

# the Chamber

The Defence Issue

Q&A

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Babcock Australia &  
New Zealand:**  
Andrew Cridland

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Asension, DMTC and QinetiQ

**Bremont Watches**  
honours His Majesty's  
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unlocking Defence  
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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

**To Andy Storer,**  
there is blue sky in  
Australia



# the Chamber

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## FOREWORD

# Welcome to this special Defence Edition of the Australian British Chamber of Commerce's Magazine

**By Andrew Low, Chair, Australian British Chamber of Commerce**

The AUKUS Accord is a once in a generation opportunity to lift national security and defence cooperation between Australia, the UK and the US, and for a new level of innovation and industrial growth.

In September, the Chamber took its inaugural Defence Catalyst to London. It was a sell-out three-day event hosting around 70 senior delegates from both Australia and the UK across defence, defence policy, industry and academia. We were delighted with the ground covered and new relationships forged.

Highlights included keynotes from UK Defence Procurement Minister James Cartlidge MP, Minister for the Indo-Pacific the Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, Australian High Commissioner to London and Defence Strategic Review co-author the Hon Stephen Smith, Permanent Secretary for Defence David Williams CB, Head of Australia's CASG Chris Deeble and First Assistant Secretary, AUKUS Advanced Capabilities Stephen Moore and senior leadership from the key private sector companies involved in the sector in both UK and Australia. We ended the Catalyst with a remarkable dinner on board HMS Belfast with Leader of the House, Penny Mordaunt, as guest speaker.

A recurring theme of our Defence Catalyst gathering was the urgency. We need to start now to deliver on the ambitions of AUKUS. Under Pillar 1, Australia can look forward to servicing the US Virginia Class submarine in Western Australia and later building the brand-new SSN AUKUS submarine.

This requires a huge infrastructure build in Australia and an extraordinary skills uplift. Britain's primes Babcock, BAE and Roll-Royce are all ready to support Australian industry in this endeavour.

Pillar 2 is likely to be an even greater opportunity for the nation, not just because the original purpose of enhancing joint capabilities and interoperability in defence. It is also the innovation that will come from Pillar 2 research and development which will deliver benefit across many parts of the economy. Pillar 2 covers the advanced capabilities of cyber, AI, quantum technologies, undersea, hypersonic and hypersonic capabilities, electronic warfare, innovation and information sharing.

***"We need to start now to deliver on the ambitions of AUKUS."***

I do hope you enjoy the Chamber's latest edition of the Magazine, which includes exclusive interviews with the new Chief Executive of Babcock Australia and New Zealand Andrew Cridland in Adelaide, and the Chief Executive of the UK's Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Centre in Derby, Andy Storer.

Defence and the, closely related, areas of energy security and transition, cyber and artificial intelligence are all priority interests for the Chamber over the next twelve months as we work to support our growing membership in these fast-moving sectors.

And across all these sectors the Australia UK Free Trade Agreement offers new benefits that encourage trade and investment between the two countries. We are indeed at a very important point in Australia-UK relations where knowledge sharing, people mobility and cross-investment can deliver significant dividends.





**By Siebert Neethling, CEO, The Being Group**

AUKUS, the Defence Strategic Review and geo-political developments suggest that this is a time of opportunity for businesses working with Defence. Following on from the 2015 First Principles Review, The Department of Defence in Australia has been embedding the One Defence business model, improving the relationship with Australia's defence industry "to support Defence's ability to meet strategic challenges". The Defence Industrial Capability Plan, Sovereign Industrial Capability Priorities, and other defence industry policy initiatives and grant programs all indicate a deep partnership approach between Defence and the private sector. For those who navigate the understandable hurdles and barriers to entry, a Defence contract can be transformational – but also demanding and challenging.

Over the past two years we have had the opportunity to work closely with Defence and a number of Defence industry partners to develop and deliver CUSP - a truly unique program aimed at promoting collaboration. The idea was born from a simple premise: If something goes wrong, let's not ask 'What does the contract say'; let's work together to solve the problem.

CUSP stands for Collaboration, Understanding, Skills and Practices. It brings together Defence personnel who interact regularly with industry partners, and staff from those partners. It is a six-session program – two days in-person and four virtual sessions – in which participants hear from senior Defence and Industry leaders about their collaboration experiences, participate in formal skills development sessions to improve communication, collaboration and problem-solving, and participate in syndicate groups to solve identified challenges. Most importantly, all 36 participants engage in a range of dynamic reflections and discussions with every other member of the cohort.

The program has been remarkably successful, with feedback such as "I feel I understand the Defence structure. It has made me feel more comfortable in my workspace", and "The Being Group have helped me think ahead and make sense of what's important". CUSP is now in its fifth iteration.

Listening to all the leaders and participants on the program confirms one of our long-held beliefs: collaboration

happens most effectively when there is respect for one another's desired outcomes. Our approach is inspired, loosely, by the Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Model. Collaboration happens when we are concerned about our own outcomes, but we are also concerned about the other party's outcomes. What is important, however – and this is our insight – is that we improve collaboration by applying two verbs: develop concern for the other party's outcomes, and cultivate concern for your own outcomes.

Both are active verbs. You don't develop concern by waiting for someone to tell you what's important to them. You find out. You ask, research, and develop insight. You test your understanding of the other party's needs. And you don't cultivate concern by being demanding and saying "You should have checked with me first". You cultivate concern by communicating constructively, explaining why something is important to you, and what the effect is if your expectations are not met. Cultivation is a slow and deliberate process. It requires patience.

