to manufacture and supply control systems for two ships under construction for the Royal Australian Navy.

The integrated platform management systems (IPMS), which are considered the nerve-centre of naval control systems, will be installed in the naval supply ships being built in Spain by Navantia under a \$640 million Federal Government contract.

The project is the third to be secured by the Navantia-SAGE Automation joint venture established last July.

The IPMS panels will be manufactured and tested in SAGE Automation's manufacturing centre of excellence in Adelaide and exported to Ferrol, Spain

The joint venture (NSAG) will provide platform support under a five-year contract.

SAGE Automation chief executive Adrian Fahey said the partnership with Navantia had been a "catalyst" in the diversification to an advanced manufacturer and enabling it to compete globally.

"NSAG has the capability, resources and commitment to remain a key member of the local supply chain for naval shipbuilding and ongoing support in Australia," he said.

SAGE Automation employs 250 workers, providing industrial automation and control services across the defence, infrastructure, manufacturing, resources and utilities sectors.

Navantia Australia managing director Francisco Barón said NSAG will play a "critical role" in continuing to develop skills to support the naval shipbuilding industry.

NSAG has also submitted proposals for the Offshore Patrol Vessel program, and will be part of Navantia's bid for the Future Frigate program.

Defence Industries Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith said with \$89 billion in naval shipbuilding work for SA, it was important the defence industry provided a flow of work to maintain capabilities.