



Australian Government

Defence

DEFENCE FOI 528/23/24

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

1. I refer to the request by Sam Brennan (the applicant), received by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act* 1982 (Cth) (FOI Act). The applicant sought access to:

1. All correspondence and other documents related to information on the F35 and F35 industry participation available on the Department of Defence website, starting October 7, 2023;

2. All correspondence and other documents related to the following URL (<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/capability-acquisition-sustainment-group/our-structure/air/jsf/industry-participation>), starting October 7, 2023.

Background

2. On 5 December 2023, the applicant submitted a request under the FOI Act to Defence in the following terms:

All correspondence and other documents related to F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, starting October 7, 2023;

All correspondence and other documents related to information on the F35 and F35 industry participation available on the Department of Defence website;

All correspondence and other documents related to the following URL (<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/capability-acquisition-sustainment-group/our-structure/air/jsf/industry-participation>).

3. On 14 December 2023, Defence formally consulted with the applicant in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act.
4. On 15 December 2023, the applicant revised the scope of the request as outlined above in paragraph one.
5. On 25 March 2024, Defence applied to the Information Commissioner for further time to deal with the request. On 3 April 2024, under section 15AC [decision not made on request within time—deemed refusal] of the FOI Act, the Information Commissioner allowed for Defence to deal with the request until 8 April 2024.

Authorised Decision Maker

6. I am the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

Documents identified

7. I have identified nine (9) documents as falling within the scope of the request.
8. The decision in relation to each document is detailed in a schedule of documents.

Exclusions

9. Signatures and unrelated material contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request, duplicates of documents, and documents sent to or from the applicant are excluded from this request. Defence has only considered final versions of documents.

Decision

10. I have decided to:
- a. release three (3) documents in full;
 - b. partially release six (6) documents in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted] of the FOI Act on the ground that the deleted material is considered exempt under sections 47C [Public interest conditional exemptions - deliberative processes], and 47E [Public interest conditional exemption - certain operations of agencies] of the FOI Act; and
 - c. remove irrelevant material in accordance with section 22 of the FOI Act.

Material taken into account

11. In making my decision, I have had regard to:
- a. the terms of the request;
 - b. the content of the identified documents in issue;
 - c. relevant provisions of the FOI Act; and
 - d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).

REASONS FOR DECISION

Section 22 – Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted

12. Section 22 of the FOI Act permits an agency to prepare and provide an edited copy of a document where the agency has decided to refuse access to an exempt document or that to give access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access.
13. The documents contain exempt material and information that does not relate to the request.
14. I am satisfied that it is reasonably practicable to remove the exempt and irrelevant material and release the documents to you in an edited form.

Section 47C – Public interest conditional exemptions - deliberative processes

15. Section 47C(1) of the FOI Act states:
- (1) A document is conditionally exempt if its disclosure under this Act would disclose matter (**deliberative matter**) in the nature of, or relating to, opinion,*

advice or recommendation obtained, prepared or recorded, or consultation or deliberation that has taken place, in the course of, or for the purposes of, the deliberative processes involved in the functions of:

- (a) an agency; or*
- (b) a Minister; or*
- (c) the Government of the Commonwealth.*

16. Upon examination of the documents, I found that they contained information relating to internal processes of Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, including how they engage with and provide recommendations to areas within the Group.
17. I have considered whether the information was purely factual. I have taken into account the Guidelines, at paragraph 6.66, which clarify ‘purely factual material’ that would not be regarded as deliberative matter as:
 - a. content that is merely descriptive;
 - b. incidental administrative content;
 - c. procedural or day to day content;
 - d. the decision of conclusion reached at the end of the deliberative process;
 - e. matter that was not obtained, prepared or recorded in the course of, or for the purpose of, a deliberative process.
18. Section 47C(2)(b) of the FOI Act provides that deliberative matter does not include purely factual material. The Guidelines, at paragraph 6.73, state that:

[p]urely factual material’ does not extend to factual material that is an integral part of the deliberative content and purpose of a document, or is embedded in or intertwined with the deliberative content such that it is impractical to excise it.
19. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the information contains matter that meets the definition of deliberative material, and that where the content is purely factual, it is embedded in, or intertwined with the deliberative content and cannot be excised. Therefore, I have decided that the relevant information is conditionally exempt under section 47C of the FOI Act.

Section 47E – Public interest conditional exemption—certain operations of agencies

20. Section 47E of the FOI Act states:

A document is conditionally exempt if its disclosure under this Act would, or could reasonably be expected to, do any of the following:

- (d) have a substantial adverse effect on the proper and efficient conduct of the operations of the agency.*

21. The Guidelines, at paragraph 6.123, provide that:

The predicted effect must bear on the agency’s ‘proper and efficient’ operations, that is, the agency is undertaking its expected activities in an expected manner.

22. In the case of ‘ABK’ and *Commonwealth Ombudsman* [2022] AICmr 44, the Information Commissioner (IC) found that where the direct email addresses and phone numbers of agency staff are not publicly known, they should be conditionally

exempt under section 47E(d). The IC made this determination due to reasonable expectation that the release of direct contact details would undermine the operation of established channels of communication with the public. Further, the IC accepted that staff who were contacted directly could be subject to excessive and abusive communications, which may give rise to work health and safety concerns.

23. I am satisfied that were the contact details of Defence personnel made publicly available, it would have a substantial adverse effect on the proper and efficient operation of existing public communication channels. Further, I am satisfied of a reasonable expectation that the information could be used inappropriately, in a manner which adversely affects the health, wellbeing and work of Defence personnel. Disclosure of names, email addresses and phone numbers would, or could, therefore, reasonably be expected to prejudice the operations of Defence.
24. The Guidelines provide, at paragraph 6.120, that I should consider whether disclosure of the information 'would, or could reasonably be expected to lead to a change in the agency's processes that would enable those processes to be more efficient.' Given that the direct contact details within the documents are not publicly available and that more appropriate, communication channels are already available, and that there are established processes within Defence to allow line areas to undertake their usual functions, I am satisfied that release of the information could reasonably be expected to lead to a change in Defence's processes that would not lead to any efficiencies.
25. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the information is conditionally exempt under section 47E(d) of the FOI Act.

