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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN NEXT GENERATION “AUSPAR” RADAR

Defence support of the continuing development of a high powered version of CEA Technologies’ production CEA-FAR Active Phased Array Radar was announced today. This new family of scalable radars, to be called AUSPAR, provides capabilities well beyond those available in advanced current shipboard radar systems.

CEA Technologies has developed and supplied CEA-FAR radar over the last five years and this has led to significant breakthroughs in very high power, electronically scanned radar systems.

The AUSPAR family of radars is being developed by a team of engineering and technical specialists primarily located at CEA’s recently expanded R&D and manufacturing facilities located in Canberra. The mechanical and thermal aspects of the new high-powered AUSPAR radar design are being progressed in CEA’s other facilities in Adelaide and Melbourne where specialist engineering and manufacturing teams are located. These teams of specialists have solved challenging problems associated with very large and high-power active array faces allowing applications capable of detecting very small objects at thousands of kilometers.

Active phased array radar uses electronic beam forming and scanning processes to dynamically and adaptively coordinate the activity of thousands of individual transmit/receive elements across an array face. These array faces are scalable to meet specific application needs and typically range from 1.5 to more than 6 metres across.

The Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Robert Hill, recently opened the major extension to CEA’s facilities in Canberra where system design, electronic design, manufacturing and test of CEA’s existing wide range of radar, surveillance and communications products are conducted.

These products are the basis of CEA’s established Export business and support a growing team of specialists across the range of activities required in an advanced and competitive electronic system development and manufacturing environment.

This Government AUSPAR initiative is expected to provide a new level of Export opportunity resulting in continued employment growth and expansion of core engineering and manufacturing activities in CEA’s three development centres and associated regional suppliers.

The manufacturing activity resulting from the export and potential local program opportunities will provide significant work for specialist subcontractors across Australia. This work includes areas such as, printed circuit board manufacture, assembly and test, mechanical and precision machining of antenna and transmit/receive modules, and manufacture of RF and microwave cables and assemblies.

The Canberra-Queanbeyan region is also the home of one of these significant subcontractors, LINTEK Pty. Limited, who supply microwave printed circuit boards of an unmatched precision and repeatability worldwide. CEA uses these PCBs in most of its existing product ranges.

The current CEA-FAR active phased array radar program includes the ongoing demonstration by Defence of a system scaled to provide significantly enhanced anti-ship missile defence capability for retrofit and new installations in smaller corvette to frigate sized vessels. This program includes current phases in the Canberra region, demonstrations to be conducted along
the Southern Coast of NSW over the next few months, and followed by the installation of the system in a Royal Australian Navy warship.

The announcement today of the Australian Government’s investment in CEA’s new high-powered *AUSPAR* radar by the Minister for Defence is demonstrable testament to the Government’s continuing commitment to the principles of the 2000 White Paper in relationship to the essential capability evolution and sustainment provided by a strong Defence-Industry relationship.

This relationship is also demonstrated by the strong team involvement of participants across the Department of Defence and specifically including expertise in the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), the policy and project support provided by Defence Material Organisation, Electronic Systems and Industry Divisions, and Defence headquarters personnel.

CEA welcomes this important initiative to provide improved capability and support opportunities for Australia’s Defence programs.

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