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SPANISH AIR WARFARE DESTROYER VISITS ADELAIDE

Premier Mike Rann has welcomed the Spanish Navy's Air Warfare Destroyer *Alvaro De Bazan* and its crew to Outer Harbor today, which is here to showcase one of two potential designs for the three Air Warfare Destroyers to be built in Adelaide.

The Frigate – at 146.7m long and weighing 5800 tonnes – is in service with the Spanish Navy and built by the Spanish shipbuilding company Navantia.

“Navantia’s Australianised F100 design is competing against the US defence company Gibbs and Cox’s evolved Arleigh Burke design like the *USS Pinckney* which I inspected on Sydney Harbour in February last year,” Mr Rann said.

“The Australian Government will decide which of the two designs will be used to build our AWDs in the middle of this year.

“The visit of this ship shows that Adelaide’s Techport will soon be the hub of Australia’s naval and civil ship building industry.

“It is a rare and exciting opportunity for local industry in particular to inspect a working AWD and understand the scope and scale of the opportunities presented by Australia’s largest and most complex defence project.

“Ever since May 2005 when Adelaide won the \$6 billion contract to build three AWDs – the biggest contract in Australian military history – we have been working hard to encourage South Australian industry to become involved.

“The State Government is investing about \$250 million to develop Techport Australia as a world-class shipbuilding precinct at Osborne that will not only build the AWDs but also attract other shipbuilding and repair opportunities.

That investment includes:

- The largest ship lift in Australia, together with a transfer system and wharf
- More than 35 hectares for sub-contracting companies to establish operations
- A Maritime Skills Centre providing trade and technical skills for the project, and
- The future home of the high technology AWD Systems Centre.

“Development of Techport Australia is well underway.

For example:

- Last June McConnell Dowell and Built Environs were contracted for the design of the common user shipbuilding facilities, as well as planning and pre-construction works (\$5.8 m).
- In December Rolls Royce Marine Australia was awarded the contract to supply, install and commission the ship lift and transfer system (\$50 m).

- In addition to the ship lift, more than \$7 million worth of contracts were awarded, mostly to local industry, in 2006.
- In late 2005 Adelaide won the high-end AWD Systems Centre at which nearly 300 naval architects, warship designers, system and systems integration engineers and project managers are employed. The Centre houses members of the AWD alliance - the Commonwealth, ASC Shipbuilding and Raytheon Australia – as well as Gibbs and Cox, Navantia, Lockheed Martin Corporation and the US Navy.
- Construction of the Maritime Skills Centre will start in April and be complete in January 2008.

“The AWD project based at Techport Australia will make a major contribution to South Australia’s bold plan to double the contribution of the defence industry to the State’s economy and to increase employment to 28,000 by 2013.

“The AWD project will help transform the South Australian economy, with more than 4000 direct and indirect jobs to be created. And it will give us the skills and capabilities to attract future naval and defence projects,” Mr Rann said.