This all might sound obvious, but we still see heavy-handed and transactional approaches that disincline others to collaborate. When we don't collaborate we compete, avoid or accommodate. These approaches might be successful in the short term, but they are not strategic, and they are harmful to long-term collaboration.

Collaboration is, of course, relevant to most environments – but in all our work with Defence over the years it has been particularly important. Amongst other projects we are developing e-learning modules on cyber security, and producing a series of induction videos. Both the strategy and agency sides of our business work with Defence. In all these projects collaboration is the foundational approach, including the relationships with target audiences and other providers and, of course, internally.

And this is the other, important insight. It is not just about us and them. It is about us and us, and also about them and them. The most successful projects are internally collaborative, and also support the vast Defence machine to run more smoothly.

With offices in Sydney and London, The Being Group is an integrated strategic consultancy and creative agency working with Defence, and other public and private sector organisations and businesses. Visit [thebeinggroup.com](https://thebeinggroup.com).



# BUILDING THE FUTURE



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DIFFERENTLY





Q&A

Babcock Australasia supports engineering, design, systems integration and platform management capabilities to sustain the Collins Class submarines. Image courtesy of the Australian Government.

## At the helm of Babcock Australia & New Zealand: Andrew Cridland, CEO

**You took over as CEO in July 2023 – what is the significance of an Aussie being chosen to run Babcock Australia?**

I've been with Babcock for over 8 years now, and I thoroughly love the culture we've developed and the principles we've cultivated.

It's really rewarding working for a company whose ultimate purpose is to create a safer, more secure world, and I'm proud to say that we're successfully delivering on that purpose both locally and globally.

As an Aussie, I've worked both here and in the UK, and it's really exciting to be at the helm of an organisation backed by a proven and trusted defence company with over 130 years of experience.

Even more so at a time when Babcock Australasia is looking to continue our growth in the region, and to build on the capabilities developed across our global business.

**Your term as CEO has begun during a dramatic shift in the defence environment. How do you think the AUKUS pact has changed the landscape, and how will Babcock fit in to all of this?**

It's fair to say that AUKUS is the single largest strategic partnership in our lifetime – it's really going to shift the dial in terms of deterrence and defence right across the Indo-Pacific region, and it presents a huge opportunity for our business.

Backed by over 50 years of pedigree and nuclear sustainment of submarines in the UK, Babcock can deliver an enormous amount of expertise and experience into the AUKUS program. In fact, we've recently appointed Fran Worthington as our inaugural Managing Director, Nuclear, to support the delivery of Australia's once-in-a-generation nuclear powered submarines and to deliver on our AUKUS ambitions.





refueling and defueling nuclear submarines.

Even at a local level, Babcock Australasia has been supporting ASC on the sustainment of Collins submarines for many years. On top of that, as a premier maritime fleet sustainment company across both Australia and New Zealand, we as a company stand ready to grow Australia's industrial capability and support nuclear submarines.

**There are no doubt many Aussie companies keen to be part of your supply chain to support the nuclear subs. From your perspective, what sort of gap is there between the standards and the skills required to be part of this supply chain?**

It's fair to say that one of the nation's greatest challenges is to get our workforce upskilled and ready to go. The exchange of skilled people between Australia and the nuclear-powered submarine facilities overseas is essential to developing our sovereign capability in Australia.

**Babcock recently commenced operation of JP9101. Can you explain what sort of solutions or partnerships this program will call for?**

Babcock is the largest provider of strategic high frequency communications and JP9101 is another step in our planned growth, securing over 150 high tech jobs across Australia. The system is going to provide the Australian Defence Force and its allies with enhanced communications capability, high levels of reliability and operational resilience like we've never seen before.

***"AUKUS is going to shift the dial in terms of deterrence and defence right across the Indo-Pacific region."***

The only way we can deliver this program successfully is to draw on the support of our key partners, local industry, and suppliers. This includes companies like Lockheed Martin, Ventia, CyberCX, Daronmont, Rohde & Schwarz and Antenna Products Corporation. We'll need to pull all the parts of the puzzle together so that we can deliver on the next generation of high frequency communications.

**Babcock has built a reputation as a global specialist in submarine support – can you give us a brief overview of Babcock's experience in supporting nuclear submarines?**

There's no one better qualified to be a nuclear partner with the Commonwealth than Babcock. We've got deep knowledge of the infrastructure, the skills, the safety, and the regulatory environment, all of which is needed to support nuclear submarines.

We're a global leader of submarine sustainment, of nuclear safety, and of stewardship. We're playing a critical role across the AUKUS partnership, and this is a testament to Babcock's marine defence work – which includes everything from sustaining everything from the Royal Navy's nuclear powered submarine fleet to owning and operating the UK's only licensed facility for refitting,

We're going to need everyone from apprentices, to graduate engineers, project managers, boilermakers, and welders – all these people are needed to support the AUKUS agenda and close the skills gap.

Personally, I'm very passionate about developing capability locally and supporting companies in the countries we operate.

Just recently, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Adelaide to accelerate Australia's workforce, develop the necessary skills and support defence programs now and into the future.

