



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP
Minister for Defence

THE HON. WARREN SNOWDON MP
Minister for Defence Science and Personnel

Saturday, 2 May 2009

DSTO LABORATORIES FOR THE FUTURE

The Minister for Defence, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, and the Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, announced today that the Government will fund a rolling program of technology upgrades in the Defence Science and Technology Organisation's (DSTO) laboratories and technical facilities. In the first four years \$10 million will be provided for this program.

"The expertise of the staff, and the scale and depth of its Defence-focused research infrastructure enables DSTO to carry out highly classified research, from basic science right through to the development of engineered prototypes," Mr Snowdon said.

Investment in facilities such as DSTO's Missile Simulation Centre and Phased Array Radar testbed, in Edinburgh South Australia, will provide facilities necessary for DSTO to take our technologies to the next step.

"This program will begin with the upgraded Missile Simulation Centre which provides DSTO with an enhanced hardware-in-the-loop capability to assess the performance of current and future generations of weapon systems in Australian conditions.

"This will be followed by the Phased Array Radar testbed that will provide an environment for assessing the performance of the latest developments in microwave radar and electronic warfare. Advances in smart materials have led to electronic components decreasing in size by several orders of magnitude.

"The rapid development of new, smaller devices, coupled with outstanding test facilities will give DSTO every opportunity to maximise radar and electronic warfare capabilities for the ADF," Mr Snowdon said.

This high-tech research capability will benefit not only our defence force but also those of our allies, with whom we have close collaborative arrangements.

A Defence Force for the 21st Century

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DSTO has major research facilities located in Melbourne and Adelaide, with additional research facilities in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Canberra, Innisfail and Scottsdale.

DSTO's 2300 staff of predominantly scientists, engineers, Information and Communications Technology specialists and technicians work in critical Defence technology areas such as Air Vehicles and Air Operations; Maritime Platforms and Maritime Operations; Land Operations; Command, Control and Communications and Intelligence; Electronic Warfare and Radar; Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance; Weapons Systems; Joint Operations; Human Protection and Performance; and Counter Terrorism.

The 2009 Defence White Paper represents the most comprehensive statement on Defence ever produced. It affirms the Government's commitment to the defence of Australia, the protection of our sovereign interests and the security and stability of our region.

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