

## Case Study: Thales Australia Naval - Underwater Systems

### Thales Australia Naval opens Ocean Lab

Thales Australia Naval - Underwater Systems is a high-technology group renowned worldwide for its expertise in electronics-based defence systems and services, particularly for naval forces.



Thales Underwater Systems' capabilities include submarine and surface ship sonar systems, airborne acoustic processing, mine hunting sonar and countermeasure systems, torpedo defence and

coastal security. Its history of technological innovation includes the development of low frequency active/passive sonar, and the introduction of the world's first operational wideband mine hunting sonar.

In 2006, Thales Underwater Systems opened its Ocean Lab, an experimentation and modelling environment dedicated to the underwater battlespace. It is a unique Australian facility enabling the assessment of the effectiveness of undersea warfare systems and sub-systems, tactics and doctrine in a synthetic environment.

Working in partnership with shipyards and prime contract organisations worldwide, Thales Underwater Systems has installed sonar systems aboard more than 140 conventional and nuclear-powered submarines operating within the navies of 23 countries.

In Australia, Thales Underwater Systems is headquartered in the Sydney suburb of Rydalmere with additional sites at Rockingham in Western Australia and Canberra. The company employs 300 staff in NSW, including professional engineers from a range of disciplines including acousticians, material scientists and electrical, software, and mechanical engineers.

The NSW Department of State and Regional Development assisted the company (then Thomson Marconi Sonar) in 1998 when relocating an underwater acoustic test tank acquired from the Commonwealth to its Rydalmere premises.

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