



The Hon Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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**500 JOBS AND \$10 MILLION INVESTMENT SECURED
AS THALES AUSTRALIA COMMITS TO NEW
HEADQUARTERS IN SYDNEY**

One of Australia's largest defence contractors, Thales Australia, will establish a new headquarters in Sydney, investing \$10 million and supporting around 500 jobs, Deputy Premier and Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Stoner is announcing today at the Pacific 2012 International Maritime Exposition.

Mr Stoner said the NSW Government has helped secure Thales Australia's commitment to Sydney with assistance from NSW Trade & Investment. Thales Australia's long term lease at the Navy's Garden Island facility in Sydney expires in 2013. The company will move its headquarters to a new location in Sydney, while continuing to service ships at Garden Island.

"Thales Australia is a key player in the nation's defence sector and delivers advanced engineering, network and simulation solutions to defence, civil and export customers," Mr Stoner said.

"The Thales Australia headquarters is a major operation employing close to 500 people across functions including senior management, tender bid management, project engineering and management, research and development, training, simulation, sales and marketing, and professional services and administration.

"Thales Australia will relocate its headquarters operations, currently located at Garden Island, to a new Sydney location but will continue to use Garden Island as a primary ship repair and maintenance base.

"The NSW Government has stepped in to work with Thales to secure its ongoing commitment to Sydney.

"The ship repair and maintenance service that Thales provides at the Navy's Garden Island dockyard in Sydney is a vital strategic capability. Thales also supports highly skilled jobs across the State which make a critical contribution to the capabilities of NSW's defence industry."

Mr Stoner said retaining a major defence industry player such as Thales Australia is crucial to support the defence industry in NSW.

"Thales is an important supporter of many small businesses that rely heavily on larger prime contractors to source defence industry work," Mr Stoner said.

“The Defence industry is an important part of our manufacturing sector for which the NSW Government is currently developing a Manufacturing Industry Action Plan.”

Thales Australia CEO Chris Jenkins said strong support from the NSW Government was instrumental in the decision to retain the company’s headquarters in Sydney.

“We will continue to support the Navy and key commercial operators with our maritime sustainment operations at the Navy’s Garden Island dockyard facilities and our Centre of Excellence in Underwater Systems at Rydalmere,” Mr Jenkins said.

“In addition we are in negotiations on a new site in Sydney to base our headquarters staff.

“We look forward to continuing to work with the NSW Government on strengthening the expertise of defence industry in this State.”