DEFENCE HAS ANNOUNCED A $500 MILLION INVESTMENT TO IMPROVE AUSTRALIA’S SPACE-BASED INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE OPERATIONS AROUND THE WORLD AND AT HOME.

Defence’s enhanced access to commercial imaging satellites will increase Australia’s capacity to maintain surveillance and improve situational awareness for the Australian Defence Force and other national security agencies through the provision of high-quality imagery.

The improved capabilities will be achieved through direct access to on-orbit commercial imagery satellites, providing improved timeliness and value for money.

AT A GLANCE:

The government has committed $500 MILLION
Defence Project 799 was first introduced in the 2016 DEFENCE WHITE PAPER
Defence Project 799 will consist of two phases:

PHASE 1:
To provide Australia with direct and more timely access to commercial imaging satellites to support a wide range of Defence and national security activities.

PHASE 2:
The possible acquisition of a sovereign GEOINT space surveillance system.

It will be preceded by a two-year study into costs and options.

ENGAGING WITH INDUSTRY

A priority for AGO is industry engagement. The government is committed to maximising Australian industry content with Phase 1 of this project forecasting over $144 million to be spent in Australia, creating jobs and generating economic growth.

Through collaborative strategic partnerships with AGO, Australian industry will benefit with around $14 million spent locally to build the ground infrastructure to collect imagery from commercial satellites.

A total of $130 million will be spent on support contracts over the 13-year life of the project providing commercial opportunities for Australian companies.

This investment will also create opportunities for Australian companies interested in providing direct tasking satellite systems and imagery analysis.