**Defence involves huge amounts of investment and funding. Where will this investment come from to deliver on DSR and AUKUS ambitions?**

Any defence spending is really a matter for the Commonwealth but there are a lot of aspects that Babcock can certainly contribute towards. For example, we recently invested in a new \$31m facility to be built in Adelaide to enable us to continue providing sustainment support for Collins as well as other activities. We're also focusing on the countries where Babcock has an existing presence, such as Indonesia, South Korea and Japan. We recognise that this region is critically important to our security and safety, and so expansion into this region is one of the ways we invest in the future of the company, in AUKUS ambitions and Australia's defence interests more broadly.





#### INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

## The Power of Combinations: the role of AUKUS and industrial collaboration in developing hypersonic capability

**By David Waterhouse, Managing Director and Chair, Hypersonix Launch Systems Ltd**

Pictured: Dr Michael Smart, Co-Founder, CTO and Head of Research at Hypersonix Launch Systems with a Hypersonix scramjet engine.

Hypersonix is an Australian aerospace engineering, design and manufacturing company, specialising in hypersonic technology and scramjet engines.

Our scramjet engines are designed to travel at speeds over than Mach 5 (over 6,000 KPH) and are the most efficient means of long-range sub-orbital flight. Through a combination of advanced manufacturing techniques, Hypersonix has created the only reusable, fixed geometry, hydrogen powered, self-igniting, accelerating air-breathing scramjet engine on the market.

SPARTAN was designed and developed by Hypersonix co-founder Dr Michael Smart, having worked at NASA for over 10 years before leading the Centre for Hypersonics at the University of Queensland for 15 years. Together with David Waterhouse, he co-founded Hypersonix in December 2019.

DART AE was announced as a technology demonstrator in November 2021; a 3m long, 3D-printed vehicle, it is powered by a single SPARTAN scramjet engine, and can accelerate up to Mach 7.

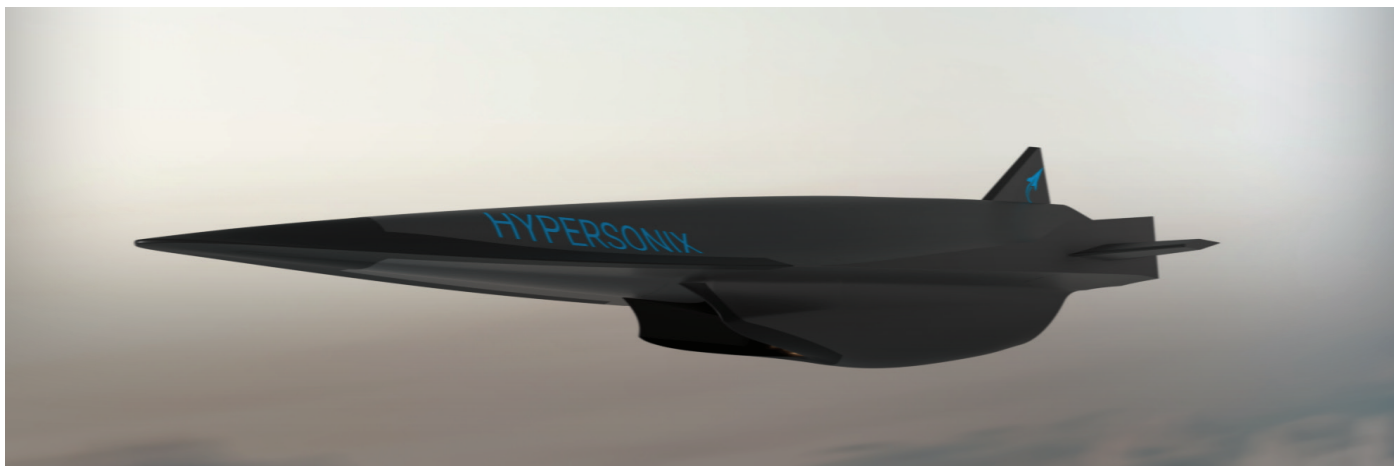
As an emerging capability, accurate in-flight data captured at hypersonic speeds is paramount. Current programs are very

expensive, slow, and lack the breadth of data required. With the pace of technological developments numerous systems will need to be tested under these conditions to test feasibility.

Hypersonix has been in discussions with both the UK and US governments on AUKUS. For the deep technology sector, Pillar 2 marks an epochal shift in technology sharing at a time of increasing technological competition. It is generating new opportunities for investment and development of dual-use capabilities. It lays the path to bridge industrial bases for leading early-stage technology development between trusted partners across several nascent capabilities. Through investment and enhanced collaboration, AUKUS will enhance interoperability, and accelerate the sharing of joint advanced capabilities.







With hypersonic and counter-hypersonic capabilities named as one of the 8 advanced technologies in Pillar 2, the UK recognised in its Defence Command Paper 2023 that a central value of AUKUS lies in strengthening industrial collaboration, thus providing access to the most advanced technology on the planet; technologies that can be integrated into supply chains and provide greater resilience.

Pillar 2 includes both offensive hypersonic capabilities, and the need to detect and defend against hypersonic systems. Hypersonix's supports the latter with its world leading SPARTAN scramjet engine and DART AE flyer.

Hypersonix has a Team Hypersonics approach and is actively seeking to collaborate within the AUKUS partnership. This is critical as the Australian Defence market lacks the scale to sustain sovereign manufacturing. Therefore, to develop Australian sovereign defence manufacturing capability, it is essential that we support globally relevant technology.