Public interest considerations - sections 47C and 47E(d)

26. Section 11A(5) of the FOI Act states:

The agency or Minister must give the person access to the document if it is conditionally exempt at a particular time unless (in the circumstances) access to the document at that time would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

27. I have considered the factors favouring disclosure as set out in section 11B(3) [factors favouring access] of the FOI Act. The relevant factors being whether access to the document would:

- (a) promote the objects of this Act (including all the matters set out in sections 3 and 3A);
- (b) inform debate on a matter of public importance;
- (c) promote effective oversight of public expenditure.

28. In my view, disclosure of this information would not increase public participation in the Defence process (section 3(2)(a) of the FOI Act), nor would it increase scrutiny or discussion of Defence activities (section 3(2)(b) of the FOI Act).

29. Paragraph 6.22 of the Guidelines specifies a non-exhaustive list of public interest factors against disclosure. The factors I find particularly relevant to this request are that release of this information could reasonably be expected to prejudice:

- the interests of an individual or a group of individuals;

- the management function of an agency; and
 - the management function of an agency.
30. It is in the public interest that Defence efficiently and productively operates with regard for the health and wellbeing of its personnel. As I have established above, the release of the direct contact details of Defence personnel can reasonably be expected to prejudice the operations of Defence. Existing communication channels and processes enable efficient and appropriate liaison with the public. The direct contact details of Defence personnel should, therefore, not be disclosed, as the public interest against their disclosure outweighs the public interest in their release.
31. Additionally, while I accept there is a public interest in ensuring that Defence undertakes its functions in a transparent and proper manner, there is also a strong public interest in maintaining the confidentiality of the material contained within the documents, particularly those that refer to Defence's internal processes which allow Defence to undertake its operational activities in an expected and lawful manner.
32. I have not taken any of the factors listed in section 11B(4) [irrelevant factors] of the FOI Act into account when making this decision.
33. I am satisfied, based on the above particulars, the public interest factors against disclosure outweigh the factors for disclosure, and that, on balance, it is against the public interest to release the information to you. Accordingly, I find that the information is exempt under sections 47C and 47E(d) of the FOI Act.

FURTHER INFORMATION

34. Some of the documents matching the scope of this request contained a dissemination limiting marker (DLM). Where documents have been approved for public release, the DLM has been struck through.

Duncan
MOODY
2024.05.15
16:19:21
+10'00'

Duncan Moody

Accredited Decision Maker

Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group

Department of Defence

From: s47E(d) on behalf of s47E(d)
To: s47E(d)
Cc: s47E(d)
Subject: 231026 0639 - e-mail - s47E(d) - The missing link - Re Task 321 - cleared by DG, but mentions weblink - Task 422 is related, get it cleared by DG sooner than later?
Date: Thursday, 26 October 2023 6:39:18 AM
Attachments: 231018 1655 - e-mail - s47E(d) - ACS Task 422_23 - Webpage - JSF - Industry Participation.obr
[ACS Task 422_23 - DUE 2 Oct 23 Webpage - About - CASG - Our Structure - Air - JSF - Industry Participation.obr](#)

OFFICIAL

Morning s47E(d), DG has cleared the media release – yay = she recommends deleting F-35 weblink which is dated and tasking Industry to update it. However I wasn't tracking this task at all but found it this morning somehow – s47E(d) was trying to get it sorted at the time for OMINDI 'event' but as that didn't happen its fallen to the back burner.
If she could clear it now that would be great – s22

s47E(d)

ACS Branch Executive Team
Aerospace Combat Systems Branch | Aerospace Systems Division

s22

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group
Brindabella Park, s47E(d) | PO Box 7922 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
M: s22 | **E:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au |
s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) on behalf of s47E(d)
To: s47E(d)
Cc: s47E(d)
Subject: 231026 1046 - e-mail - s47E(d),s47 - HASD cleared s22
s22
Date: Thursday, 26 October 2023 10:46:19 AM
Attachments: s22

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d),

HASD cleared DR with amendments in track, s22
s22

Cheers,

s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> On Behalf Of s47E(d)

Sent: Thursday, 26 October 2023 8:52 AM

To: s47E(d) .defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au>

Cc: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au>

Subject: RE: DGACS cleared - s22

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Many thanks s47E(d) and team,

Agree with all, and thanks again to everyone for their support delivering this one, especially during Estimates.

s22

Kind regards,
s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised

s22

From: s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** s47E(d)
Sent: Thursday, 26 October 2023 8:24 AM
To: s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)
Cc: s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)
s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)
s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Subject: DGACS cleared - s22
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s22

Notes:
s22

- There was a dated weblink to F-35 Industry/CASG webpage which has been deleted for now if the intent is to publish tomorrow (27 Oct). There is a separate task under way to update this ACS Industry/CASG webpage but this will not be ready in time for this morning's deadline. I would think that this can be added to the live version post initial publishing of this media release given its on our own Defence webpage. s47E(d), thoughts on this – do you wish to hold to wait for this element, or continue? It would take quite a few days probably. In the meantime, suggest getting HASD clearance.

Cheers

s47E(d)

ACS Branch Executive Team
Aerospace Combat Systems Branch | Aerospace Systems Division

s22

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group
s47E(d)
M: s22 | E: s47E(d) | <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised

communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d)
To: s47E(d)
Cc: s47E(d)
Subject: 231102 1547 - e-mail - s47E(d) - AD Comms review of CASG webpage for JSF - Industry Participation link for Rosebank Defence media release (ACS Task 422/23)
Date: Thursday, 2 November 2023 3:47:26 PM

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d) ,

The correct version has now been updated in Objective.

