



MEDIA RELEASE



AIDN-WA ENDS FINANCIAL YEAR AT TOP OF TOWN

Comfortably ensconced in the penthouse premises of The WA Club, St. George's Terrace, Perth, AIDN-WA quite literally ended its 2015-16 financial year at the top of the town. Guests at the annual End of Financial Year networking event enjoyed sweeping views of the Swan River, the changing luminescence of Council House, and the colours of Elizabeth Quay by night.

The peak body for defence suppliers now has an enviable record for successful events, but this one broke a few records. Places sold out somewhere north of 120 and still they came, leaving the venue hosts the task of re-arranging the furniture next time; it was funded courtesy of sponsorship from no fewer than six companies; and we were graced with the presence of three politicians including a Minister.

Leading the dignitaries was the Hon Michael Minchin, MLC, Attorney General and Minister for Commerce, whose portfolio includes defence industry. His opposite number in that capacity, Paul Papalia was unavailable, but was represented by Tony Buti, Member for Armadale. And we were again pleased to have Senator Linda Reynolds, a committed campaigner for more defence contracts in Western Australia.

Commerce Minister Michael Mischin said the AIDN end of year event provided a great opportunity for Western Australia's defence industry to discuss and reflect on the recent Commonwealth Government announcements.

"It has been a significant year for the defence industry with the recent announcements regarding the nation's future naval programs," Mr Mischin said. "This event enables local companies to continue discussions and establish important contacts, as well as hear about the wide ranging capabilities of the six sponsors of the night.

"I would like to thank AIDN-WA for its support of the defence-specific round of the Industry Facilitation and Support Program that saw 16 WA small and medium-sized businesses share in more than \$350,000. This funding will assist these businesses to improve their competitiveness to secure work related to the multi-billion dollar defence programs.

"Along with the State Government, the WA Defence Industry Council and local industry, AIDN has been a strong advocate for the State's capability.

Our six sponsors each addressed us on their place in the defence industry – Jonathon Smith from the Common User Facility at Henderson, Rod Bowes from Civmec, which has recently launched Forgacs Marine and Defence, Stewart Maddison from Orontide, Nick Daws from Fastwave, Joy Northover from Staff Link Personnel and Tony Routledge from AVI. All left us in no doubt that they are committed to growing their market share in the defence sector and with their growth, WA's economic prosperity.

Also attending was CEO of CCIWA, Diedre Willmott, another person with influence who is active in seeking more recognition for WA's defence industry capabilities.

But above all, the event generated its buzz from AIDN-WA members and friends who took time out to unwind and enjoy a stimulating evening with those of similar mind, sharing drinks and canapes and soaking up the priceless view at the top of the town.

Sponsor Testimonials

Joy Northover

Managing Director, Staff Link Personnel

“We were very pleased to be a sponsor of last week’s AIDN-WA function at the WA Club. The event attracted representatives from many SME businesses either already engaged in or positioning themselves to partner with other providers to the Defence Industry Supply Chain in WA. The current investment in the Defence Sector assets and infrastructure presents a great opportunity for us to supply quality candidates with transferable skills we have found hard to place in the current slow economic climate. It won’t be long before some of the emerging employers now working in this sector will be looking to engage more skilled staff in the fields of mechanical and electrical engineering, construction and maintenance and project management and support. After a slump in the number of available jobs, the skilled workers already highly trained through the resources sector and the military will be in demand once more.”

Nick Daws

Managing Director, Fastwave

“Sponsoring AIDN-WA’s End of Financial Year event provided a valuable opportunity to raise the profile of Fastwave within the defence supply chain. Fastwave is involved in the development of unmanned autonomous technologies for airborne, marine and subsea applications, and this forum was ideal for building high level awareness that this capability exists locally. Fastwave has recently become involved in a defence project that is designed to improve situational awareness in the maritime domain through the provision of data from subsea and surface sensors within the growing community of defence related industries located in Western Australia. Building a presence in the defence sector takes considerable persistence for an SME, and by hosting events such as these, AIDN-WA is providing opportunities for local businesses such as Fastwave to enhance their visibility.”

Photographs of the event can be view on the following link: <http://aidn-wa.org.au/Image-Gallery>
