Articles from Defence Business – Feb/Mar/Apr 2018

Nova Systems Sarah Cannard (ILF 2014), Cher Min Teo (ILF 2014), Rebecca Baylis (ILF 2011)

Major service provider
A Nova Systems-led consortium which includes QinetiQ and PwC has been selected as a Major Service. Provider to the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG), within the Department of Defence. CASG manages nationally significant and complex projects, purchasing and maintaining military equipment and supplies.

The consortium teamed up to offer CASG a truly sovereign capability, providing real and present workforce readiness and scalability.

It is one of four Major Service Providers selected by CASG to provide 'Strategic Partner', 'Capability Partner' and 'Integrated Work Partner' services for up to the next 11 years.

SAGE Andrew Downs (ILF 2013), Adrian Fahey (2016)

Local capability to bolster SEA 5000 bid
Navantia Australia and Australian-based SAGE Automation Group (NSAG) will supply the IPMS in Navantia's bid for the SEA 5000 Future Frigate program.

If Navantia is successful, the number of RAN ships with the Navantia IPMS will increase from seven to 16, providing unparalleled commonality in the areas of crew training, crew optimisation and sustainment.

SAGE CEO Adrian Fahey said this selection was about transfer of technology and skills to bolster Australia's sovereign capability in defence.

APC TECHNOLOGY Scott Begbie (ILF 2016) **AND BAE SYSTEMS** Tom Williams (ILF 2015)

APC supplies military grade displays to BAE Systems
Adelaide-based designer and manufacturer APC Technology has completed the supply of custom designed and manufactured military grade displays for BAE Systems. BAE Systems currently provides through life support for the navigation trainer project (NTP) which the ADF uses for RAAF Air Combat Officer and Navy Aviation Warfare Officer training.

BAE Systems required APC Technology to replace obsolete displays that were part of the airborne navigation trainer (ANT) systems, which are installed in Beechcraft B300 aircraft based at RAAF East Sale (VIC). The 19" displays needed to meet military standards including rapid decompression from 10,000ft to 35,000ft as well as overpressure to 15,000ft, in accordance with RTCA DO-160D.

John Hopf, NTP and MSSC Project Lead at BAE Systems commented: “We approached APC Technology to design and manufacture the displays for the navigation trainer project (NTP) as we have worked with them on numerous projects and are impressed with their “can do” attitude. The design of the replacement displays involved a number of challenges and we needed to use a company who could meet those demands. APC Technology provides a high level of professionalism and the ability to think out of the box, coming up with innovative solutions to unexpected issues which often occur on sustainment projects.”

The replacement monitor that APC Technology designed had to meet a strict set of parameters in terms of physical dimensions, connectivity, power consumption and weight. The monitor design met or exceeded all required parameters, and provided power and weight savings that are desirable in smaller aircraft. Changes in weight and balance can result in extra engineering work, so APC Technology provided an option for the monitor which incorporated a weight plate that could be securely sandwiched between the unit and the console to maintain the weight of the obsolete monitor. Although the option was not taken up, it illustrated a novel solution which could have overcome a weight and balance issue, whilst maintaining all certification properties of the displays.

“The displays supplied by APC Technology will assist in maintaining the training capabilities for Number 1 Flying School until the system’s end of life. It’s great to see such excellent work and product quality originating out of a local Australian business,” said John.

“We have worked on an array of projects with BAE Systems enabling us to demonstrate our expertise and ability to meet criteria, budgets and deadlines,” said Scott Begbie, Managing Director of APC Technology. “This latest contract further cements our relationship with one of Australia’s leading prime contractors.”

CENTURY ENGINEERING David Heaslip (2012)

Humanihut wins its first contract
The SA State Emergency Service (SES) has awarded a $941,000 contract to Humanihut, a South Australian SME, for a 128-bed rapidly deployable base camp.

It will be used by the State’s emergency services as a replacement for “tent cities” that are required when volunteers and members are sent to emergency sites for extended periods.

Designed and developed in South Australia, Humanihut is a compartmentalised emergency services, defence, humanitarian and commercial use accommodation facility that can be tailored to a range of needs. It “flat-packs” into custom built shipping containers for ease of manoeuvring, build, pack down and storage.

The 128-bed base camp only requires five people to establish in four hours, and comes ready to connect to electricity, water supply and waste services.

Manufacturing and Innovation Minister Kyam Maher says the State Government is pleased to be able to both support an innovative local company and to provide the best possible accommodation for emergency services personnel in the field.

Humanihut expects this first sale locally will expedite a number of global orders that are currently pending for a range of defence, commercial and humanitarian uses in both the public and private sectors.

Officially launched by South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill in November 2015, the Humanihut was the result of three years' research and development by its co-founders, Neale Sutton and Andrew Hamilton, staff at Humanihut and partners such as Kadego Design Engineers and prototype construction by Century Engineering.

Humanihut is a robust shelter system that uses an innovative pop-up design to provide accommodation as well as bathroom, laundry and community facilities.

Designed and partially manufactured locally in South Australia, Humanihut offers better, safer accommodation for refugees worldwide, and has grown to include other defence, commercial and emergency services use.

Based at Tonsley Innovation District, Humanihut has staff and agencies globally, with demonstration units in Adelaide, China and the US.

DARONMONT TECHNOLOGIES David Jucha (ILF 2017)

Daronmont receives $7.9 million Defence Innovation Hub contract

In the latest tranche of Defence Innovation Hub contracts announced recently, the Commonwealth awarded $13.4 million to a group of five Australian companies for their work in developing some of the latest technologies for Australia's defence.

Notably, the $7.9 million contract to DTC member Daronmont Technologies represented the largest to be awarded by the Hub since its December 2016 inception.

The company has been working with DST Group on the development of an indigenous Radar capability, which can be fielded to enhance situational awareness of deployed ADF units. This technology is of interest to a number of projects in the land, maritime and aerospace domains where mobility has been identified as one of the principle design drivers.

Daronmont Technologies business development manager Lee Stanley said the process of working with the Centre for Defence Capability (CDIC) and the Defence Innovation Hub had been very constructive and added the contract would enable the technology to achieve operational maturity much faster than would otherwise have been the case. “We were very impressed with the process overall; the CDIC advisors were indispensable to our success and the DIH staff were very transparent and supportive as we worked through the process together. Clearly the DIH has thought carefully about an appropriate level of documentation to enable a relatively efficient process for industry.”

“It’s a great project for us and the ADF – the contract is enabling us to recruit and develop engineers and further develop our local South Australian supply chain. “Without this innovation support from Government it would have taken much longer for this technology to achieve ADF service.