

DEFENCE MINISTER TO ADDRESS SUBMARINE CONFERENCE

The Minister for Defence has been confirmed as a speaker at the Submarine Institute of Australia conference in Adelaide next week.

Senator the Hon Marise Payne will address the conference next Tuesday (17 November).

“The featured opening address by Minister Payne so soon after taking over the portfolio means this year’s conference has arguably the best line-up of speakers in the history of the event,” said David Nicholls, Executive Director of the Submarine Institute of Australia.

“The presence of Minister Payne comes in advance of two significant announcements from the Federal Government – the release of a new Defence White Paper for Australia and the decision about which consortium will provide the design partner to build Australia’s next fleet of submarines.

“Registrations for the conference will soon close, so anyone who is interested in attending and hasn’t yet registered is urged to do so as soon as possible.”

Other leading confirmed speakers include the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Hon Christopher Pyne MP, the Shadow Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy, the Premier of South Australia, Hon Jay Weatherill MP, and former Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK, AFC (retired).

The conference will feature presentations from senior global executives from the three bidders for the Australian Government’s Future Submarine Program – Japan (Japanese Government and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries), Germany (ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems) and France (DCNS).

“Given bids must be submitted by 30 November, the conference is set to be the last chance for the proponents to publicly state their cases ahead of this deadline,” Mr Nicholls said.

Other highlights of the conference include:

- Some 26 technical papers will be presented over days two and three in parallel streams of hull, mechanical and electrical, platform signatures, autonomous underwater vehicles and combat systems; and
- Rear Admiral Peter Briggs AO, CSC RAN (retired) will provide a briefing on the search for Australia’s first submarine, HMAS AE1, which was lost without trace off Papua New Guinea during the first month of World War 1 in September 1914.

To view the full program, click on the following link: <http://www.submarineinstitute.com/sia-conferences/program.html>. Registration details are also available on the website.

Further information:

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