

Flying the flag for Australia's defence industry in the USA

In early October, Australia's Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Melissa Price MP, travelled to the United States to advocate for more Australian work in the global F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program. While in the US, the minister met with Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the Hon Ellen M. Lord to discuss current and future Australian industry involvement in F-35 production.



With additional work being reallocated from Turkish suppliers following Turkey's suspension from the program, the Minister highlighted Australia's suitability and capability to perform additional work. This includes advocating for the 11 companies identified by the Department of Defence as having the capability to take on some of the work Turkish suppliers were undertaking in the program. Quickstep was one of these eleven companies nominated.

The Minister also met with senior management representatives from Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman to understand the integration of Australian manufactured components in US supply chains.

As a key part of her US visit, the Minister held a roundtable for Australian businesses to share their experiences of working in the US, with a focus on understanding barriers to market entry. This Australian Defence Industry Round-Table meeting, was attended by representatives from various Australian businesses operating in the US. Representing Quickstep at the meeting was Steve Osborne, Quickstep's US-based, General Manager Business Development, who discussed Quickstep's growing activities with various US defence/aerospace contractor.