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Publisher:
Yaffa publishing Group Pty Ltd
ABN 54 002 699 354

On the move



cargo loading vehicles, specifically designed for the Hercules, C130 and C17's, as well as their array of ground support and materials handling equipment.

Static Engineering was released for sale after the recent passing of its Director who established the business in 1958.

"This was an opportune time for us to grow the Broens business, whilst maintaining the intellectual property in Australia," said Broens Industries Managing Director Carlos Broens. Broens, whose head office, engineering and manufacturing facility resides just southwest of Sydney with a 12,000sqm high-tech engineering plant, was originally looking to purchase property on the new TechPort site.

The aim of the move was to expand Broens operations in South Australia, in response to the growing number of defence and mining opportunities. The purchase of Static Engineering has given Broens an established premise in close proximity to the TechPort site, an ideal location to provide manufacturing solutions to the Air Warfare Destroyer program.

AWD procurement changes



At the first of the AWD Roadshow briefing sessions held in Canberra on Monday 22 October, AWD Program Manager, Warren King, highlighted a major change in the decision making process for the project, following contract signature.

He said that although the DMO retained overall responsibility for the AWD Program, procurement decisions, based on cost, capability, schedule and risk were now being made by the **AWD Alliance (DMO, ASC and Raytheon Australia)** who are under contract to deliver the project. ▶▶▶

Industry representatives are encouraged to register for the project via the AWD website at www.ausawd.com. The website also lists major engagements and announcements that are important to Australian industry.

New Chief Information Officer appointed

Mr Greg Farr has been appointed the Defence Department's Chief Information Officer. Farr is currently Second Commissioner in the Australian Taxation Office. In this role he oversaw production management areas covering almost all processing of taxpayer information, he also led reform of the ATO's information and communications technology operations.

Mr Farr was selected from a competitive field of public and private sector candidates but many were surprised at the appointment of a government man rather than a private sector candidate. His appointment meets a key recommendation of the Defence Management Review to give a heightened priority to reform of Defence's business systems. He starts work in his new role later this month.

Ready to go sooner



Ground support for the RAAF's C-17 Globemaster fleet has been enhanced with the delivery of four Truck Aircraft Loading Unloading (TALU) units to RAAF bases across Australia.

Static Engineering has produced four TALUs for Air Force. The final unit was delivered to RAAF

Base Townsville earlier this month. TALUs have also been delivered to RAAF bases Pearce, Amberley and Darwin.

Each TALU has a platform that can carry a payload of 22.5 tonnes, and hold up to five military pallets. These units greatly increase the ease of loading and unloading the Globemaster by elevating the platform to the height of the aircraft's cargo floor.

PDA for enhanced capability



DSTO has developed a hand-held information tool to help ADF personnel operate more effectively by using local knowledge during deployments overseas. Known as the Synchronised Handheld Information & Local Observation Collator or SHIRLOC, the device was demonstrated to a large military audience at the recent Land Warfare Conference in Adelaide.

SHIRLOC is an information tool that runs on Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) and was initially designed for use by soldiers on peace keeping missions. Acting Chief Defence Scientist Dr Nanda Nandagopal said SHIRLOC was developed for Australian troops in Timor-Leste to help them compile information on local criminal elements and illegal activities.

In complex warfighting and peacekeeping operations, where local knowledge is becoming increasingly important, SHIRLOC improves awareness of mission-relevant information to assist troops in carrying out their dangerous tasks. ▶▶▶

SHIRLOC consists of a database with a large number of records that can be readily referenced during patrols, providing soldiers with an enormous amount of information not previously accessible. They include cross-reference links to associated people, locations, events, groups and even vehicles. Searches in the SHIRLOC database can be carried out using variables of names and alias, age and group.

