

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Joint Strike Fighter Inquiry
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The Planned Acquisition of the F-35 (Joint Strike Fighter)

Chemring Australia Pty Ltd (CHA) is located at Lara in Victoria (near Geelong) and is the third largest SME supplier to The Australian department of Defence (Defence). Australian commitment to the JSF Program has facilitated Chemring Australia investing \$35 Million in an advanced countermeasures manufacturing facility that has been identified by US Department of Defence as the worldwide second source for the manufacture of the JSF MJU-68 countermeasure.

In 2008, Chemring was awarded a long term contract with Defence for the supply of decoy flares for F/A-18 and C130 aircraft as proof that CHA had the capability and capacity to build current generation flares. The new facility resulted in 44 new jobs being created in the Geelong region and introduced capabilities not seen before in Australia; it has taken the workforce from a hands-on production model to a highly skilled production support and engineering labour force. Incorporation of research and development capability means that the company can, in conjunction with the Defence Science and Technology Group, develop future countermeasures that are more suitable to Australia's unique strategic and operational circumstances. In combining both an R&D and manufacturing capability, the in-house capability can then quickly commercialise developments in manufacturing countermeasures.

In 2014, CHA was awarded a contract by the US Department of Defense to demonstrate the capability to manufacture the next generation of decoy flares required for JSF (the MJU-68). As a result of the advanced capabilities of CHA's countermeasures manufacturing facility and the quality of work already demonstrated, the US Department of Defense is actively seeking to have CHA involved in tendering for other JSF opportunities which, if successful, would result in CHA being awarded significant volumes of other JSF countermeasures. This in turn would result in further investment in CHA's manufacturing capabilities at Lara, thereby creating up to a further 50 jobs.

In summary, Australia's ongoing commitment to the JSF project will allow Chemring to further invest in its manufacturing capability, already regarded as the most advanced in the world. It will also continue to provide significant employment opportunities at Lara and will further enhance the reputation of Australian engineering and manufacturing capability worldwide.

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