Kind regards,

s47E(d)
Industry Capability Advisor
Contractor to Defence
Industry Directorate, Aerospace Combat Systems Branch
Aerospace Systems Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group
Brindabella Park, s47E(d) | PO Box 7922 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
T: +s47E(d) | **M:** s22 | **Email:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au |

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 November 2023 3:30 PM
To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: ACSIndustryTeam s47E(d) defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) s47E(d) defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: AD Comms review of CASG webpage for JSF - Industry Participation link for Rosebank Defence media release (ACS Task 422/23) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

G'day s47E(d), as discussed, here's the latest version of this document, happy for you to update this one and get your team to re-send.

Cheers
s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

5

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 November 2023 3:18 PM
To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: ACSIndustryTeam s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: AD Comms review of CASG webpage for JSF - Industry Participation link for Rosebank Defence media release (ACS Task 422/23) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d) ,

Apologies for the delayed response on this task.

The Industry Directorate offer the suggestions within the attached, for consideration.

Kind regards,

s47E(d)
Industry Capability Advisor
Contractor to Defence
Industry Directorate, Aerospace Combat Systems Branch
Aerospace Systems Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group
Brindabella Park, s47E(d) | PO Box 7922 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
T: s47E(d) | M: s22 | Email: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au |

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 November 2023 9:41 AM
To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: ACSIndustryTeam s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: AD Comms review of CASG webpage for JSF - Industry Participation link for Rosebank Defence media release (ACS Task 422/23) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

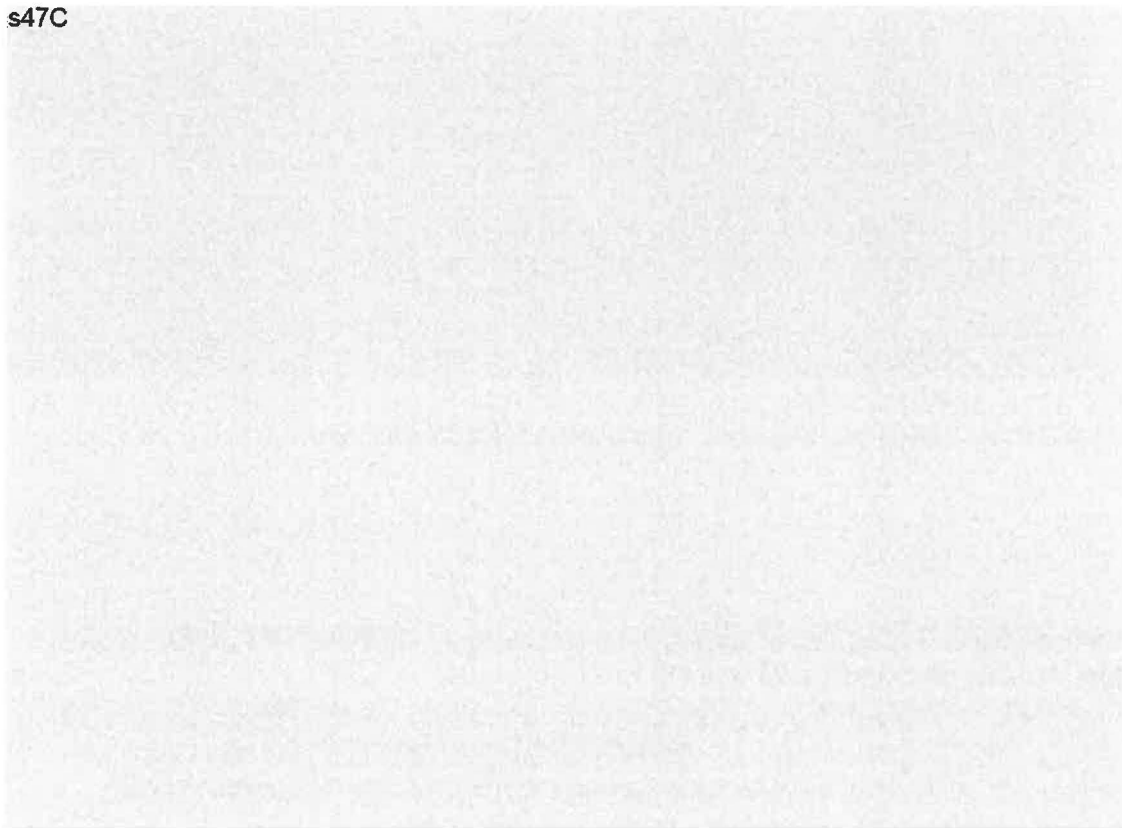
OFFICIAL

Hi ^{s47E} ,

Further to my previous email, I forgot to include the additional recommendation:

Under the Global Support Solution section, change the wording to the following ^{s47C}
^{s47C}

^{s47C}



I reviewed the document and have ^{s47C} recommendations for the Economic impact paragraph (added in italics below for reference):

Economic impact

In February 2017, PwC released an independent assessment of the impact the F-35 Program is having on the Australian economy.

The report forecasts that the F-35 Program would support an additional 6,000 jobs and add AU\$1.2 billion to Australia gross domestic product (GDP) by 2038, if approximately AU\$5 billion (adjusted for exchange rates) in production contracts are awarded to Australian companies. The Defence forecast for F-35 production contracts was AU\$1.5 billion to AU\$3 billion