Round 11 CTD proposals funded

Eight proposals have been selected under the Round 11 of the Defence Capability and Technology Demonstrator (CTD) Program. The eight successful CTD projects are:

- Corrosion Prognostic Health Management System for Aircraft (**BAE Systems Australia**)
- Carbon Nanotubes for Ballistic Protection (**CSIRO Textile and Fibre Technology**)
- Increased Situational Awareness for Land Vehicles (**Thales Australia**)
- Flexible Integrated Energy Device (**CSIRO Textile and Fibre Technology**)
- Autonomous Underwater Surveillance Sensor Network (**L-3 Nautronix**)
- Spherion Broadband Sonar Processing (**Thales Underwater Systems**)
- Millimetre Wave Digital Receiver (**Tenix Systems**)
- Ceramic Membrane Oxygen Generator (**Tectonica, CSIRO Energy Technology**)

NATO Medal for Diggers in Afghanistan



The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, has announced that ADF personnel serving alongside their NATO counterparts in Afghanistan will be able to officially accept and wear the NATO medal. The Commander of the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said a formal offer to award the medal to ADF personnel has been accepted by the Australian Government. The NATO medal with clasp 'ISAF' is awarded for 30 days service in Afghanistan in support of ISAF. The medal may also be awarded posthumously and both Trooper David Pearce and Sergeant Matthew Locke will be awarded the NATO medal. Arrangements will be made to present this medal to their families at an appropriate time. ADF members deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Slipper are also eligible.

Royal Marines to gain Soothsayer EW capability

The Royal Marines signals intelligence unit, Y Troop, will be the first recipient of the new Project Soothsayer electronic warfare capability. Mounted on the **Supacat** high-mobility platform, Soothsayer provides integrated electronic support measures (ESM) and electronic countermeasures (ECM) and will replace equipment currently in service with the British Army and the Royal Marines. The British Soothsayer system has components common to the Australian DEF 224 Land EW system now under development.

Contestants jostle for BAMS UAV award

With fewer ships at sea to provide round-the-clock maritime surveillance, a shrinking fleet of P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft, and the future P-8 Poseidon aircraft already committed to tracking increased submarine activity, the US Navy (USN) and the Australian Government is looking to its. ▶▶▶

Broad Area Maritime Surveillance (BAMS) platforms to plug a hole in its global coverage. Industry has a lot to play for too, not least because the BAMS contract - which seeks to deliver a persistent surveillance capability by 2013 - will be worth an estimated US\$3 billion to the winning team.

So close



It has been one of the most puzzling features of the MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) competition to date. **Thales Australia's** Bushmaster vehicle was one of the first mine-resistant vehicles on the ground in Afghanistan and Iraq, where it has served successfully with Australian and Dutch forces. Yet it reaped none of the 'low risk deployment' orders issued at the competition's inception, and has received none since.

Now Thales Australia has made it official. With over 80 per cent of allotted vehicles ordered, the Bushmaster Category II JERRV vehicle is out of the race for MRAP-I competition orders. The announcement means that both of **Oshkosh's** partnered entries have washed out, coming as it does on the heels of reports that their **PVI, Inc.** partnership's Alpha MRUV vehicle had failed MRAP testing.

A contract worth more than US\$1.2 billion was awarded on 18 October to three companies to supply (MRAP) vehicles to the US Department of Defense (DoD). **BAE Systems'** portion of the contract is reported to be worth US\$322 million. Other recipients for MRAP vehicles were **IMG** and **Force Protection**.

Virtually the real thing



A partnership between **Bohemia Interactive** and **Laser Shot** has yielded the Personal Weapon Simulation (PWS) version of the Virtual Battlespace 2 (VBS2) software. The PWS version is specifically tailored for realistic weapons training simulations. Whether employed for individual or small unit tactical simulations with weapons, or integrated in Live-Virtual-Constructive exercises, PWS is the world's newest and most versatile weapon training tool. PWS will be sold exclusively through Laser Shot.

The VBS2 desktop version has already established a strong reputation as the world's most fully interactive, commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS), three-dimensional training and mission rehearsal software tool. Based on its flexibility and ease of use, Enterprise-level VBS2 usage has already been instituted by the US Army Special Forces Command, the US Marine Corps, and the Armed Forces of the UK, Australia, and New Zealand.

