MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY IN THE FRONT LINE OF NEW GERMAN WARSHIP

Two Australian companies have designed the combat system for Europe's latest warship, the Meko® D. Dependant on foreign sales, with each order typically comprising four ships, revenue to Australian companies will be in the order of $200 million.

CEA Technologies Pty Ltd of Canberra and Saab Systems Pty Ltd of Adelaide have been working in Hamburg, Germany with Europe’s premier warship builder Blohm+Voss GmbH.

The combat system is the first in the world to incorporate CEA’s active phased array radar technology.

The radar is integrated with the latest evolution of Saab’s Combat Management System and together they provide a level of air defence for warships previously available only in ships of twice the size of the Meko® D.

The 3,500 tonne Meko® D new generation frigate design, incorporating the CEA-Saab naval air warfare system, has been unveiled at the MECON 2002 Conference in Hamburg, attended by Navy representatives from over 40 countries.

Both the combat management system and the radar make innovative use of commercial technology to produce a system which is both affordable and has size, weight and electrical power requirements suitable for smaller warships such as frigates and offshore patrol craft. The combined system provides a major increase in capability over conventional systems and incorporates surface to surface and surface to air missiles and tactical data links for interoperability with US and coalition forces.

Nick Hammond, Managing Director of Saab Systems said that “the combination of Saab’s proven Combat Management System with CEA’s innovative active phased array radar technology allows two Australian companies to provide a unique and revolutionary combat system.
“The combined system offers an unprecedented capability for frigate-sized warships to defend against anti-ship missiles operating in both open ocean and littoral waters.”

Mr Hammond noted the cooperation between the three companies for the Meko® D design was a key factor in the project’s success.

“The ability to address the world naval market has resulted principally from the delivery of advanced systems for the successful ANZAC Ship project, the ongoing research and development in Canberra, Adelaide and Hamburg, and the willingness of the Australian companies to cooperate closely with one another and with our overseas partner, Blohm+Voss.”

Peter Croser, Managing Director of CEA Technologies, commented that the inclusion of the CEA-FAR multi-function radar and the CEA-MOUNT Illuminator in the Blohm+Voss design is a major milestone in the technology’s development.

“This proves many of the innovative concepts in the design, in particular for the CEA-MOUNT Illuminator, where development would have been significantly more difficult had it not been for the continuing support of AusIndustry and BAE SYSTEMS,” Mr Croser said.

“The CEA-Saab combat management and active phased array radar systems are designed to provide an advanced operational capability edge into the future.”

Both Managing Directors also acknowledged the continuing support of the Australian Department of Defence in developing their capabilities to meet emerging defence requirements.

For further information contact:
Mark Foster
Marketing Manager
Ph +61 (0)2 6213 0000