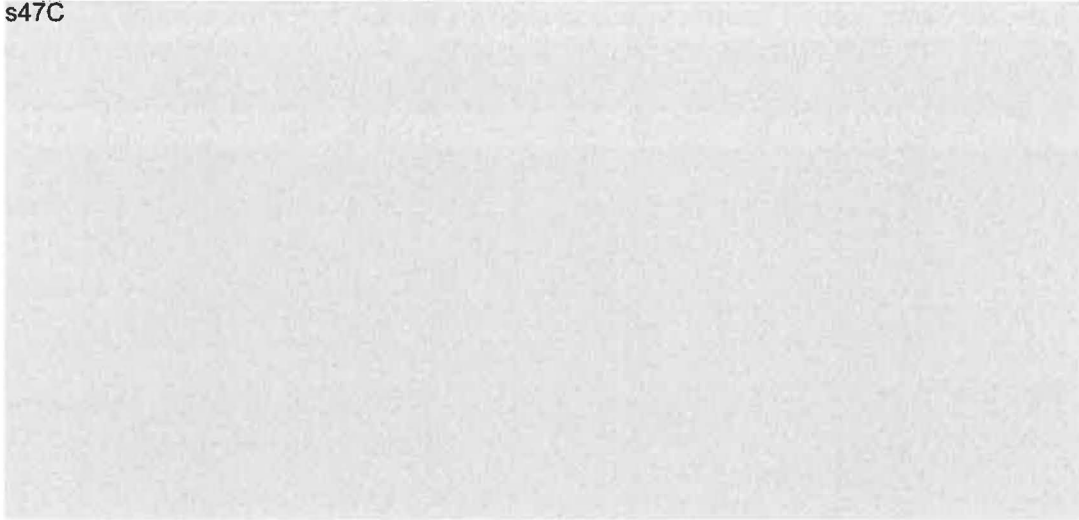
^{s47C}



s47C

For the May 2023 graphic displaying the Australian suppliers named beside the F-35 aircraft, I recommend the following changes s47C

s47C



Please let me know if you have any questions about my recommendations.

From: s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 October 2023 9:58 PM
To: s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Subject: FW: AD Comms review of CASG webpage for JSF - Industry Participation link for Rosebank Defence media release (ACS Task 422/23) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From: s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 November 2023 12:17 PM
To: s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: AD Comms review of CASG webpage for JSF - Industry Participation link for Rosebank Defence media release (ACS Task 422/23) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Many thanks s47E(d) and team,

Just a couple of suggestions within for your consideration.

s47E(d)

Kind regards,
s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) <@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 October 2023 3:13 PM
To: s47E(d) <@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <@defence.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(d) <@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) <@defence.gov.au>
Subject: AD Comms review of CASG webpage for JSF - Industry Participation link for Rosebank Defence media release (ACS Task 422/23) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

G'day s47E(d), as discussed, please find content currently earmarked for DGACS clearance.

Background: ACS Industry s47E(d) wish to update the CASG weblink (Webpage - About - CASG - Our Structure - Air - JSF - Industry Participation) to reflect the new Australian participation contract value which now exceeds the \$4 billion figure and is a fitting link to have embedded the s47E(d) s47E(d) future JSF industry media product. This version has been cleared by Industry team and is awaiting DG clearance. In the meantime, appreciate if you could review and if there are any amends please use track changes and send back to ACS Exec inbox.

Unsure of deadline and your capacity but if this could be done by COB Thursday 2 Nov or sooner that would be grand.

s47E(d) /Industry: FYSA.

Cheers and thanks for offering to do this.

s22

s47E(d)

ACS Branch Executive Team
Aerospace Combat Systems Branch | Aerospace Systems Division

s22

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group
Brindabella Park, s47E(d) | PO Box 7922 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
M: s22 | **E:** s47E(d) <@defence.gov.au> |
s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d)
To: s47E(d) s47E(d)
Subject: 231123 1454 - s47E(d)]-s47E(d)] DGACS has cleared content update of
Webpage - About - CASG - Our Structure - Air - JSF - Industry Participation
Date: Thursday, 23 November 2023 2:54:42 PM
Attachments: [Image - Sustainment - CLEARED DGACS.PNG](#)
[Image - Production - CLEARED DGACS.PNG](#)
[Webpage - About - CASG - Our Structure - Air - JSF - Industry Participation - CLEARED DGACS.docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d) ,

DGACS has cleared the updated content, inclusive of the content contained within the Word document and two images, for publication on the CASG - Our Structure - Air - JSF - Industry Participation webpage.

Can you please arrange to have the webpage updated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Cheers
s47E(d)