VBS2 was recently on show at the Land Warfare conference in Adelaide where a gaming fanatic asked why the graphics were not as realistic as other COTS simulation solutions available. A very helpful signals soldier pointed out that he would rather have realistic weapons and reactions than pretty colours, running the simulation on machines in the field that may not have the grunt to support high end graphics.

Defence 2006-07 Annual Report

While Defence has made significant improvements over 2006-07, particularly in its financial management and recruitment, the reform program has only just begun.

“The improvements over 2006-07 mark the beginning of a much broader process of change that we will implement over the coming years. This will include, but not be limited to, the Defence Management Review, which provides an opportunity for reform, not a blueprint,” said Defence Secretary Mr Nick Warner and Air Chief Marshal Houston.

“We are strongly committed to improving our business systems, governance and accountability, people management and our support to the Minister and the ADF and its operations, and that will be the focus of our change agenda over 2007-08 and into the future.” The annual report for 2006-07 is available at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/budget/06-07/dar/index.htm>

DMO's financial statements ticked

The DMO's annual report for 2006-07 records that its financial statements were endorsed by the Auditor-General without qualification. In providing through-life support for ADF equipment, the DMO delivered in-service support to 100 diverse categories of Defence specialised military equipment, ranging from major platforms such as aircraft and ships to individual items such as vehicles, rifles, tents, support and clothing. DMO is continuing to address a critical skills shortage through the Skilling Australia's Defence Industry (SADI) initiative.

DMO's 2006-07 consultancy costs

To meet skills currently unavailable within the agency, the need for specialised or professional skills and/or the need for independent research or assessment, DMO divisions spent \$11.8 million on consultancy services with a contract value of \$10 000 or more during 2006-07.

They comprised: Aerospace Systems Division (\$770,270); Warfare Destroyer Program (\$133,054); Electronic and Weapon Systems Division (\$6,288,804); Industry Division (\$61,857); Land Systems Division (\$47,124); Maritime Systems Division (\$4,211,554); and New Air Combat Capability (\$111,408).

Thales unveils its MINIE night-vision goggle



A new night-vision goggle (NVG) for infantry soldiers, known as MINIE (Miniaturised Night Intensified Equipment), was launched by **Thales Land & Joint Systems** last month. The new product, developed by the company's specialist subsidiary, **Thales Angénieux**, is seen as a replacement for its Lucie NVG.

And the winner is . . .

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) has received a top national aviation award for its rapid and successful introduction of the **Boeing C-17 Globemaster III** into service.

The Australian regional division of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators (GAPAN) has awarded its prestigious GAPAN Grand Master's Australian Medal to the RAAF's C-17 Transition Team and Amberley-based 36 Squadron. ▶▶▶



GPCAPT Gault commended the RAAF for having brought the aircraft into service rapidly and efficiently, beginning with the formation of a RAAF C-17 Transition Team in January 2006.

“The RAAF C-17 Globemaster III Transition Team achieved what many considered impossible - the successful research, compilation, and presentation in less than two months of documentation and data to support what was, at the time, the largest financial acquisition in RAAF history,” GPCAPT Gault said.

With the announcement of four C-17s being purchased for the RAAF in March 2006, 36SQN sent air and ground crews to train with the US Air Force to develop Australia’s C-17 personnel capability.

In December 2006, the first aircraft arrived at RAAF Base Amberley. In September 2007, the RAAF declared the Globemaster to have reached initial operational capability, clearing it for use with the wider ADF.

INTERNATIONAL

New Baroness in charge

The UK MoD has a new boss. The Right Honourable Baroness Ann Taylor of Bolton was appointed Minister for Defence on November 7. Baroness Taylor succeeds Lord Drayson who is taking a break from politics to pursue his motor racing career in the US. No joke.

New and improved Paladin



BAE Systems and the US Army have signed a MoU that will establish a Public Private Partnership (P3) to enhance and maintain the currently deployed M109A6 Paladin 155 mm/39-calibre self-propelled (SP) artillery system. In consultation with the US Army, **BAE Systems Ground Systems** designed and built the prototype of the M109A6 Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) SP artillery system in just nine months.

