



# Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **\*\*\*\* Australia Defence Export Office and Defence Industrial Capability Plan to Support Tas Industries \*\*\*\***

The Turnbull Government has taken the next step in creating a significant defence export industry with the establishment of a coordinating body to link suppliers with overseas customers.

The Australian Defence Export Office (ADEO) is to be opened today in Canberra and will deliver a range of initiatives to assist and support Australian defence industry, including producing market intelligence, partnering with industry in multi-year campaigns, and leading the Australian Military Sales and Team Defence Australia initiatives.

Senator Richard Colbeck said Tasmania has a strong defence industry and companies like Elphinstone, Incat, CBG Systems and Penguin Composites are seeking to win significant defence contracts.

“With many of our allies and strategic partners in NATO below the recommended 2% of GDP expenditure target we are positioning Tasmania to play a part in the major boom in future global military expenditure,” Senator Colbeck said.

“The global market for defence products and services is notoriously difficult to navigate and break into, so a dedicated Office for linking our suppliers with customers around the world will be vital.”

Minister for Defence Industry Christopher Pyne MP said the establishment of the Australian Defence Export Office was one of the key initiatives of the Defence Export Strategy released on 29 January 2018.

“The Defence Export Strategy sets out a plan to boost Australian industry, increase investment, and create more jobs for Australian businesses,” Minister Pyne said.

“The Australian Defence Export Office will provide a focal point for whole-of-government delivery of the systematic approach and initiatives set out in the Strategy.”

Senator Colbeck said the Turnbull Government is keen to work with new State Defence Industries Minister Jeremy Rockliff on winning new business in the global defence market.

“The Tasmanian State government has a strong new Defence Industries advocate in the Deputy Premier, and at a Federal level we will be providing a valuable resource for a potential defence export boom in the State,” Senator Colbeck said.

Minister Pyne also outlined the first ever Defence Industrial Capability Plan which will direct Australia’s long-term vision and objectives for Australia’s defence industry, and how the Government and Defence will partner with industry to achieve that vision.

“Of particular interest to Tasmanian business and workers is the Sovereign Industrial Capability Priority grants program, which will grant up to \$17m a year for small and medium sized companies to invest in capital equipment related to defence manufacturing in areas of strategic importance,” Senator Colbeck said.

“Tasmania will therefore be well placed to win a share of the more than \$200bn domestic defence capability build-up as well.”

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