Australia has been added as a 'domestic source' in the US defence industrial base, opening major opportunities to manufacture critical military equipment and much more. We recently announced a teaming agreement with

**"To develop Australian sovereign defence manufacturing capability, it is essential that we support globally relevant technology."**

Kratos Defense to distribute our DART AE hypersonic testing platform vehicle in the US. Kratos plans to purchase up to 20 DART AE vehicles after successful launch, planned for 2024 in the US.

The Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) awarded Hypersonix the Hypersonic and High-Cadence Airborne Testing Capabilities (HyCAT) program. With that partnership secured, navigating through this current economic environment the world is facing, we still require support on our local shores.

Whilst hypersonics are a priority of the newly created Australian Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA), it is unlikely that funding will be forthcoming in the short-term. The Australian government has been left wanting in providing sovereign industry the commitment and confidence it needs to help Australia face the rising competition and proliferation of dual-use capabilities in a deteriorating security environment.

The prosperity of the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic are linked. The AUKUS partnership is a demonstration of the potency of the emerging view of the Atlantic-Pacific, where an unparalleled level of partnership span regions delivering unprecedented potential for collaboration.

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EXCLUSIVE Q&A

## To Andy Storer, there is blue sky in Australia

**Andy Storer is on a mission. One of the most articulate and experienced voices in the nuclear world is intent on shifting the dial on nuclear in Australia.**

His pitch is simple: nuclear can play a critical role in national security, energy transition and it could deliver a renaissance in manufacturing for the economy.

Storer is the Chief Executive of Britain's Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, part of the UK Government's Catapult network of tech and innovation centres. Before that, he worked at Rolls-Royce for 25 years.

His message for Australia is that the AUKUS plans to service and then build nuclear propelled submarines in Australia are bold and ambitious. Once implemented though, a move to create a civil nuclear industry of small modular reactors is a small step by comparison.

Storer believes Australia can learn much from the UK's nuclear history, full of promise and frustration – particularly in Government decision making and in the part education could play in nuclear. And he applauds 'boomerang' businesses like the BMD Group which are investing in upskilling in the UK to bring expertise back to Australia.

"We should be working now on a war footing, like we did during the pandemic. We need it for Britain for energy security, given the crisis around the world that's happening. We need it for defence security, but we also need it for clean energy," he told the Chamber's Head of Marketing, Olivia Scullard, in an exclusive interview.

Andy Storer stresses these are his personal views. He acknowledges that there is more positivity around defence than civil nuclear in Australia and that it is hard to read the Government's thinking.



But if Australia not only wants heightened security through a submarine fleet, it also wants to benefit economically from those submarines, given the investment required, then Australia should seriously look at the business upside of civil nuclear.

"If we assume that the regulator will be required – and it will - then fuel fabrication, fuel assembly, fuel manufacture, may be something the government wants to develop in Australia," he said. "And then if we look at the products themselves, the reactor plant, the pipes, pumps, the vessels, the valves, there's lots of stainless steels and lots of manufacturing. There is a huge development programme."

Storer talks enthusiastically about the nuclear supply chain. "Rolls-Royce in submarines at are Tier 1, and their supply chain is probably 500-600 companies on their approved vendor list. And then those 500-600 have companies on their approved vendor list. And it goes down to Tier 3, 4, 5 - the ripples of the programme are absolutely huge."

Those ripples reach into education and training. Storer says children in school today will be part of the submarine programme. Ergo, thinking needs to be long term. We

need to start talking about curriculum, about engineering and gender balance in manufacturing.

**"We should be working now on a war footing, like we did during the pandemic. We need it for Britain for energy security, given the crisis around the world that's happening."**

The task ahead for Australia - to be sovereign ready to service nuclear subs by early 2030s and to deliver SSN AUKUS by the early 2040s - is mammoth. Storer says Devonport Dockyard in the UK is itself a town. Sellafield, responsible for nuclear waste, storage and decommissioning has 12,000 people on site. Is Osbourne in South Australia or Rockingham in Western Australia ready for this?

Rolls-Royce has been responsible for submarine nuclear reactors since the 1960s. Today the nuclear knowledge sits with Britain and the US. Andy Storer says if Australia wants its economy to benefit, it needs to learn from both.

"Ultimately it will be an Australian submarine with an Australian operator. When you're out at sea, you need to understand the product. I'm sure there will be lots of testing required in-country to support the product whilst at sea. That will require industrial leadership," he said. "So, who in Australia is the industrial champion?"

**Continue reading on page 18.**

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# Bremont Watches honours His Majesty's Armed Forces

By Nick and Giles English, Co-Founders, Bremont

The captivating story of Bremont revolves around our lifelong passion for aviation and unwavering admiration for military excellence. Inspired by the legacy of aviation pioneers we embarked on a thrilling journey to create the ultimate pilots' watch. Today, Bremont stands tall as a beacon of quality and precision, with our military watches proudly adorning the wrists of military personnel worldwide.

## Crafting the Ultimate Pilots' Watch

The rich history of pilots and their wristwatches dates back over a century, tracing the footsteps of aviation pioneers taking flight. These timepieces were initially vital navigation tools but evolved alongside the technological advancements in aviation. For us, crafting the ultimate pilots' watch was more than a dream; it was an extension of our love for flying and deep respect for aviation's heritage. Our pilots' watches, meticulously engineered with functionality and finesse, form the very heart of our collections, representing the indomitable spirit of aviation.

