

Flying the innovation flag for defence in SA

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INNOVATORS: Defence Teaming Centre chief executive Margot Forster, with Supashock managing director Oscar Fiorinotto. Picture: DEAN MARTIN

THREE Adelaide companies at the forefront of Australia's defence industry innovation have been recognised at a national awards ceremony.

Advanced motion technology company Supashock, design guru Airspeed and Redarc Electronics were all successful at the Defence Teaming Centre (DTC) annual awards in Adelaide last week.

Edinburgh Park-based Supashock was acknowledged for the development of its revolutionary Advanced Load Handling System technology, developed specifically for military vehicles.

It picked up the Outstanding Collaboration gong for its development of the ALHS 17 technology for heavy logistics trucks in tandem with South Australian manufacturer Century Engineering and Rheinmetall Defence.

The Supashock team, designed and developed technology to reduce the risk to soldiers by automating the loading and unloading of ISO containers, modules and STANAG compliant flat racks of up to 17 tonnes inside a highly protected truck cabin.

This significantly reduces the time for distribution of military supplies in demanding battlefield environments. The loading cycle time is only 25 per cent of existing systems.

Supashock managing director, Oscar Fiorinotto, has recruited his team of engineers from South Australia's three main universities.

"The ALHS17 concept came about to provide defence forces with greater operational flexibility, efficiency and sustainment by providing a completely protected environment, and the ability to load and unload a container in varied terrain," Mr Fiorinotto said.

Mawson Lakes-based Airspeed, which designs and builds electronic and cargo pods, won the Growing or Emerging award which recognises and celebrates a visionary SME, (less than 50 full-time employees) which is now "hitting its stride" and planning for the future through innovative solutions, creative thinking and/or courage to take a risk.

Lonsdale's Redarc Electronics won the Resilient and Adaptive award, which recognises a SME that has shown a strong commitment to transformation, sustainability and innovation.

DTC chief executive, Margot Forster, said the quality of all nominees was a testament to the excellence of Australia's defence industry

"The calibre of the applications received this year was astounding and the judges had an incredibly difficult task," Ms Forster said.

The awards recognise companies and individuals who have significantly contributed to the development of Australian industry, while showing excellence in ethical behaviour, service and commitment to the defence industry.

The DTC is a nationally focused member organisation enabling and supporting Australian industry to develop capability and increase overall competitiveness in domestic and global defence markets

It received an unprecedented number of applications this year, an indication of the growth and development of the sector.