Missiles on show

Taiwan showcased two types of indigenously produced missile at a National Day military parade on 10 October. The missiles - a supersonic variant of the Hsiung Feng-III (HF-III, ‘Brave Wind’) anti-ship missile and a modified version of the Tien Kung-III (‘Sky Sword’) ballistic-missile interceptor - have never before been seen in public.

Working together

Conflict prevention has emerged alongside the requirement to fight and win wars as a central theme in the US Navy’s (USN’s) strategic blueprint for the coming decades. The new document, ‘A Co-operative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower’, calls for closer working relationships between navies in an era of increasing globalisation, where collective security is impacted by more than direct attack.

First FCS elements reach the field

As the US Army begins fielding the first pieces of the Future Combat Systems (FCS) equipment, service leaders are pressing for further collaboration with their UK counterparts on land forces modernisation. FCS is a long-term effort led by **Boeing** and **Science Applications International Corp (SAIC)** to develop a networked family of manned ground vehicles (MGVs), unmanned aircraft systems, unattended sensors, robotic vehicles and precision munitions that will eventually equip future brigade combat teams.

Uplifting decision for Poland



The Polish Government has ordered another two **EADS CASA C-295** military transport aircraft for the Polish Air Force. These two units increase the number of eight aircraft purchased in 2001 and two additional ones in 2006 up to 12 now in operation.

With Air 8000's Battlefield Airlifter Ph 2 up for grabs for both the C-27J Spartan from **Alenia** and **Lockheed Martin** and the EADS CASA C-295 offering soon, the Caribou hasn't much longer to live.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Developing Operational Risk Assessment Skills

DATE: 12-14 November
LOCATION: CMA Centre, Melbourne
ENQUIRIES: Tel: (02) 9080 4050 Fax: (02) 9299 3109
 or visit www.iired.com.au

As part of providing a safe, controlled and efficient operation there is a requirement to carry out appropriate and robust risk assessments to identify the hazards and operational challenges and appropriate controls required to manage them.

This course covers some of the more commonly used operational risk assessment techniques, giving delegates a suite of tools to take back for practical implementation at the workplace.

MilCIS - NCW - Realising the Vision

DATE: 20-22 November 2007
LOCATION: National Convention Centre, Canberra
ENQUIRIES: Tel: (02) 6251 0675 Fax: (02) 6251 0672
 Email: milcis2007@consec.com.au
 or visit www.milcis.com.au

MilCIS is an annual conference aimed at attendees from military and government organisations, academia, and Defence industry, who contribute to key decisions in investments in communications and information systems.

The Future of Programming Languages

DATE: Sydney: 26th November 2007 Courtyard Marriott,
7-11 Talavera Road, North Ryde
Adelaide: 27th November 2007 Technology Park Conference Centre,
Mawson Lakes Boulevard

ENQUIRIES: Tel (08) 8299 9333 or info@dedicatedsystems.com

Some thoughts on where programming languages are heading:

- New programming languages: Will they emerge? What will they look like?
- Will very high level languages finally come into fashion?
- How will we handle large, highly reliable and safety critical systems?
- What additional language features will we see to handle an increased focus on concurrency and multiprocessing driven by the prevalence of multi-core devices?

Pacific 2008

DATE: 29 January - 1 February 2008, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

ENQUIRIES: Bob Wouda Tel (03) 5282 0500 or Email expo@maritime.net.au

Pacific 2008 is a comprehensive showcase of the latest developments on naval, underwater and commercial maritime technology that will also feature a number of highly informative industry conferences and seminars. **Not to be missed.**

ADM's 5th Annual Defence Industry Congress

DATE: 26-27 February 2008, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra

ENQUIRIES: Tim Bostridge Informa Tel (02) 9080 4318
Email tim.bostridge@informa.com.au or visit www.informa.com.au

The perfect opportunity for Defence and Defence industry players to meet and network. The ADM Defence/Industry Awards are held in conjunction with the conference. More information on the awards: email judyhinz@yaffa.com.au