



# APC to work with Aish on defence growth

FUTURE-PROOF: APC Technology managing director Scott Begbie at the company's facility in Cheltenham.

Picture: MATT LOXTON

## VALERINA CHANGARATHIL

CHELTENHAM computing solutions company APC Technology has signed a memorandum of understanding with UK naval contractor Aish Technologies as it prepares to secure specialist and advanced manufacturing work.

APC Tech has carved a niche for itself in Australia and in key global markets, building rugged computing hardware and software solutions across the defence, dairy, mining, aviation and other industries.

Aish Technologies is contracted to defence major BAE Systems to provide consoles, enclosures and other parts on the UK Navy's new Type 26 global combat ships – the base design for the new Australian

Hunter Class frigates. The \$35 billion Hunter program includes nine anti-submarine warfare frigates, and is the biggest surface ship project in Australia's defence history.

The partnership between APC and Aish is expected to drive significant expansion of expertise and advanced manufacturing of rugged computing solutions for Australia, APC Tech's managing director Scott Begbie told *The Advertiser* ahead of the announcement today at the Defence SA stand at the 2019 Pacific International Maritime Exposition in Sydney.

APC Tech has 28 employees but that's expected to increase to up to 40 in the short to medium term with plans in place for the expansion of its

manufacturing facility to triple capacity in the next two years.

Mr Begbie said APC Tech hoped to benefit from the knowledge and advanced manufacturing techniques

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SCOTT BEGBIE

Aish has in the development of diversified military hardware.

"With defence representing a significant percentage of our business and growing, the MOU provides opportunity for collaboration, knowledge sharing and capability development allowing us to deliver

sophisticated equipment technology for the expanding needs of the Australian military industry," he said.

"This includes our contribution to notable national projects SEA 5000, SEA 1000 and Collins Sustainment which will also influence future global partnerships and alliances secured by our business.

"We are on the cusp of some exciting times ahead and this partnership will be about getting ahead of the game."

Mr Begbie said the company would seek to access federal and state grants to fund its expansion plans. "This is about building sovereign capability and new manufacturing, so we will tap into available grants to support our growth plans," he said. Aish said it was hoping to

partner with "like-minded" organisations like APC on new capabilities for the Australian industry. For instance, Aish has developed a protection system for submarines and surface ships, which generates an electrical current in the seawater around the hull, cancelling out galvanic currents that can cause corrosions.

APC Tech chair Kevin Scarce said the MOU would be a game-changer for the business.

"The defence industry moves rapidly which is why it is vital to evolve business expertise to effectively deliver sophisticated technological innovations that meet the advanced requirements of projects both domestically and internationally," he said.