## Forging Aviation Excellence: The Iconic MB1 and MB Range

Our dedication to aviation excellence led to a prestigious partnership with Martin-Baker, the renowned British aviation company responsible for supplying fighter ejection seat technology to 70% of the world's Air Forces. This collaboration gave birth to the iconic Bremont MB1, a limited-edition timepiece designed to undergo the same rigorous testing as Martin-Baker's ejection seats.

While the MB1 remains an exclusive privilege for pilots who have ejected from an aircraft using a Martin-Baker seat, the MBII, and MBIII are available to all aviation enthusiasts. The MB Range, just like the ejection seats, has undergone intensive and extensive testing to ensure unmatched performance and durability.

## A Collaboration with the Ministry of Defence

At Bremont, we take immense pride in our partnership with the Ministry of Defence (MoD), through which we honour His Majesty's Armed Forces. This unique collaboration

allows us to legitimately incorporate the signs, symbols, and Heraldic Badges of the Royal Navy, British Army, and the Royal Air Force into our designs. The Armed Forces Collection draws inspiration from the historical 'Dirty Dozen' watches commissioned for the British Army during World War II, paying tribute to the courage and dedication of military personnel. Our commitment to the military extends beyond our standard collections.

## Bremont Military and Special Projects Division

The Bremont Military and Special Projects Division works closely with elite military units from around the world, crafting exclusive bespoke watches tailored to their specific needs. This division also caters to specialized communities and private organizations, offering personalized timepieces that embody our core principles.

We are particularly proud of our reach within the Australian military community, boasting an impressive lineup of timepieces crafted for specific Australian projects. These watches serve as a celebration of the dedication and valor of units such as the Second Battalion Australia, 1st Aviation Regiment, 2 Squadron Australia, 171 Aviation Squadron, 171 SOAS, Royal Australian Navy Submariners, and various RAAF squadrons.

## Honoring Service and Craftsmanship

As a gesture of gratitude, we offer a 15% subsidy off the RRP to eligible military serving members and veterans. This commitment exemplifies our dedication to those who serve their countries with unwavering courage and selflessness.

Each timepiece we create epitomizes precision, heritage and passion. Our watches are designed to withstand the harshest conditions and carry with them a deep appreciation for military history. It is this dedication that has earned us the reputation as the go-to luxury watch brand for aviation professionals and military personnel worldwide.

For any organisation or military community seeking something unique or wishing to explore existing projects, we welcome your inquiries at [specialprojects@bremont.com](mailto:specialprojects@bremont.com).

At Bremont, we continue to be fueled by our shared passion for aviation and military excellence, and we look forward to crafting exceptional timepieces that stand the test of time.





# BRINGING SYDNEY'S BUSINESS PEOPLE TOGETHER

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As one of Sydney's oldest business clubs, The Royal Exchange has been a valuable meeting point for the commercial community. It was formed with the aim of providing a place for businesspeople to meet, interact, and facilitate the 'exchange' of business with one another. Founding members include some of Australia's most well-known and successful business figures, the likes of David Jones, John Fairfax, William Wentworth and T.S. Mort. Current members continue to utilise the club's facilities as a place to bring people together. Entertaining clients for lunch, holding meetings and hosting events, along with enjoying the network of reciprocal clubs around the world.

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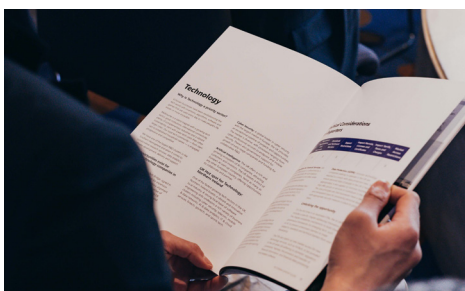
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# Highlights from our events across the globe

**Joseph Healy, CEO, Judo Bank**  
Business Lunch  
Thursday 8 June, The Fullerton Hotel



**Doing Business with the UK:**  
Global Victoria and the Department  
for Business and Trade  
Wednesday 8 July, Investment  
Centre Victoria



**Indigenous Procurement**  
Seminar, Rio Tinto and Supply Nation  
Thursday 13 July, W Hotel Brisbane





## Spot a picture of yourself and want to post it on socials?

You can find photos from our previous events on our website - don't forget to tag @BritishChamber in your posts!



**The Hon Madeleine King MP**  
Business Lunch with Ashurst and  
Pilbara Minerals  
Tuesday 22 August, Parmelia Hilton  
Perth



**Rugby Lunch** with Hearts in Rugby  
Union, OUSNSW and Ladbrokes  
Thursday 31 August, Four Seasons  
Hotel Sydney



**The inaugural Australian British  
Defence Catalyst**  
Monday 18 September - Wednesday  
20 September, London





## Helping to build your network

Meet our new and renewing Members of the past quarter. If you would like an introduction to any of these Members, please get in contact with us:

**Paul Wright**, Chief Commercial Officer  
pwright@britishchamber.com

**Samantha Reichmann**, Queensland Partnerships Manager  
sreichmann@britishchamber.com

**Matthew Joyce**, Victorian Partnerships Manager  
mjoyce@britishchamber.com

**Lynda Neoh**, Western Australian Partnerships Manager  
lneoh@britishchamber.com

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Gerard Daniels  
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Growth Australia  
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Howden Insurance Brokers  
IFM Investors  
Institute of Chartered Accountants in  
England and Wales  
IODM  
LegalVision Australia  
LEK Consulting