Kind regards

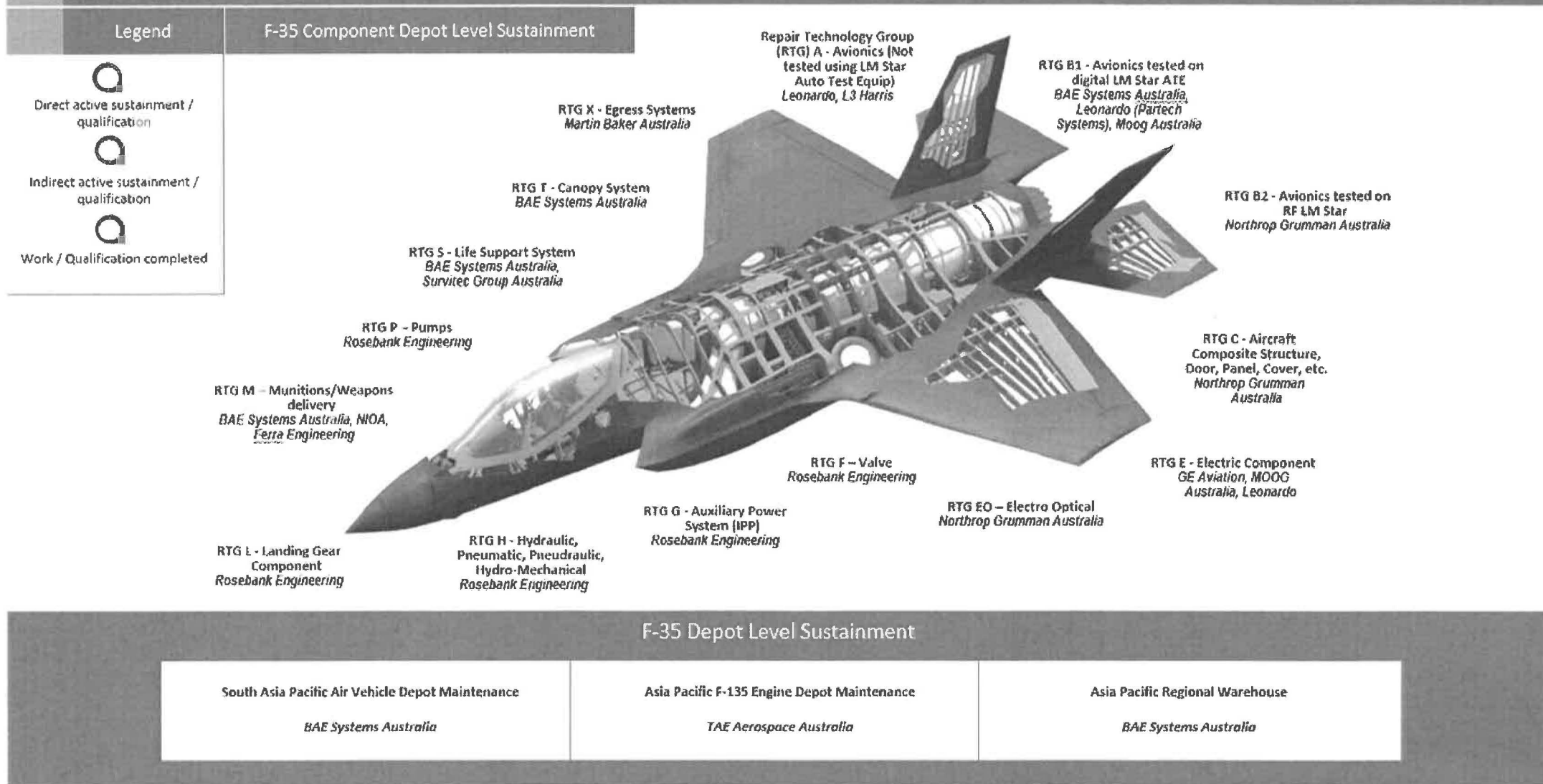
s47E(d)

Deputy Director Business Operations
Aerospace Combat Systems Branch
Aerospace Systems Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group
Brindabella Park, s47E(d) | PO Box 7922 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
T: s47E(d)
M: s22

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.




F-35 Sustainment – Maintenance Repair Overhaul and Upgrade (MRO&U) - Components, Air Vehicle, Propulsion and Regional Warehouse

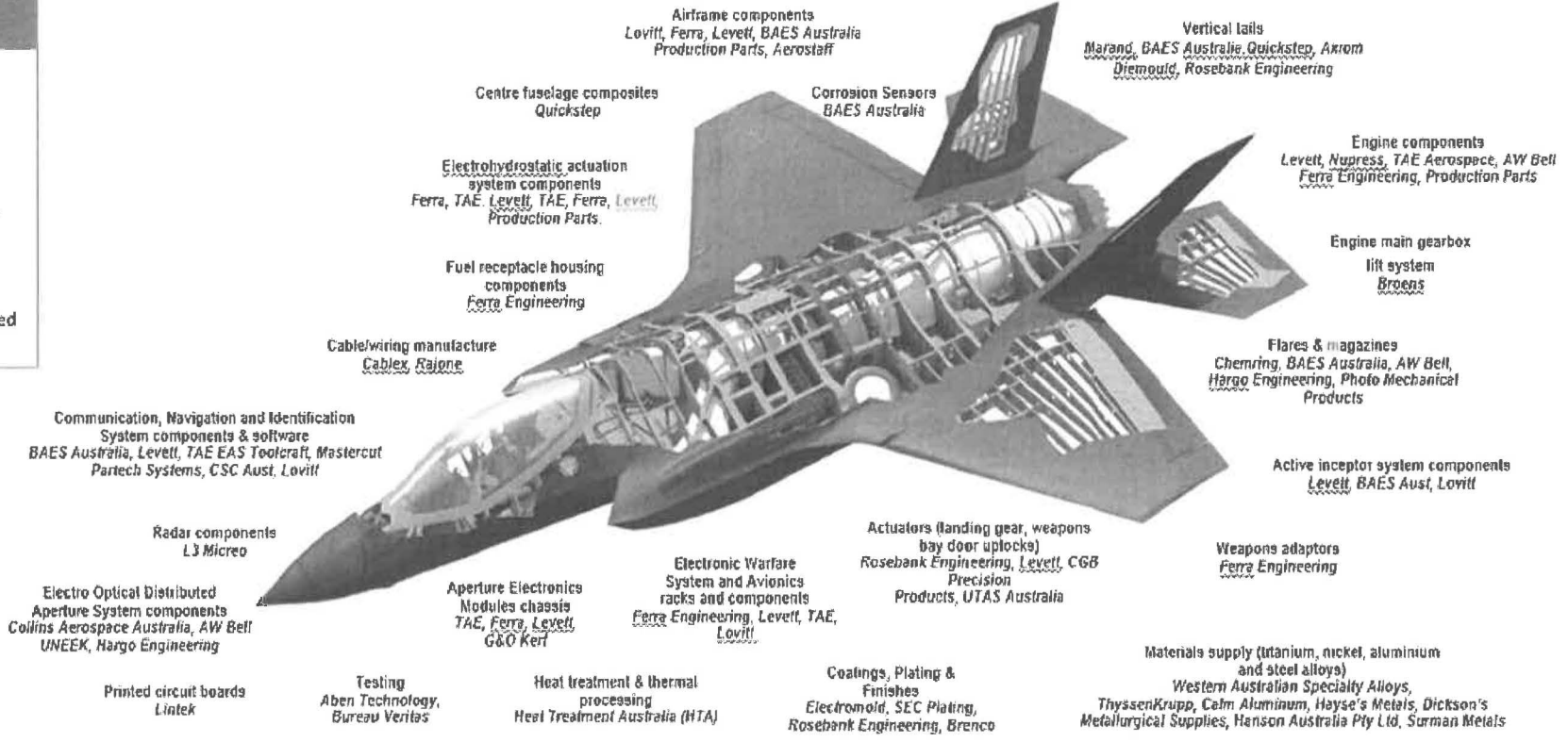


F-35 Australian Industry Participation

All Production activity including key deeper supply chain involvement and contracts completed at May 2023

