

Manufacturers' MONTHLY

Defence manufacturers receive support for specialised equipment

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The potential for manufacturing SMEs to contribute to developing Australia's sovereign industrial capability was highlighted in the latest round of Industry Capability Priority grants.

Going to those manufacturers who are able to provide specialised support for the Australian Defence Forces, four South Australian companies were recipients of funding, announced on October 22.

The funding is targeted at allowing SMEs to invest in specific tools or equipment so that they can manufacture unique products. This was seen in the case of Armor Australia, which has been awarded \$401,190 to purchase specialist tooling to enable enhancement to the design and manufacturing of lightweight combat helmets. These will be utilised by the Australian Defence Forces, as well as marketed to international Defence forces, as Minister for Defence Industry, Melissa Price, outlined.

"The Sovereign Industrial Capability Priority Grants encourage greater participation by Australia's small businesses in our ambitious defence industry agenda," said Price.

In total, \$2.3 million in funding was awarded to the four recipients, with the benefits going towards further investment in the manufacturing workforce and technology.

“We want to maximise small business involvement in delivering our \$200 billion build-up of defence capability, because this approach helps create new jobs right across Australia,” said Price.

Other companies which received funding include AEM Consolidated, which will use a grant of \$440,000 to buy a vacuum pressure impregnation unit and an automatic coil winding machine. These will enable the company to better repair and overhaul motors for defence ships and submarines.

Adlingtons Australia will use \$798,852 to purchase automated pipe bending and welding equipment for the manufacturing specialised piping and tubing.

Century Products, will install a multi-functional programming and beam drilling quality cell for frigate and submarine programs, with \$658,112 in funding.

Applications for the Sovereign Industrial Capability Priority grants are open at any time, and are managed through the Centre for Defence Industry Capability (CDIC) website.