Mary's  
mdp Law  
Mitronics  
NashTech Software PTY LTD  
National Australia Bank  
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Oper8 Global  
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Penten  
Persifi  
Pilbara Minderals  
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Prince's Trust Australia  
QinietIQ  
Queensland Government - DAF  
Royce Hotels Melbourne  
RTR GmbH & Co. KG  
SAVINO DEL BENE AUSTRALIA  
Shangri-La  
Sherry Design Studios  
Squire Patton Boggs  
Telstra Health  
TelstraSuper  
Tenant CS  
Tennis Australia  
This Story Australia  
Victoria Racing Club  
WA Cricket

The Royal Flying Doctor Service  
The Royal National Agricultural and  
Industrial Association of Qld (RNA)  
Kanyana Engineering  
The Royal Exchange of Sydney

### Individuals

Amanda Tinner, Visa Executive  
Bill Crews, Rev. Bill Crews Foundation  
Daniel McLoughlin, FCM Travel  
Management  
Ian Anderson, MDA National  
Insurance  
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# Upcoming Events



**Nuclear with Andy Storer, CEO, Nuclear AMRC**  
Wednesday 8 November, Seminar, Sydney



**Energy Transition Investment Opportunities in Queensland**  
Wednesday 8 November, Seminar, Brisbane



**Cask Trade Whisky Tasting**  
Thursday 9 November, Special Event, Sydney



**Rare Earth and Lithium**  
Monday 4 December, Business Lunch, Sydney

## PLUS

**Cruise with the Europeans**  
Thursday 16 November, Special Event, Sydney

**Virtual Meet the Member**  
Tuesday 28 November, Webinar, Online

**Melbourne Christmas Party**  
Thursday 30 November, Evening Networking

**Perth Christmas Party**  
Tuesday 28 November, Webinar, Online

**Sydney Christmas Party**  
Wednesday 6 December, Evening Networking

**Brisbane Christmas Party**  
Thursday 7 December, Evening Networking

## Interested in sponsoring a future event?

We are keen for you to use our events expertise to engage with our network on pertinent topics and thought leadership, and have a variety of sponsorship opportunities available for our current event calendar. Should you be interested in discussing this further, please contact Jenny Garber, Head of Programming at [jgarber@britishchamber.com](mailto:jgarber@britishchamber.com).



EXCLUSIVE Q&A CONTINUED

## To Andy Storer, there is blue sky in Australia

**Storer calls out Aussie construction business BMD Group which has set up an office in London and in Derby and has visited Sellafield, Barrow and Devonport.**

"I call it the boomerang" said Storer. "They're coming across learning how to get how to do things, getting some staff trained up, working on developments that Australia might need, then going back with Rolls-Royce, with other organisations to Australia to help collaborate and pull those companies together."

Andy Storer's cut-through message is about urgency. Supply chains, dockyards and capability take time to develop. "If you don't move, and the government still wants the submarines, then it will be done to you Australia and you'll have a lot less economic development in it. And I think that would be a real shame," he said.

Andy Storer wears his Derbyshire heritage with as much feistiness as Harry, his white West Highland Terrier-with-attitude who dominates Storer's LinkedIn. When others headed to

university, he is proud to have started an apprenticeship working on gas and coal power stations in a business later bought out by Rolls-Royce.

All the manufacturing, skills development and safety case work was a good grounding for his current AMRC role. "My job is hard, but it's simple to describe: to help UK companies win work, whether it's through connections, or innovation in design work, project management or actually innovation in manufacturing", Storer said.

The Nuclear AMRC has three sites closely located so staff can transfer easily. Rotherham just outside Sheffield houses the world's largest nuclear manufacturing research centre, a giant laboratory for mechanical engineering; in Derby, home of Rolls-Royce submarines, the second site is for electrical controls and instrumentation; and in Birchwood, near Warrington the third site researches modular construction for SMRs.

Pictured: Andy Storer speaking at the Australian British Chamber of Commerce's inaugural Energy Transition and Investment Catalyst, held in June 2023.





Pictured: Andy also joined the Chamber at our inaugural Australian British Defence Catalyst held in September 2023.

Take the research using CO2 rather than cutting fluids in machining. “We can cut faster and deeper. And the tool tip lasts longer. We’ve not yet done that in production but hopefully we can pass that on to our members and they will benefit,” he said.

It is in civil nuclear power – nuclear energy - where Andy Storer sees real upside for Australia, providing it can learn quickly from the lessons of the UK over the last decade. While British defence nuclear progressed steadily from the 1950s underpinned by the submarine build, the stop-start politics of civil nuclear in the past two decades lost not only time, but capability. It shrank the supply chain and cruelled confidence within business and research academia.

The UK Government gave the green light to a new fleet of large reactors in 2006, and soon had utilities lining up to build new power stations on at least five sites around the country. But 17 years and six prime ministers later, construction has started at only one site, Hinkley Point C in South-West England.

The Government is now considering whether to support new designs of small modular reactor (SMR) which promise to reduce the financing and delivery challenges facing large reactors.

“We have been talking a lot about small reactors with Rolls-Royce. Rolls-Royce received some government money and private investment in 2021 to develop their design, but full-scale commercial development is paused until the government decides what they want to do,” said Storer.

The four-year churn of the election cycle is much to blame. Ironically, so is the pace of innovation which by its nature marches on after a decision to commit to a specific model or process.

