

DEFENCE A COOL STEP FOR SA FIRM

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Industrial refrigeration company Cold Logic is making a strategic expansion into the burgeoning defence industry, with the launch of a new hi-tech testing facility at its Wingfield headquarters.

After relocating to its new multimillion-dollar premises earlier this year, the company has unveiled its industrial environmental chamber used to test the performance of defence technologies and equipment in extreme temperatures.

The facility exposes hi-tech equipment such as naval-based warfare electronics, battle management systems, troop shelters and vehicles to wild temperature fluctuations from minus 33C to below minus 50C.

It will be used for major defence projects and platforms including the Collins class submarines and Hunter class frigates.

Managing director Eddie Lane said that while the company's roots were in the commercial food and beverage industry, defence was emerging as a rapid growth sector for the business.

"We are proud to be able to support the nation's sovereign capability through our new state-of-the-art defence testing facility which represents an exciting new phase in our company's growth," he said.

"Nowhere else in the country can you test the operational running performance of critical defence equipment in the very harshest of conditions – from minus 33C, which you might find in the Arctic, to the scorching heat associated with combat in desert environments.

"We expect to see electronic equipment for land, naval and air applications that need to perform in places such as the Middle East or Antarctica, and even in space, being put through their paces right here at Wingfield."

Mr Lane said the multimillion-dollar facility was the first of its kind in Australia, and was supported by \$1.7m in grant funding from the federal government's Sovereign Industry Capability Priority program.

He said Cold Logic was currently on a recruitment drive for refrigeration apprentices and mechanics, boilermakers, technicians and engineers on

the back of its expansion.

The company expects to increase the size of its 100-plus workforce by up to 25 per cent over the next three to five years.

“The last two years has seen rapid growth for the company, and we are currently in the midst of the largest recruitment drive in our history,” Mr Lane said.

Cold Logic was established 40 years ago in 1984, and opened a defence division in 2018 after being awarded a major contract with ASC.

Late last year, Cold Logic was awarded a multimillion-dollar contract with BAE Systems Maritime Australia to construct and install cold and cool rooms for the first batch of three Hunter-class frigates, in partnership with UK company Ernest West & Beynon, which supplied the Type 26 program – the reference design for the Hunter-class frigates.