

## Hon Jay Weatherill MP

Premier

## Hon Susan Close MP

Minister for Higher Education and Skills

Sunday 10 July, 2016

### **Key sponsorship boosts South Australia's defence and STEM capabilities**

Defence technology and innovation company Lockheed Martin Australia will be sponsoring university students in two programs which aim to strengthen their skills and experience to boost South Australia's defence and science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) credentials.

The company will sponsor up to eight students at South Australian universities in two government-led programs, the Defence Honours Scholarship Program and the STEM Internship Program, an investment of \$62,000 over two years.

The funding provides much sought after opportunities for students to gain valuable industry experience, enhance their learning and gain work-ready skills with local defence industry partners.

### **Background**

The **Defence Honours Scholarship Program** awards up to 10 scholarships each year, providing undergraduate students with the opportunity to undertake their final year Honours project in partnership with industry.

The **Defence and STEM Internship Program** awards up to 10 internships each year, providing third and fourth year undergraduate students with industry experience through work placements of between 12 and 24 weeks with defence companies and industries reliant on STEM skills.

The programs, which have been running since 2014, are delivered in partnership with the Playford Memorial Trust and the Defence Teaming Centre.

### **Quotes attributable to Premier Jay Weatherill**

Our state is home to a world-class defence industry, delivering innovative solutions to complex problems.

Having a State Budget surplus, as announced on Thursday, allows us to be flexible in the way that we ensure we have skilled STEM workers capable of meeting the industry's needs into the future.

These programs, along with our \$500 million STEM investment in schools, will give students the experience they need to succeed in the field – and a foot in the door for jobs in the defence sector.

## **Quotes attributable to Minister for Higher Education and Skills Susan Close**

STEM skills are critical to innovation, which is at the heart of the state's future economic growth.

There are many opportunities in STEM industries, including defence, with strong career prospects and high salaries. It's really important we engage young people and raise their awareness that studying STEM subjects opens up a world of opportunities for their future career.

## **Quotes attributable to Lockheed Martin Australia Chief Executive Raydon Gates**

Here at Lockheed Martin Australia, we recognise that our future success depends on the constant supply of highly trained, highly capable technical talent.

As part of our efforts to educate and inspire tomorrow's scientists, engineers and mathematicians, we believe that supporting initiatives like this one will play a vital role in educating the next generation of STEM professionals.

We know the opportunities that a career in STEM can afford firsthand and we are pleased to be participating in these programs with the South Australian Government to ensure future generations will have the access and opportunities to choose a rewarding career.

Media Contact: Callie Bryson 0478 346 495 | Tanalee Smith 0408 377 584