



MEDIA RELEASE

Harnessing innovation key to securing Australia's space industry

Canberra, AUSTRALIA, November 9, 2016 – Senior leaders from Australia's industry, defence and academic communities today highlighted Australia's natural comparative advantages in developing emerging space technologies, and called for a concerted focus on capability planning and R&D investment to establish a competitive, sustainable space industry sector.

Today's ***Securing Australia's Space Industry Forum***, co-convened by Lockheed Martin Australia and the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA), explored key opportunities and challenges for the growth of the nation's space industry sector, not only in the provision of Australia's national security, but also in supporting the transition towards an innovation-led economy.

In his keynote address, Prof. Michael Frater, Rector of UNSW Canberra, highlighted the potential for the defence sector, as a Fundamental Input to Capability, to play a leading role in securing a competitive and sustainable space industry sector for Australia.

"Advances in technology have placed a competitive, sustainable space industry for Australia within reach," he said. "But to make this vision a reality, industry and researchers must work together to establish clear imperatives for local space technologies and capability development that maximise our comparative advantage as a nation of innovators."

"A critical opportunity is the development and integration of instruments that can complement our allies' existing payload delivery capabilities, and defence sector technologies must play a key role, ensuring substantial opportunities for both our nation's security and economy."

Keynote speaker Dr Tim Parsons, CEO of the Delta V Space Accelerator, agreed that innovation was critical for a space industry to thrive, and said Australia needed a new entrepreneurial model to bring the sector together, to support the abundant local talent and capability with access to the mentoring, infrastructure and funding required to create globally competitive space businesses and technologies.

"By nurturing a space technology start-up ecosystem with access to infrastructure, expertise and funding, Australia can establish a global advantage in space technologies," he said. "Our current policy environment and ongoing reliance on the major primes alone will not deliver the technological disruption necessary."

"The key to a competitive, sustainable space industry for Australia is in getting the policy settings right, and then harnessing the home-grown talent by funding ideas that could solve real problems here on Earth."

Lockheed Martin Australia Chief Executive, Raydon Gates, said the Government's critical inclusion of space in the Defence Industry Policy Statement earlier this year, backed by the potential for capability development funding in the Defence Integrated Investment Program through the Next Generation Technologies Fund, had helped kickstart the conversation Australian industry needed to have.

"As one of the world's leading space companies and with a strong Australian presence, we are in a unique position to engender a unified, national dialogue around space that will lead to even stronger relationships between primes, academic communities and Australian industry," he said.

"The Government should be commended for its foresight in ensuring the space domain remains a critical consideration for the sovereign capability necessary to protect Australia's future national and economic security."

SIAA Chairman Michael Davis said the Forum had addressed critical questions for Australia, and confirmed the need for ongoing regulatory reform to ensure Australia's space industry fulfilled its potential.

"Today's forum raised important questions about the future of Australia's space industry sector, and placed a spotlight on the role of industry, particularly in taking advantage of Australia's strong R&D capabilities and our geography," he said. "A new approach to space policy coordination and national program oversight is now critical to ensuring Australia fulfils its potential in space, and has a seat at the table of nations that have a sovereign capability in this increasingly critical domain."

The ***Securing Australia's Space Industry Forum*** featured keynotes from Professor Michael Frater, Rector of UNSW Canberra, and Dr Tim Parsons, CEO, Delta V Space Accelerator, followed by a panel discussion facilitated by ACT Industry Advocate Kate Lundy featuring Rod Drury, Lockheed Martin, Professor Elanor Huntington, Dean of Engineering, ANU and Scott Wallis, CEO, Equatorial Launch Australia.

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Notes to editors:

The *Securing Australia's Space Industry Forum* was conceived by Lockheed Martin Australia and the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA) in response to the Government's stated policy objectives of growing sovereign space industry capability, while engendering broad industry awareness of the potential for space as a driver of innovation, job creation and growth.

About Lockheed Martin Australia

Headquartered in Canberra, Lockheed Martin Australia is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation. The company employs more than 800 people in Australia and New Zealand working on a wide range of major programs spanning the aerospace, space, defence and civil sectors.

About Space Industry Association of Australia

The Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA) (www.spaceindustry.com.au) is the peak space industry advocacy body in Australia, formed in 1992. Its role is to represent and support its industry, academic and individual members by devising and promoting policies and programs to support the development of the Australian space industry for the benefit of the nation. The SIAA will be the host of the International Astronautical Congress in Adelaide from 25 to 29 September 2017. This is the world's biggest and most prestigious international space event, held annually since 1950 (www.iaac2017.org).

For further information, please contact:

Michelle Scully
Head of Communications, Australia and New Zealand
Lockheed Martin
M +61 448 032 387
E michelle.m.scully@lmco.com

Michael Davis
Chairman
SIAA
Email: mdavis@spacelaw.com.au
Phone: 0419 170251