

\$21m boost in pipeline as firm connects to growth

PIPE fittings manufacturer Philmac has unveiled plans for a \$21m expansion of its production and distribution facility at North Plympton.

The upgraded facility will double capacity to more than 100 million units a year, firmly establishing Adelaide as the global production centre for the growing business.

The project will include modernisation of the company's automated assembly process, a state-of-the-art 1628sq m automated warehouse, and a fleet of autonomous mobile robots delivering a safer working – environment and improved productivity.

Philmac executive general manager Elliott Burke said it was the largest single investment the company had made over its 93-year history and underlined a long-term commitment to manufacture locally for both domestic and overseas customers.

“Through the implementation of the latest automation technologies and the commitment of our team, we will secure our global competitiveness in advanced manufacturing,” he said.

“As the only Australianbased supplier in our sector, Philmac is committed to integrating the latest technologies to remain at the global cutting edge and deliver exceptional service for our customers.

“The project is an important pillar of our mid-term strategy, providing the foundation to continue the expansion of our local and global market – opportunities.”

The expansion plans have been submitted to council for approval, with construction expected to commence in the third quarter of this year, with completion due next year.

Philmac's plastic pipe fittings are used by farmers across the world for a variety of rural and irrigation applications, while plumbers use the company's products for housing connections and other uses.

The company has invested millions of dollars in product development in recent years and new injection moulding machinery, while its workforce

has expanded to service burgeoning export markets.

Sales in the US and UK have been growing steadily, while a new distributor relationship in Mexico is unlocking further growth in Central America.

“Demand for our water and gas connection and control solutions continues to build across the globe, with a steady growth rate and significant new opportunities in target markets,” Mr Burke said.