**“Don’t fall into the bear trap we have. We’ve been at the small reactor now for 10 years and we’re still talking about it.”**

Storer compares the problem to buying a car. “You have the aircon, four doors and you’re just about to buy and then you realise, hello here comes electric car and I’ve got a diesel. And when I’m about to go forward with my electric car I might find there’s a hydrogen car. So you never make a decision because you waited on the next thing and that’s what has happened with Britain.”

Make a decision and what is the worst that can happen? You may have one outdated model, but you have made electricity and built a supply chain, Storer argues.

“That’s one of the reasons I make bold, strong statements when I talk with Australian organisations because there are massive lessons to learn. Don’t fall into the bear trap we have. We’ve been at the small reactor now for 10 years and we’re still talking about it,” he said.

The grand news according to Storer is that once committed to defence nuclear, Australia will have a regulator and will build a manufacturing supply chain and capability. A simple civil programme is a relatively easy jump.

Today, most governments in Australia are positioned against developing nuclear power in-country, but there is undoubtedly a burning interest in Small Modular Reactors, particularly given Australia’s remote regions where both community and industry need reliable power.

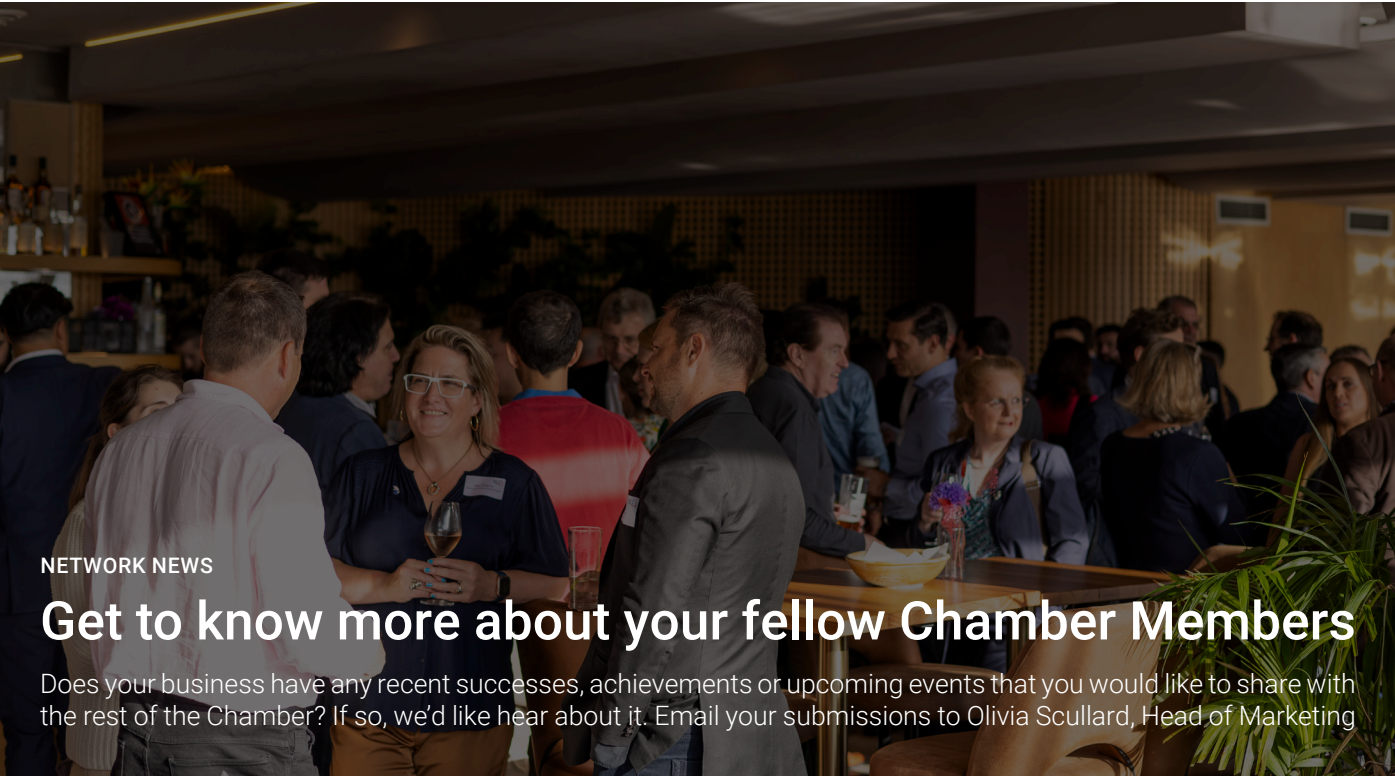
SMRs now in development at Rolls-Royce, Westinghouse and GE are typically 300-500 megawatts in size and their time to delivery should be far faster than the big reactors such as the 1,600MW EPRs being built at Hinkley Point C. And the all-in cost, given a long life cycle of nuclear power compares favourably with renewables with the added benefit of consistent reliable output.

The latest Nuclear AMRC research looks at building 50 to 200 modules in the factory and bolting them together on-site. This allows more control, efficiency and also the flexibility to build smaller footprints of 5 to 10 megawatt micro-reactors closer to towns.



Pictured: Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, Rotterdam location.





