



## **PUBLIC AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY CAPABILITY PLAN**

### **1. Company Details**

Company Name: Boeing Defence Australia Limited  
Address: 123 Albert Street, GPO Box 767 Brisbane QLD 4001  
Location: RAAF Base Williamtown, NSW  
Website: <http://www.boeing.com.au/>

### **2. Executive Summary**

Boeing Defence Australia (BDA) is the prime contractor to the Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) for the sustainment and upgrade of the E-7A Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system (E-7A Wedgetail Program) to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) under Project AIR5077.

The E-7A Wedgetail was designed by The Boeing Company for RAAF requirements and represents a significant capability development led by Australia. Developed from the Boeing commercial 737 Next Generation aircraft, the E-7A Wedgetail is modified with advanced battle management and communication mission systems and the Northrop Grumman Multi-Role Electronically Scanned Array (MESA) radar. The E-7A Wedgetail provides air and maritime surveillance, including early warning and threat tracking for Australian airspace and deployed forces. The sophisticated communications and mission systems provide command and control of the battlespace, coordinating and protecting Australian and coalition forces. The aircraft is the world's most capable AEW&C platform and is also in service with the Republic of Korea and Türkiye, and in the process of being adopted by both the United Kingdom and the United States of America and has been selected by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to replace the ageing E-3 Sentry fleet.

The E-7A Wedgetail system is comprised of the following airborne and ground segments:

- Six Airborne Mission System (AMS) aircraft, including Electronic Support Measures (ESM) and Electronic Warfare Self-Protection (EWSP) systems
- Mission Support Segment (MSS) – used to support aircraft mission planning and analysis
- Operational Flight Trainer (OFT) – used to support aircraft flight crew training activities, and also includes the Part Task Trainer (PTT)
- Operational Mission Simulator (OMS) – used to support aircraft mission crew training activities
- Distributed Mission Trainer Virtual Wedgetail (VW) – used to support integrated aircraft mission crew training networked through coalition synthetic environments
- AEW&C Support Facility (ASF) – provides the data, tools and equipment necessary to sustain and modify the Wedgetail AEW&C System.

The E-7A Wedgetail is operated by No. 2 Squadron Royal Australian Air Force (2SQN), located at RAAF Base Williamtown, NSW.

The E-7A Wedgetail Program is governed under the Wedgetail Head Agreement Deed (the Deed) (Contract



## E-7A Wedgetail Program

### Boeing Defence Australia

Number CASG/ASD/Contract178/2018) which covers the portfolio of contracts the Department of Defence (Defence) has with BDA in support of the E-7A Wedgetail Program. The Deed governs the execution of three primary contracts:

- In-Service Support Contract (ISSC) – Provision of through life support services to sustain the system including for engineering, maintenance, supply and training support. The ISSC contract has an expiry date of 30 June 2030, with a contract price as at December 2023 of approximately \$2.4B, of which approximately \$1.4B is to be delivered by Australian industry.
- AIR 5077 Phase 5A (Phase 5A) – Delivery of mission system upgrades to ensure interoperability compliance. The 5A contract has an expiry date of 31 December 2024, with contract price as at October 2023 of approximately \$1.06B, of which approximately \$410M is to be delivered by Australian industry.
- Deed Management Services Order (DMSO) – Provision of labour and services for the management of the E-7A Wedgetail Program. The DMSO and resultant contract has an expiry date of 30 June 2030, with a contract price as at December 2023 of approximately \$5.5M, of which approximately \$5.5M is to be delivered by Australian industry.

In addition to the abovementioned contracts the Minor Orders under the Deed represent ongoing capability enhancements, drawing on Australian industry.

Under the Deed arrangement the Australian Industry Capability (AIC) Plans for all contracts have been consolidated into a single strategic Deed-level AIC Plan. This Public AIC Plan supersedes the Public AIC Plans for Phase 5A published 18 May 2016, and Follow-On Support Sustainment Services published 15 March 2016.

The E-7A Wedgetail Program has an integrated team of subcontractors, including:

- Boeing Defense, Space and Security
- Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation - providing maintenance and engineering support for the MESA radar system
- Thales Australia - providing maintenance for the OFT and PTT
- BAE Systems Australia - providing engineering, field services, supply, maintenance and management support for the sustainment of the E-7A Wedgetail's ESM and EWSP systems.

Across the program, over 45 Australian businesses are contracted to deliver significant ongoing maintenance, upgrade and support work under minor orders, including small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) and Indigenous-owned businesses.

BDA is proudly supporting the development, growth and sustainment of multiple Sovereign Industrial Capability Priorities through the E-7A Wedgetail Program, including:

- *Advanced signal processing.*
- *Aerospace platform deeper maintenance and structural integrity.*
- *Enhanced active phased array and passive radar capability.*



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- *Surveillance and intelligence.*
- *Test, evaluation, certification and systems assurance.*

### **3. Scope of future work opportunities**

BDA continues to seek a variety of capabilities and services for the E-7A Wedgetail Program, including:

- Repairs and maintenance of 737 airframe, including structural repairs.
- Key aviation and non-aviation component repair and manufacture such as cabling, engines, and ground service equipment.
- Spare parts and repairable items.
- Capability modification enhancements.
- On-board aircraft furnishing, safety systems, and appliance upgrades and repairs.
- Information and communication technology services, including hardware repairs and upgrades.
- Complex systems test and evaluation services, non-destructive testing and test equipment.
- Professional defence services such as engineering and project management.
- Facility construction and fit outs.

As the global E-7 AEW&C fleet grows, BDA will continue to seek opportunities to leverage Australian industry as part of the global supply chain and ensure industry continues to support the E-7 capability into the future.

### **4. Future Opportunities / Industry Engagement**

BDA is committed to developing sovereign industry capability in Australia and has a demonstrated history of engaging and developing Australian SMEs, including diversity-owned enterprises such as veteran and Indigenous-owned businesses. To expand upon BDA's comprehensive existing supplier base, BDA partners with Commonwealth agencies such as the Office of Defence Industry Support (ODIS), the Industry Capability Network (ICN) and state-based defence industry networks such as the Australian Industry & Defence Network. BDA also maintains a large presence at a number of Australian defence and aviation/aerospace tradeshow including Indo Pacific, Land Forces and the Avalon Airshow.

In 2022, in partnership with ODIS, AusIndustry and Defence Jobs Queensland, BDA launched the Capability Up-Lift Program. The 2022/23 program included 20 Australian SMEs, including diversity-owned businesses. This year long program focuses on developing the program cohort's personal, professional and operational acumen and includes formal and informal learning sessions with a focus on tendering to BDA, the defence industry and Boeing's global supply chain. The program also provided access to BDA leaders through leadership roundtables and visits to Boeing and defence sites and networking.

BDA works collaboratively with The Boeing Company Office of Australian Industry Capability (OAIC) in order to identify and qualify Australian businesses that have the potential and capability to support the Global Supply Chain Program via export opportunities to new and existing global markets. This tiered approach maximises Australian industry's access to local, national and global opportunities and contributes to creating a more



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sustainable, resilient, and competitive sovereign defence industry capability.

In addition to advertising opportunities through BDA's existing supplier network, upcoming opportunities are advertised through the BDA listing on the ICN Gateway portal. Interested suppliers can visit the BDA page for current and upcoming opportunities: <https://gateway.icn.org.au/project/4957/boeing-defence-australia>.

The E-7A Wedgetail Program point of contact is:

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The primary BDA point of contact in relation to this Public AIC Plan is:

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