



DMTC

*Capability
through
Collaboration*

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Message Industry



Mr Neil Matthews

Senior Manager Additive Technologies
and Engineering Services
RUAG Australia

Small businesses must aim for success, and they are better positioned for success if they remain open to collaboration, ensure a company culture that prioritises technology development and progress on behalf of the customer, and ascribe to the values of a 'stronger together' mindset.

Earlier this year I was humbled to be presented with a Defence Industry Service Commendation by the Minister for Defence Industry for RUAG Australia's contributions in the area of additive metal technologies. Our approach to additive repair technology solutions is definitely the result of a collaborative effort between academic institutions and includes Defence itself – in particular, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Defence Science and Technology (DST) Group – and DMTC.

RUAG Australia has engaged with DMTC since 2009, in 'core' R&D programs, such as additive metal technologies, as well as in education and supply chain development initiatives. DMTC's flexible, collaborative model accommodates the needs of both small businesses and larger firms. For RUAG, the business-to-business framework that underpins DMTC's model is a key incentive.

RUAG Australia is highly regarded, both domestically and globally, for its precision manufacture of landing gear and other hydraulic actuators, as well as for its proven expertise in the application of additive metal repair technologies. RUAG has successfully reduced life cycle and sustainment costs while enhancing operational availability for Defence platforms.

DMTC's collaborative model has been a key driver in these efforts and achievements, bringing additional expertise and perspectives to the fore, and contributing towards the further development of skills and capabilities within our national workforce. DMTC understands Defence, the commercial imperatives of industry, and the process of developing and delivering premier R&D worldwide.

Importantly, DMTC prioritises innovation, providing a clear management framework, based on transparency, for maintaining full flexibility in support of an environment that reinforces technology advancements and encourages and nurtures new ideas and approaches.

The benefits of implementing additive repair technologies are ensuring the innovative approach is finding growing global acceptance, especially as these technologies are recognised for providing excellent value for money without compromising performance or structural integrity. Aerospace has championed the development and implementation of this technology, yet opportunities in other domains are many, including for land, space and maritime applications.

For defence customers, innovative approaches to sustainment and adopting new technologies is crucial, especially in light of the cost pressures associated with life cycle support on military platforms. DMTC has been *an integral partner in helping to generate a sovereign industrial capability* in Australia for laser repair technology, that companies like RUAG can offer to defence customers. RUAG Australia has shown repeatedly that repairing components, rather than replacing them, enables Defence to achieve the desired structural performance rates and fleet availability results at a fraction of the cost, and in fractions of the time.

Successfully enabling customers to benefit from direct savings, in both time and costs, is also the result of earning the customer's confidence and trust. RUAG Australia continues to demonstrate success with legacy military systems, for example, S-70B-2 Seahawk helicopters, F/A-18 A/B Classic Hornets, and others. In this way we are also building a knowledge base, an in-house and in-country specialist capability, and a platform for furthering success on new programs like the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

RUAG Australia continues to be a top performer in innovation in Australia. Working together with DMTC has directly proven that this passionate pursuit of innovation and collaborative research and development ensures solid benefits for all stakeholders.