## NETWORK NEWS

# Get to know more about your fellow Chamber Members

Does your business have any recent successes, achievements or upcoming events that you would like to share with the rest of the Chamber? If so, we'd like hear about it. Email your submissions to Olivia Scullard, Head of Marketing



DMTC's Maritime program comprises collaborative programs across the naval shipbuilding and repair cycle, including production and sustainment technologies, life-of-type assessments and critical research inputs to inform design of future platforms. Image © Department of Defence 2020

## DMTC: Impact through innovation

DMTC is a Melbourne-based company that works across Australia, leading and managing collaborative technology development projects between government, industry, and research partners. Activities across the DMTC portfolio are designed to build industrial capacity and leverage brilliant Australian research to maximise impact in priority areas for Australia's defence, national security and health security.

DMTC's work positions Australian companies and researchers to capitalise on alliance capability opportunities arising from the AUKUS partnership, with a focus on accelerating innovation and enhancing supply chain resilience.

A specific example is the work undertaken in DMTC's Maritime Program on the translation of Defence requirements into the development and application of breakthrough technologies.

Recent highlights include the application of advanced welding techniques for Hunter Class Frigate production and work on both production and sustainment technologies for the Collins Class submarine. DMTC and its partners have also advanced the quality of naval shipbuilding steels, resulting in enhanced survivability characteristics which have the potential to extend the life of naval vessels.

A not-for-profit company, DMTC has a proven track record in leading defence innovation. Our collaboration model gives DMTC the ability to identify, develop and exploit the emerging technological advantages that Defence needs now and in the future.





## QinetiQ welcomes Gary Stewart, Chief Executive, Australia

QinetiQ is an integrated global defence and security company dedicated to protecting lives by serving the national interests of our customers. With a highly-skilled team of over 850 people in Australia and 8,000 people globally, we are committed to developing innovative methods for testing technologies, systems and processes, enabling our customers to deploy new and enhanced capabilities with complete confidence in their performance.

As a trusted industry partner, QinetiQ delivers critical capability in test and evaluation, threat representation, engineering, program delivery and advisory services, in addition to operating a range of facilities on behalf of customers.

Earlier this year, QinetiQ announced the establishment of its new Australia Sector, becoming QinetiQ's global hub for threat representation capabilities. Leading the Australia Sector is Chief Executive Gary Stewart, with more than 20 years' experience in the defence industry and 11 years of service as an Electrical Engineer in the Royal Australian Air Force. The Australia Sector incorporates more than 1,200 employees worldwide.

QinetiQ's continued investment in Australian people, skills and facilities including the acquisition of Air Affairs in 2022, the QinetiQ Technology and Engineering Centre and the Test & Evaluation Sovereign Skills Program, demonstrate a commitment to building Australia's sovereign defence capabilities.

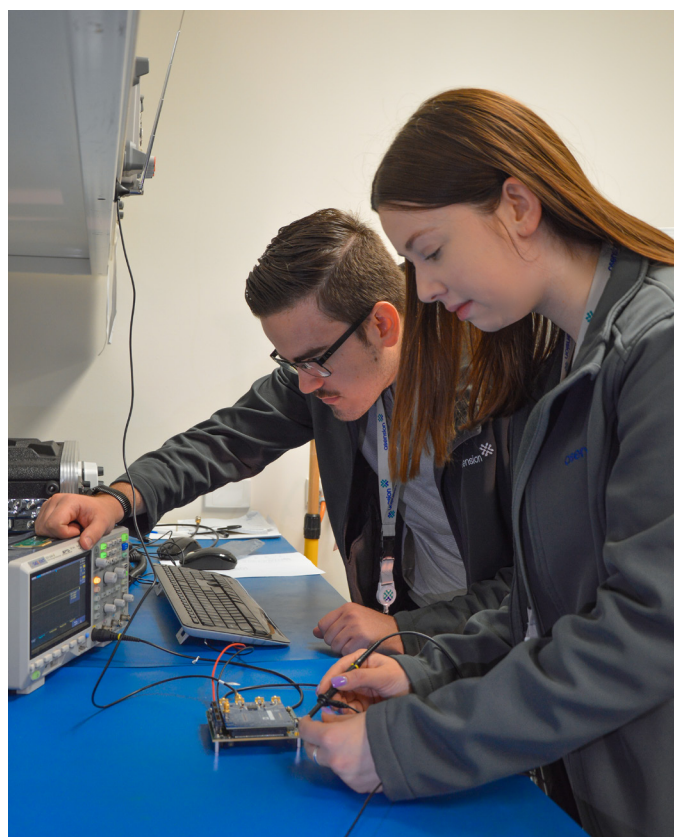
## Asension: Adelaide's Jewel in the Crown of Electronic Warfare

In Adelaide, South Australia, one company is emerging as a disruptor in the complex sphere of electronic warfare (EW). Meet Asension, an enterprise merging the talents of former Defence and Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel with the brightest engineering graduates in the country. This potent alliance aims to cultivate an unrivalled, homegrown EW industry, enriching Australia's technological ecosystem.

By joining forces with a handful of Australian universities and the Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG), Asension is the future of EW. Their revolutionary sensor fusion technology bridges the gap between raw data and actionable insights, advancing real-time operational efficacy.

Their software-definable hardware comes with unprecedented versatility, designed for deployment across diverse terrains—land, sea, space, or air. These platforms also offer remote reconfigurability, allowing quick adaptation to shifting tactical landscapes.

Asension's collaborative efforts with academic and DSTG partners have resulted in their technology having cutting-edge encryption protocols. When joined as nodes, their technology becomes a resilient mesh network. Add to this the power of artificial intelligence-enabled edge processing, and you have a solution that not only redefines EW but will continue to elevate Australia's national security framework.



## NEC CONTRACTS

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