

MEDIA RELEASE

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Naval Group and Airspeed sign a Memorandum of Understanding to offer masts for the Attack-class submarines

Naval Group and Airspeed, a specialist of composites manufacturing based in South Australia, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to respond to the design competition launched by Lockheed Martin Australia for the masts of the Attack-class submarines.

Thanks to its long history in building submarines for both French and export markets, Naval Group has developed a new carbon composite mast implementing the latest innovations in composites. Naval Group's solution offers outstanding performance in terms of weight, resistance and operational efficiency, but also in terms of integration with the Attack-class platform.

Recently, Steve Barlow, Airspeed's Managing Director was in France to visit Naval Group's facilities at Angoulême-Ruelle and Lorient.

Representatives from Airspeed also took part in a test for Automated Manufacture of Advanced Composites (AMAC) hosted by the Australian Research Council (ARC) Training Centre at the University of New South Wales in November and will be closely involved in the research Naval Group is leading with Australian universities on composites and additive manufacturing.

François Romanet, Naval Group Pacific CEO says, "Naval Group has developed a solution that will meet all operational requirements of the Royal Australian Navy. Airspeed has impressive capabilities when it comes to composites manufacturing. If successful in the competition, we have decided to start working together as soon as the design phase to ensure these masts will be produced and maintained in South Australia".

Steve Barlow, Managing Director, Airspeed says "We are excited to be working on this composites project with Naval Group and believe the Naval Group technical solution is truly unique. If successful in the competition, the opportunity to work on the Future Submarine Program will be a defining step in the development of our company and our national sovereign capabilities and we look forward to be part of this defining national journey."

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About Naval Group

Naval Group Pacific is distinct from Naval Group Australia, another Naval Group subsidiary based in Adelaide and wholly dedicated to the Australian Future Submarine Program.

Naval Group is the European leader in naval defence. As an international high-tech company, Naval Group uses its extraordinary know-how, unique industrial resources and capacity to arrange innovative strategic partnerships to meet its customers' requirements. The group designs, builds and supports submarines and surface ships. It also supplies services to shipyards and naval bases. Attentive to corporate social responsibility, Naval Group is a member of the United Nations Global Compact. The group reports revenue of €3.6 billion and has a workforce of 14,860 (data for 2018).

About Airspeed

Airspeed is an Australian company specialising in 'design + build' applications of composite materials for aerospace, maritime and energy-related projects. Airspeed offers extensive experience in the design of composite structures and operates its own manufacturing capabilities in South Australia. It also relies on a network of supporting organisations for processes such as machining, plating and testing to seamlessly deliver complete project outcomes.

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