



Australian Government

Defence

Office of Defence
Industry Support (ODIS)

Industry Engagement Division,
Capability Acquisition and
Sustainment Group.



Industry Engagement **UPDATE**

December 2025

Business Tips

Do you know your holiday season entitlements?

Many defence SMEs experience changes in operations towards the end of the year. Some may need employees to work additional hours or on public holidays, while others may temporarily scale back or shut down activities.

Understanding the rules around public holiday rates, staff directions and leave entitlements can help you plan workloads, meet compliance obligations and support staff wellbeing during this period.

Learn more about managing public holidays staffing and entitlements.

FIND OUT MORE



Australian Industry Capability AIC Practitioner Course 2026

Do you need to build, or refresh your AIC skills? Build, or deepen your knowledge in AIC procurement planning, drafting (via ASDEFCON templates), and contract management in this engaging two-day course. Delivered through face-to-face or virtual sessions, the AIC Practitioner Course is open to Defence and Industry participants, strengthening collaboration between both sectors, in a learning and networking environment.

For enrolment details, contact aic.training@defence.gov.au.

Season's Greetings



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Reflections and Building Momentum into 2026

As we close out 2025, the Office of Defence Industry Support extends its best wishes to our defence industry partners for a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

This year has highlighted the resilience, adaptability, and ingenuity of industry. From advancing sovereign capability to bolstering collaboration across government, primes, SMEs and research, we have seen meaningful progress

A key milestone was **more than 2,000 businesses now registered on the Defence Business Readiness Tool**, demonstrating the strong and growing community of organisations preparing to strengthen their role in Australia's defence capability.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue this momentum into 2026. The release of the next iteration of the **Defence Industry Development Strategy** represents an important step in shaping a more coherent and opportunity-rich landscape for businesses of all sizes.

Ultimately, these achievements contribute to a shared national mission. Together, we are strengthening Australia's sovereignty, security and defence preparedness. ODIS is proud to support industry in this mission and remains committed to supporting businesses build capability and engage confidently with Defence.

Thank you for your engagement throughout 2025.

The Industry Engagement Update will return in February.

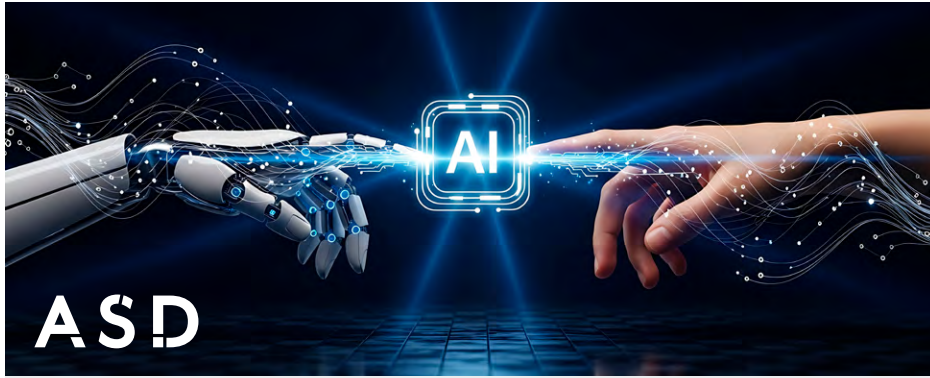
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ASD

Artificial Intelligence

New guidance from ASD on integrating AI securely into operational technology (OT) environments

The Australian Signals Directorate (ASD), in collaboration with international partners, has released guidance for critical infrastructure owners and operators on integrating AI into OT environments. The guidance outlines key principles to leverage the benefits of AI in OT systems while minimising risk.

AI now offers increased efficiency and productivity, enhanced decision-making, reduced costs, and improved customer experiences, however, it's important to consider and plan for potential risks.

[FIND OUT MORE](#) 

Is your business Defence ready?

Test your Defence preparedness and capabilities

Designed to support SMEs, the **Defence Business Readiness Tool (DBRT)** helps businesses assess their 'Defence preparedness' and capabilities prior to entering the Defence supply chain.

[TEST YOUR READINESS](#) 

Useful resources



[AusTender](#)

Find Australian Government business opportunities, annual procurement plans and contracts awarded.

[BenchOn](#)

Access opportunities with government agencies and Primes One platform. Many insights.


[ICN Gateway](#)

Join ICN Gateway and gain access to Australia and New Zealand's largest network of suppliers and projects.

Industry Engagement Update

We'd love to hear from you!

Tell us more about your interests so that we can tailor our newsletter content to meet your needs.

[Share your thoughts](#) 



Safeguarding Australia's Military Secrets

Planning to work for a foreign military or government?

Are you or your company delivering services that benefit a foreign military or government? You or your company employees should check if a foreign work authorisation is required.

[FIND OUT MORE](#) 

Know your obligations.
Avoid serious consequences.

Procurement Changes

Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy

The **Environmentally Sustainable Procurement (ESP) Policy** expansions, in effect from 1 July 2025, now applies to 3 additional categories for Australian Government procurements with an estimated value at or over \$1 million:

- Textiles
- Furniture, fittings and equipment
- Information and communication technology goods.

This is in addition to procurement of construction services valued at or above \$7.5 million.

A range of resources are available to help businesses comply with the policy, including guidance materials, webinar recordings, and other supporting documents.

For any queries, please contact sustainable.procurement@dcceew.gov.au.

[FIND OUT MORE](#) 

