



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

HEADQUARTERS JOINT OPERATIONS COMMAND (HQJOC) PROJECT

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NEW DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS PROJECT ACHIEVES MAJOR MILESTONE

The Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC) Project reached another key milestone this month with the signing of the contract for the construction and operation of the new, state-of-the-art facility to be located between Canberra and Bungendore.

Praeco Pty Ltd - a consortium comprising Leighton Contractors Pty Limited and ABN AMRO Australian Limited - was announced as the preferred tenderer in May after an extensive and detailed tender evaluation process following the release of the Request for Tender on 1 September 2004.

Because this component of the Project will be delivered under private financing arrangements, the value of the contract will not be finalised until Praeco has reached financial closure at the end of July.

The contract's total value will comprise both the capital cost of the buildings and infrastructure for the facility and the cost of providing a range of contracted services such as access control, cleaning, administrative and clerical support, waste removal and maintenance services over the 30 year term.

The HQJOC contract marks a significant milestone for the Australian Government because Praeco Pty Ltd will be providing the building, infrastructure and service components of the Project under private financing arrangements.

The Project's Director General, Air Commodore Plenty said "The project is on course to see the new headquarters become operational by late 2008."

In other news, the Project conducted an extensive independent community awareness survey late last year which indicated that a large majority of the local community is aware of the Project and most believe it will have a positive impact on their lives.

Other developments have seen the appointment of the Queanbeyan-based technology company, Codarra Advanced Systems, to support the delivery of the command, control, communications, computing and intelligence (C4I) systems for the headquarters.

Codarra Advanced Systems won the three-year, \$7 million contract from a shortlist of five Australian companies, some being subsidiaries of large overseas companies. Codarra is assisting the Project Office to develop the documentation for the contract for the Prime System Integrator who will procure and install the C4I Systems. The contract will be put to tender in August 2006.

The Project has also completed the acquisition of land for the site and the access roads. The total area of land acquired is approximately 240 hectares, comprising about 218 hectares, or 540 acres, for the Headquarters site and about 22 hectares, or 54 acres, for the two access roads and a railway underpass.

The final parcels of land acquired were for the Emergency Access Route connecting the site with Molonglo Place and the Captains Flat Road.

Other activities have included the installation of a new boundary stock fence, extensive plantings of native trees and shrubs along

the eastern and southern boundaries and the installation of an automatic weather monitoring station. Meteorological data collected by the weather station is now available on the Project's internet website (see below). The Project is also undertaking regular monitoring of the surface and groundwater at the site.

In mid 2005, the Project commissioned a study of the groundwater supply for the facility. The study, completed in early 2006, has assessed that the groundwater requirements for the headquarters are a small proportion of the annual groundwater recharge to the aquifer, and would not adversely impact neighbouring properties or the Bungendore groundwater supply. A copy of the report is also available on the Project's website.

An extensive archaeological study of the site and access routes to identify and preserve any heritage artifacts is being finalised. The results of the study will be posted on the Project's website when the report is finalised later in 2006.

The Headquarters Project, first announced by the Government in October 2001, will provide the Chief of the Defence Force with a first class command and control facility to enable more effective command and control of the Australian Defence Force. The Headquarters will have an integrated staff structure, bringing together staff and agencies responsible for strategic and operational level planning and execution of military campaigns, operations and other designated activities, Air Commodore Plenty said.

For further information on the Project, log on to: www.defence.gov.au/id/hqjoc.