Legend

-  Direct active production / qualification
-  Indirect active production / qualification
-  Work / Qualification completed



Design and production support to F-35

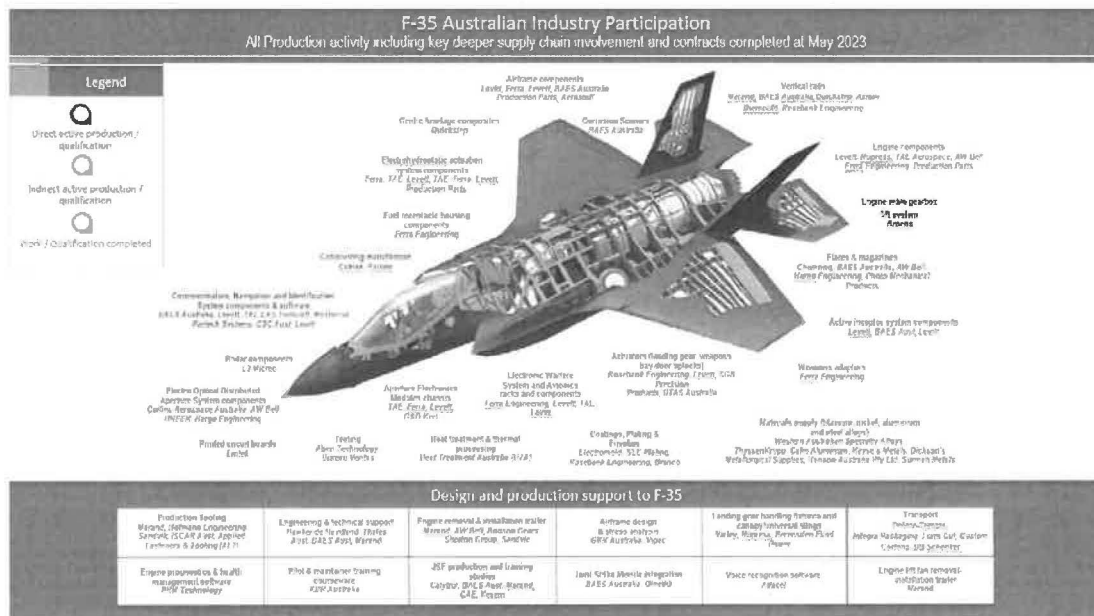
Production Tooling Marand, Hofmann Engineering Sandvik, ISCAR Aust, Applied Fasteners & Tooling (AFT)	Engineering & technical support Hawker de Havilland, Thales Aust, BAES Aust, Marand	Engine removal & installation trailer Marand, AW Bell, Ronson Gears, Shotton Group, Sandvik	Airframe design & stress analysis GKN Australia, Vipac	Landing gear handling fixtures and canopy/universal slings Varley, Nupress, Berensden Fluid Power	Transport Pelican-Trincoas, Integra Packaging, Form Cul, Custom Cartons, DB Schenker
Engine prognostics & health management software PHM Technology	Pilot & maintainer training courseware KBR Australia	JSF production and training studies Calytrix, BAES Aust, Marand, CAE, Kesem	Joint Strike Missile integration BAES Australia, QinetiQ	Voice recognition software Adacel	Engine lift fan removal-installation trailer Marand

Industry Participation

The F-35 Program is transforming Australian industry as it contributes to the global production of F-35 capability and prepares to support F-35 Global Support Solution with Indo-Pacific regional depot repair capabilities.

The Aerospace Combat Systems Branch within the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG) is working closely with the US Government and the Prime contractors (Lockheed Martin and Pratt & Whitney) to identify opportunities to expand Australian industry participation in the global F-35 Program.

As part of the Australian industrial participation in the F-35 Program, there have been a number of observations made of potential industry outcomes, inclusive of the 2017 Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) 'Economic impact of Australian industry participation in the Joint Strike Fighter program', report.



Australian Industry is performing beyond expectations as part of the F-35 Program, winning long-term production and sustainment contracts. As at June 2023, Australian industry has won over AU\$4 billion of contracts.

Information on Australian industry participation - including the release of 15 company stories that highlight their journey and involvement with the F-35 Program - is available to be downloaded:

[View the 48 page booklet — PDF 1.74 MB](#)

[View the four page brochure — PDF 8.95 MB](#)

View each company story:

- [Applied Fasteners and Tooling](#)
- [AW Bell](#)
- [Axiom](#)
- [BAE Systems Australia](#)
- [Collins Aerospace](#)
- [Ferra Engineering](#)
- [GKN](#)
- [HTA](#)
- [KBR](#)
- [Levett Engineering](#)
- [Lovitt Technologies Australia](#)
- [Marand](#)
- [PPG](#)
- [Quickstep](#)
- [Ronson Gears](#)
- [RUAG Australia \(re-named Rosebank Engineering\)](#)
- [TAE Aerospace](#)
- [Uneek Bending Co](#)
- [Varley Group](#)
- [Western Australian Specialty Alloys](#)

Economic impact

In February 2017, PwC released an independent assessment of the impact the F-35 Program is having on the Australian economy.

