

Uni signs deal to engineer a future

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ADELAIDE University has signed a deal with the Department of Defence and defence giant BAE Systems to train specialist engineers to work on a radar network vital to Australia's defence and border protection.

The university will offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses specifically targeted at developing a future workforce for the Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) – an over-the-horizon radar which acts as Australia's land and air early-warning system.

It will train students in ionospheric physics, electromagnetism, radio frequency engineering, signal processing and automation needed for

high-frequency

systems, as well

as offering internships,

undergraduate

scholarships

and PhD projects.

A d e l a i d e

University will also set up a Centre for High Frequency Technologies.

BAE's chief technology officer Brad Yelland, pictured, said the technology was a "critical asset" for Australia's protection and intelligence gathering – particularly as an alternative to satellites in the event they were disrupted by adversaries.

He said it was a career for highly mathematical individuals and was "just as complex, just as challenging" as rocket science.

Professor Michael Webb, director of Defence, Cyber and Space at Adelaide University, said students would get "realworld experience" with potential future employers.

"They will learn from the best in the industry," he said.

"In turn, industry will have access to a skilled workforce of the future ready to support major defence projects."