‘One-stop shop’ to market Australian defence goods overseas

By David Ellery
Defence Reporter

Pyshwick’s CEA Technologies is one of the winners to emerge from a government decision to market Australian defence technology overseas.

An Australian Military Sales Office is to be established as a "one-stop shop" for Australian defence manufacturers seeking to export their wares, Defence Minister Stephen Smith said.

CEA has developed what is believed to be the world’s most advanced active phased radar array. The system is now being fitted to all eight of the Royal Australian Navy's Anzac class frigates. Bushmasters and extra lightweight body armour developed for diggers serving in Afghanistan are also likely to be marketed through the new office.

Meanwhile, the government has scrapped the current Defence Capability Plan.

A new plan will be finalised before the end of September. The most significant change is the public DCP will now only include projects close to reaching either first or second pass approval in the forward estimates period.

Projects that are not as far along will be relegated to the newly created Defence Capability Guide, which will cover the six years beyond the forward estimates, giving the two documents a combined coverage of 10 years.

Mr Smith said the second part of the Coles Review into Australia’s troubled Collins submarine fleet should be released in weeks.

He also announced the ADF had received two second-hand Chinook CH-47D helicopters from the United States Army.