

# MEDIA RELEASE



Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

## Smart Fabrication Wins DTC Outstanding SME Award



### Outstanding SME Winner 2015

South Australian advanced manufacturer Smart Fabrication has taken home the Defence Teaming Centre (DTC) Outstanding SME award for its engagement with the defence industry and its subsequent impact on the South Australian defence industry at the DTC Annual Defence Industry Dinner & Awards Ceremony, held last Friday night.

Smart Fabrication Managing Director Simon Kennedy said that the award is a symbol of his company's outstanding attitude towards success and its relentless pursuit of "always doing better than average" since his company set itself a goal to enter the defence industry some six years ago.

"We've been working hard to secure the right infrastructure, people, business systems and certifications to ensure our success in the competitive and highly regarded defence industry."

"Last year, on top of our Quality certification we became certified to the international standards for Health, Safety and Environment to help us secure more defence work", stated Mr Kennedy.

Mr Kennedy added that as all SA's manufacturing industry would agree times are tough at the moment but that there's still a market for high value manufacturers who understand their customers deeply enough.

Since joining the DTC in early 2010 Smart Fab has been involved heavily with defence industry events, engineering projects, advocating defence projects for SA, undertaking continuous improvement initiatives and mentoring engineering students interested in a career in the defence industry.

Passionate about SA and the defence industry, Mr. Kennedy said "the Australian Government must invest in our local resources, including the Future Submarine project where local jobs and skills can build and sustain our defence capabilities".

Recognising the current instability in the industry, Mr. Kennedy added, “we have also diversified our service offerings as well as the industries to which we offer these to ensure we can withstand the peaks and troughs that are so prevalent in the defence industry”.

As the night’s keynote speaker and first Australian to win a Winter Olympic gold medal, speed skater, Steven Bradbury said, if you stick it out long enough, you too can be the last man standing and succeed at whatever you put your mind to.

Mr Kennedy said that by winning this award Smart Fab hoped to leverage the defence industry exposure and capitalise on some significant opportunities that currently present themselves with its sister company, Adelaide Ship Construction International (ASCI), a shipyard with over 30 years of experience in building and maintaining steel hulled boats.

The 2015 DTC Annual Defence Industry Dinner & Awards Ceremony was held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre in front of nearly 400 senior defence dignitaries and industry professionals.



*Mr Simon Kennedy (right), Managing Director of Smart Fabrication receiving the DTC Outstanding SME Award from Mr Malcolm Jackman (left), Chief Executive of Defence SA*

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