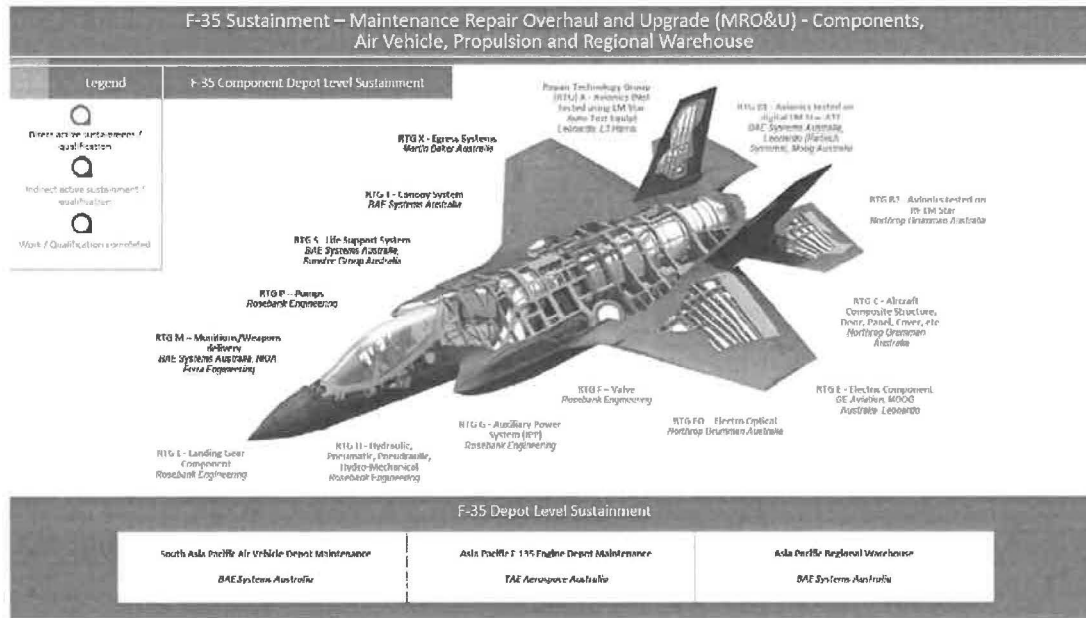
The report forecasted that the F-35 Program would support an additional 6,000 jobs and add AU\$1.2 billion to Australia gross domestic product (GDP) by 2038, if approximately AU\$5 billion (adjusted for exchange rates) in production contracts are awarded to Australian companies. Previous Defence forecasts for F-35 production contracts was AU\$1.5 billion to AU\$3 billion, however, as at June 2023 this has grown to AU\$4.13 billion.

[Economic impact of Australian industry participation in the Joint Strike Fighter program — PDF 1.22 MB](#)

Joint Strike Fighter Industry Support Program

The JSF-ISP Sustainment Grant supports the development of new or improved capabilities that enhance Australian business' opportunities to win work in the production, sustainment and modernisation phases of the F-35 Program.

Global Support Solution



Australian industry continues to benefit from the growing capability and capacity opportunities associated with the size and scale of the F-35 global enterprise, principally through the F-35 Global Support Solution (GSS).

In 2015, the US Government made regional maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade (MRO&U) assignments to Australia for F-35 airframe and F135 engine depot maintenance with the following companies selected by Defence for activation:

- BAE Systems Australia, based at Williamstown in New South Wales, for regional F-35 airframe depot maintenance for the South Indo-Pacific region
- TAE Aerospace, based at Brisbane in Queensland, for regional F-35 engine depot maintenance for the Indo-Pacific region.

In 2016 and 2018, the US Government made regional F-35 component MRO&U assignments to Australia for 407 of 456 components for the Indo-Pacific region. Defence selected the following companies to activate this F-35 component MRO&U capability in Australia:

- BAE Systems (NSW)
- GE Aerospace Australia (QLD)
- Northrop Grumman (NSW)
- Rosebank Engineering (VIC)
- Survitec (NSW)
- Moog Australia (VIC)
- Leonardo Australia (VIC)
- L3Harris Australia (QLD)
- NIOA (QLD)
- Martin Baker Australia (NSW)

In 2017, the US Government assigned Australia the F-35 regional warehouse for the Indo-Pacific region with activation of this capability at BAE Systems Australia in Williamstown, NSW.

[Industry Participation](#) | [About](#) | [Defence](#)

If you are interested in getting involved in the F-35 Program, please contact the [Office of Defence Industry Support \(ODIS\)](#).

Related links

[F-35 Australian industry participation - The Journey to \\$1 Billion - 48 page booklet — PDF 1.74 MB](#)

[F-35 Australian industry participation - The Journey to \\$1 Billion - four page brochure — PDF 8.95 MB](#)

[Economic impact of Australian industry participation in the F-35 Program - February 2017 — PDF 1.22 MB](#)

[Key Australian companies who have shared in AU\\$1.3 billion in F-35 Production contracts — PDF 0.8 MB](#)

[Joint Strike Fighter Industry Support Program - Production and Modernisation Grants](#)

[Joint Strike Fighter Industry Support Program - Sustainment Grants](#)

[Office of Defence Industry Support](#)

Related Defence media releases

Oct 2023: [Australia begins providing F-35 wheels and brakes repair work](#)

From: s47E(d)
To: s47E(d) s47E(d)
Subject: 231204 1249 - e-mail - s47E(d)s47E(d) - The missing link - RE: ACS Task 422/23 - DUE 2 Oct 23 Webpage - About - CASG - Our Structure - Air - JSF - Industry Participation
Date: Monday, 4 December 2023 12:49:59 PM

OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

s22

Looks like the page may have been removed. Should appear at:

<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/capability-acquisition-sustainment-group/our-structure/air/jsf/industry-participation>

This was the link I added to the header of the word doc, but page reverts back to CASG landing page.

Not a great look, as we use the link at end of our media releases: [Local company wins government grant to secure F-35 Joint Strike Fighter work | Defence](#)

We also should have been informed if CASG comms/web team are hiding/deleting our content.

