

Design, Construction and Delivery of the STS Young Endeavour II Vessel

Public AIC Plan

Company Details

Company Name: Birdon Pty Ltd

Location: 4 Glen Ewan Road, Port Macquarie, New South Wales

Website Address: www.birdongroup.com

Executive Summary

The Commonwealth of Australia has contracted Birdon Pty Ltd to provide the STS Young Endeavour II Vessel (SHIPS/CON/12079/3).

Birdon is a wholly Australian-owned, international engineering and maritime business with over forty years' experience in Australian industry and over ten years' experience in the international defence market. Birdon has provided many and varied services to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and other defence forces around the world.

We pride ourselves on doing what we say we will do and our commitment to customers. Our “**make it happen**” tagline is embedded in our culture, processes and methodologies throughout our organisation. Birdon is committed to working with the Commonwealth to build and sustain Sovereign Industry Capability and as Prime Contractor for the STS Young Endeavour II (YE II) program. Birdon is responsible for Platform Design and Build, System Integration for Life Cycle Support.

This Contract will require Birdon to source various materials, components, systems, and services from Australian suppliers and companies. The Contract is valued at approximately \$35 million over four years, with \$29.5 million Australian Industry content.

As evidence of our commitment to the YE II Program and AIC, we have engaged in significant pre-award investment. Collaboration with our Approved Subcontractor, Dykstra, prior to tender submittal allowed us to begin component selection early.

Our team currently consists of 4 Approved Subcontractors (3 Australian plus Dykstra), 18 Local NSW Suppliers, 26 Rest of Australia Suppliers and Distributors, and only 4 Overseas Suppliers.

Subcontracted Work

Birdon has undertaken significant pre-award actions to maximise the opportunities for Australian industry for this project.

As a result, the following Subcontractors and Australian suppliers have been chosen for this contract.

Australian Company Name	Sovereign Industrial Capabilities Priorities	Locations (including Postcode)	SME (Yes/No)	Indigenous Enterprise (Yes/No)	Veterans
KBR	Australian-owned and accessed intellectual property, design, integration,	Sydney, 2000	No	No	No

Public Australian Industry Content Plan

	complex engineering capabilities, testing and evaluation and the development of Australian workforce technical skills				
Lloyd's	Risk Management and Systems Safety	McMahon's Point, 2060	Yes	No	No
HF Hand	Advanced Manufacturing Shipbuilding Methodology (AMSM)	HF Hand NSW 2446	Yes	No	No
Neptune	Advanced Manufacturing Shipbuilding Methodology (AMSM)	Portsmith, QLD, 4870	Yes	No	No
Akzo Nobel	Advanced Manufacturing Shipbuilding Methodology (AMSM)	Thornton NSW 2322	No	No	No

Creation, Enhancement and Maintenance of Australian Industry Capabilities

This YE II contract provides an opportunity for Birdon to expand our capacity and capability through skilled development and build on our expertise in the military shipbuilding sector. Birdon projects the program will create 50 new positions in the Port Macquarie region and sustain an efficient manufacturing supply chain throughout regional NSW.

Our collaborative approach with local subcontractors and suppliers will generate diverse knowledge, information and technology transfer, providing benefits to companies engaged in the program.

Birdon continues to work closely with VERTO, a skilled work employment agency to facilitate the sourcing and onboarding of our apprentices. Currently, Birdon has 16 apprentices at various stages of their apprenticeships. In February 2023, 11 new apprentices commenced at Birdon across several trades. 6 Boilermakers, 2 Fitters, 1 electrical and 2 Shipwright stage 1 apprentices. The additional apprentices will transition onto the YE II team during the program. Pending workforce requirements, Birdon will look to work with VERTO again to recruit another similar sized apprentice cohort for 2024 commencement. Birdon has also partnered with institutions such as Newman Senior Technical College, Mid Coast Connect, Hastings Secondary College and other local education institutions to provide opportunities for aspiring tradespeople to work for a dynamic Australian owned company. Potential new apprentices are given exposure to the industry through work placements and site visits.

YE II will demonstrate and reinforce Birdon's reputation as a Prime Contractor capable of delivering and supporting innovative solutions. It will specifically further our vision to develop shipbuilding capability in the region and establish NSW as a Capability Centre for Specialist Military Vessels. YE II will also further the development of our innovative Advanced Manufacturing Shipbuilding Process as we advance to our vision of a digital shipyard.

Birdon has developed an Advanced Manufacturing Shipbuilding Methodology (AMSM) for the manufacture of new vessels. This model was developed by Birdon to deliver specialised vessels for Australian Defence Force, U.S. Army, and U.S. Coast Guard programs. It has subsequently been used to deliver vessels for NSW Police Force.

Scope of Future Work Opportunities

Birdon has strong and proven relationships with its supply chain partners to provide goods and services. Birdon will continue to work with our trusted partners as opportunities arise in the work activities throughout the YE II Project.

Public Australian Industry Content Plan

As an example, in addition to the Approved Subcontractors and AIC Subcontractors detailed above, Birdon have identified over 50 other Australian suppliers of goods and services that may be engaged on this contract, however it is more likely that number will grow as final sourcing decisions are taken.

We have accredited ISO-certified policies and procedures along with best practice governance to manage a multi-company team and maximise Australian content and deliver on our AIC commitment. All AIC activities are an integral component of our proposed YE II management structure and are embedded in our standard business practices. AIC oversight and management for the YE II Project is the responsibility of our Industry Engagement Manager, this role reports to our General Manager - Defence.

Industry Engagement and Market Testing

Birdon maintains a vibrant, flexible and dynamic supply chain philosophy in which all prospective subcontractors and suppliers are welcome to register their interest in working with Birdon as potential subcontractors or suppliers.

To assist in ensuring that the opportunities are well understood by Australian industry as the project matures, Birdon will communicate with the various Industry Development Associations in all states. While this engagement will be ongoing, we commit to an annual review process with each of these key organisations to ensure that our industry engagement remains current and our intentions and future opportunities are routinely communicated to appropriate suppliers. These arrangements will be tailored to the need, but may include organisations such as:

- Australian Industry Defence Network (AIDN)
- Australian Defence Alliance (ADA)
- Defence Teaming Centre (DTC)
- Industry Capability Network (ICN)

These various engagements with Australian industry and the representative associations will be held as Industry Forums and will be coordinated with the ICN Gateway and will build upon the continuing relationship between Birdon and ICN NSW.

Birdon Contact

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Executed by:

SIGNED for and on behalf of
THE CONTRACTOR: Birdon Pty Ltd

Steve Heslop
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(signature of the Project Manager)

Steve Heslop
.....
(print name and position)

24 July 2025
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(date)