

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

Minister for Defence and Space Industries

Friday, 22 September 2017

Emerging technologies showcased at hackathon

Fostering emerging technologies that will help drive South Australia's high-tech growth industries will be the focus of *QxBranch's* Quantum Computing Hackathon being held in Adelaide today.

Around 50 engineers, computer scientists and mathematicians will put their critical thinking and analytical skills to the test at the University of Adelaide when they compete to solve real-world problems using *QxBranch's* quantum computer simulator.

US-Australian quantum computing and data analytics software firm *QxBranch*, which is home to a significant technical team in South Australia, is hosting the competition to encourage local industry and researchers to apply cutting-edge technologies to everyday situations.

The event is supported by South Australia's Defence Innovation Partnership, which was established earlier this year to connect, research organisations, industry and government to develop new research and development partnerships, and foster innovation and emerging technology development for future industries.

Background

QxBranch is a spin-out of *two* leading companies in the aerospace and defence sector, Washington DC's Tauri Group and Adelaide's Shoal Group.

The company is recognised for its world-leading work in quantum computing applications, solving highly complex problems in finance, insurance and security with unprecedented speed.

Defence and Space Industries Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith said investing in emerging technologies, innovation and knowledge-intensive industries is key to transforming our economy and creating high-tech jobs of the future.

Quotes attributable to Defence and Space Industries Minister Martin Hamilton-Smith

This is a fantastic initiative which aligns with our desire to grow South Australia's science and technology capabilities. We are excited to see our local industry, students and researchers develop innovative technologies to apply to our everyday lives and help solve *real-world problems*.

Now is the time to start investing in emerging technologies, such as quantum technology, along with other priority areas, including cybersecurity, intelligence surveillance, trusted autonomous systems and space, in order to grow our economy and create new job opportunities.

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