



MEDIA RELEASE



AIDN-WA and the American Chamber of Commerce Unite for Tour of BAE Systems Henderson Facility



In yet another successful initiative, on 5 May 2015, representatives AIDN-WA and the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) participated in a select tour of BAE's facility at Henderson. BAE Systems is currently in the process of refitting the Royal Australian Navy's Anzac-class frigates and represents one of the largest defence industry facilities in the State, which oversees a sophisticated operation that employs over 500 staff.

"BAE Systems appreciated the opportunity to show case our facility and maritime capability to AIDN WA members and members of the American Chamber of Commerce", said Richard West, the Acting General Manager of BAE System's Henderson facility. "We are proud of our capability here in WA and as one of the largest employers in the Australian Maritime Complex, we welcome efforts by AIDN – WA to support ship building in WA".

The satisfaction experienced by the participants was also encouraging. "AmCham was proud to partner with AIDN-WA on a tour of BAE Systems' facilities in Henderson, Western Australia", averred the WA Director of Amcham, Bill Townsend.

"The site visit enabled our membership a unique opportunity to learn about BAE Systems, understand their capabilities and witness first-hand some of the fascinating projects they are currently undertaking.

"It also showcased the impressive capabilities of the defence industry in WA. No less important was the opportunity for AmCham and AIDN-WA members to meet and network".

He concluded: "The visit was a great success by any measure. We look forward to additional opportunities to partner with AIDN-WA in the near future and to build on the strong relationship that exists between us".

Similarly, Phil Hirschberg, who is the President of The Western Australian Club, confirmed: "Thank you to Serge and the team at AIDN-WA for organising a great site tour at BAE Systems.

"The tour was a great balance between boardroom discussion and walk-through of the Henderson facility which is an excellent example of playing to Western Australia's strengths.

"I also appreciated the terrific company – you had the right people in attendance, which is so important. I look forward to attending any future site tours you organise", he said.

While Colleen Yates, CEO-Perth, Regional Development Australia, further affirmed: "The networking events provided through AIDN-WA has really opened my eyes on the strategic importance of the facilities at the Australian Marine Complex (AMC) and how Western Australia is increasingly contributing to the defence sector for Australia".

She added: "The innovation and expertise provided by the companies, such as BAE, are driving future jobs growth through diversification of the economy reducing the reliance on the resources sector.

"It's really exciting to see the fantastic opportunities that exist with new contracts supported by the Federal Government in growing this sector for Western Australia, and in particular for the Perth and Peel regions.

"I look forward to developing stronger relationships and promoting the importance of the AMC and its affiliates for years to come. A huge thanks to Serge DeSilva at AIDN for his commitment in spotlighting this important area."

AIDN-WA thanks AmCham and BAE Systems for the opportunity to work collaboratively on this tour and looks forward to more such endeavours to promote greater awareness of WA's defence sector.