Cheers

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Deputy Director Industry
Industry Directorate, Aerospace Combat Systems Branch
Aerospace Systems Division

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group

s47E(d) Brindabella Business Park, Canberra Airport, ACT, 2609

T: s47E(d) | M: s22 | Email: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 30 November 2023 2:25 PM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Cc: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Subject: The missing link - RE: ACS Task 422/23 - DUE 2 Oct 23 Webpage - About - CASG - Our Structure - Air - JSF - Industry Participation [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

G'day ^{s47}. How are you?

Recall: DGACS cleared this content, but I've only had a chance to have a look at this due to "overload"!

I have tried quite a few times but I can't find the actual link to this content so I can get the CASG web team to upload it. Very frustrating.

In the absence of ^{s47E(d)}, you are probably the best bet in having this link somewhere to share with me given your length of service with Industry.

There are a few links within a few of the emails within the tasking folder but they all default to the main CASG Webpage.

Any ideas?

Cheers

^{s47E(d)}

ACS Branch Executive Team
Aerospace Combat Systems Branch | Aerospace Systems Division

^{s22}

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group
Brindabella Park, ^{s47E(d)} | PO Box 7922 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
M: ^{s22} | E: ^{s47E(d)} @defence.gov.au |
^{s47E(d)}

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d)
To: s47E(d) ; s47E(d)
Cc: s47E(d) ; s47E(d) ; s47E(d) ; s47E(d) ; s47E(d) ; s47E(d) ; s47E(d) ; s47E(d)
Subject: 231206 1032 - e-mail - s47E(d) URGENT: Link to F-35 Industry Participation information no longer live
Date: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 10:32:29 AM
Attachments: image001.png

~~OFFICIAL - Sensitive~~

Hi s47E(d),

s22

Therefore as we have no involvement in content decisions, happy to heed advice from s47E(d) below.

Thank you,

s47E(d)

Deputy Director | CASG Group Web Manager |
Information Management Services | Business Operations Branch |

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group |
Defence Plaza Sydney, s47E(d) | T: s47E(d) |

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures, and elders past and present.
IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 10:28 AM
To: s47E(d) s47E(d) defence.gov.au; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au
Cc: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au;
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au;
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au;
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au;
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au;
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au;
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au;
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au;

Subject: RE: URGENT: Link to F-35 Industry Participation information no longer live
~~[SEC OFFICIAL Sensitive]~~

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Hi s47E(d),

One small change to suggest, but very happy otherwise. s22

Kind regards,
s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Director

Enterprise Web

Campbell Park | s47E(d) | s47E(d) | s22 | s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

Defence | Associate Secretary Group | Enterprise Transformation and Governance Division | Enterprise Transformation Branch

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au On Behalf Of s47E(d)

Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 10:25 AM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au

Cc: s47E(d) s47E(d) @resources.defence.gov.au; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au;

s47E(d) s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au; s47E

s47E(d) s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au; Air Domain Comms

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au

Subject: RE: URGENT: Link to F-35 Industry Participation information no longer live
~~[SEC OFFICIAL Sensitive]~~

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

G'day s47E(d), thanks for your time on the phone.

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

s47E(d), would you be happy with that noting time is slipping by.

Cheers

s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 10:04 AM

To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au>

Cc: s47E(d) @resources.defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

4

@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>;

s47E(d) s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) d)

@defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

Subject: RE: URGENT: Link to F-35 Industry Participation information no longer live

~~[SEC OFFICIAL: Sensitive]~~

~~OFFICIAL: Sensitive~~

Good morning s47E(d),

Attached is the email that I send you in August this year outlining the proposed changes and reasoning.

I received a response from your confirming that we were good to implement all recommendations. The changes were actioned on 30 October.

The content can still be accessed via the Government Web Archive if desired - <https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20220326124756/https://www.defence.gov.au/about/capability-acquisition-sustainment-group/our-structure/air/jsf/industry-participation>.

Kind regards,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Director

Enterprise Web

Campbell Park | s47E(d) | s47E(d) | s22 | s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

Defence | Associate Secretary Group | Enterprise Transformation and Governance Division | Enterprise Transformation Branch

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 8:54 AM
To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(d) s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: URGENT: Link to F-35 Industry Participation information no longer live
~~[SEC - OFFICIAL: Sensitive]~~
Importance: High

~~OFFICIAL - Sensitive~~

Hi s47E(d),

s22 the public CASG site and have recently streamlined individual Group content to create a standardise Defence environment. As part of this rationalisation activity, many pages that were previously located on the old CASG public site (decommissioned in 2021) were removed. Enterprise web reviewed existing Group content and relevant information was migrated to shared Defence pages such as 'Business and Industry'.

Hi s47E(d),

Could you please see the query below and provide a response?

Thank you,

s47E(d)
Deputy Director | CASG Group Web Manager |
Information Management Services | Business Operations Branch |

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group |
Defence Plaza Sydney, s47E(d) | T: s47E(d) |

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them, their cultures, and elders past and present.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

From: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 6 December 2023 8:36 AM
To: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Cc: s47E(d) s47E(d) defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>
Subject: URGENT: Link to F-35 Industry Participation information no longer live
~~[SEC OFFICIAL Sensitive]~~
Importance: High

~~OFFICIAL Sensitive~~

G'day s47E(d), as per email attached, DGACS and ACS Branch are trying to understand what happened to the following link as outlined in a question posed by The Guardian (as part of a media enquiry that needs a response ASAP).

Not sure if you can help but do you have any information as to how, when and why please to solve this mystery?

- 4. What are Defence's reasons for removing the attached webpage previously found at: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/capability-acquisition-sustainment-group/our-structure/air/jsf/industry-participation?>

ACS Industry: FYSA, and I haven't had a chance to reach out to yet but I do know that both s47E(d) and I haven't been able to find this link for a number of weeks.

OHASD, FYSA.
Cheers

s47E(d)

ACS Branch Executive Team
Aerospace Combat Systems Branch | Aerospace Systems Division

s22

Department of Defence | Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group
Brindabella Park, s47E(d) | PO Box 7922 | CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
M: s22 | **E:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au |
s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If

you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

