

Feature Story

Boeing, Department of Veterans' Affairs focus on Australian veteran-owned supply chain opportunities

- *Boeing joins forces with the Prime Minister's Veterans' Employment Program and the Veteran Community Business Chamber to strengthen supply chain partnerships with Australian veteran-owned businesses.*

October 2, 2020

In an Australian first, Boeing will partner with Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and the Veteran Community Business Chamber (VCBC) to engage exclusively with Australian veteran-owned businesses via a virtual seminar to boost collaboration opportunities within potential small to medium supply chain partners.

The initiative will identify capabilities within veteran-owned businesses that Boeing seeks as part of its Australian and global supply chain.

“We are thrilled to be working with Boeing to provide opportunities for veteran-owned businesses to be a part of the supply chain network,” said Alison Hale, Assistant Secretary, Community Policy Branch, Department of Veterans' Affairs. “This opportunity will not only assist veterans in business to work with Boeing in Australia but also potentially open up opportunities for them to work with Boeing on a more global scale.”

Boeing Defence Australia's Director of Supply Chain Nick Gothard knows that veterans make us better – as teammates at Boeing, as well as in our supplier network. “Veterans' skills and experiences are highly valued at Boeing. They understand the intricacies of the defence industry, and bring a very unique skillset to the table,” said Gothard.

Diverse partnerships across Boeing's supply chain play a vital role in the company's commitment to investing in strengthening Australian industry capability (AIC). “AIC and diversity of thought is essential to our ability to deliver innovative solutions to our customers,” said Gothard.

The team have worked to streamline the supplier capability identification process to benefit small to medium businesses by reducing the traditional 'red tape' that often goes along with registering interest with a multinational.

The seminar will be held on 13 October 2020 9.30am -10.30am AEDT and will be hosted by Victoria Cross recipient and Strategic Defence Advisor for Boeing, Mark Donaldson.

Boeing has a deep commitment to veterans globally. Here in Australia, veterans comprise approximately 20% of the staff at Boeing's defence businesses (Boeing Defence Australia and

Insitu Pacific) and the company supports military/veteran organisations including the Australian War Memorial, Soldier On, Legacy and the American Australian Association Veterans' Scholarship Fund. In 2018, Boeing was honored to support the Invictus Games held in Sydney.