MEDIA RELEASE

Australian companies win systems contract for German warship design

Defence Minister Robert Hill and Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane today congratulated the Australian companies CEA Technologies and Saab Systems Australia for their selection in a new warship design announced by Blohm + Voss GmbH in Germany.

The CEA-Saab Naval Advanced Air Warfare System was unveiled today at the MECON 2002 Conference in Hamburg which is attended by naval staff from over 40 countries.

The Australian system was specifically designed for the Blohm + Voss new generation frigate design. The proposed 3500 tonne frigate would be the first in the world to incorporate CEA’s active phased array radar. This radar allows vessels to engage multiple targets at extended range and similar radars have previously only been fitted to ships of nearly twice the size.

The radar is integrated with the latest evolution of Saab Combat Management System that is based on commercial off-the-shelf technology, incorporates surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missile control systems and allows the vessel to operate with coalition and US forces.

“The Australian Navy plans to fit a production system on one of our frigates with a view to undertaking future sea trials,” Senator Hill said. “If these trials are successful, there is the potential for Australia to use this system in the future.”

Mr Macfarlane said: “This landmark selection of Australian companies to provide leading edge technology in a highly competitive international market clearly illustrates the technical knowledge and innovative practices Australian defence industry possesses.”

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