

Report

Title: India-Australia Defence Industry Business Roundtable

Date & Time: Friday 10 October 2025 | 1205-1330 |Grand Ballroom, Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney

1. Event Overview:

The India-Australia Defence Industry Business Roundtable, held on 10 October 2025 in Sydney, marked a historic milestone as the first-ever India-Australia Defence Industry Roundtable co-chaired by Ministers of both countries, this was in the backdrop of the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Australia in nearly twelve years. The roundtable was Co-chaired by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri of India, Shri Rajnath Singh and Hon. Peter Khalil MP, Assistant Minister for Defence of Australia. This closed-door roundtable brought together senior government officials and leading defence industry representatives from over twenty-four companies to chart pathways for transformative defence industrial cooperation in support of a free, open, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

The roundtable convened major defence industry players, including Advanced Navigation, BlueGlass, Boeing Defence Australia, Carbonix, Ferra Group, Navantia Australia, Quasar Satellite Technologies, Space Machine Company, and Titomic among others, alongside government officials and strategic advisers from both countries.

Link to the Pressnote / media note: 1.<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/australia-calls-india-a-trusted-partner-stresses-need-to-establish-a-defence-innovation-bridge/articleshow/124517136.cms?from=mdr>
2.<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2177149>

2. Head Table Sitting: (R to L)

- 1) Shri Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International (Emcee & Moderator)
- 2) Vice Adm. Sanjay Vatsayan, Vice Chief of Naval Staff, NHQ
- 3) Hon Peter Khalil MP, Assistant Minister for Defence of Australia
- 4) Hon. Rajnath Singh, Raksha Mantri, Government of India
- 5) Shri Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India to Australia
- 6) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, to Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee

3. Defence Industry present at the Roundtable: (R to L)

Grabba Technologies, Arborescents, Titomic, Quasar Satellite Technologies, Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC), Navantia Australia, Carbonix, ER Defence, BluGlass, Ferra Group, LoomTex, JIRRA Enterprise Space Pvt Ltd, Space Machine Company, Bodd, Opentec Solutions, Assytem, Black Sky Industries, Akula Tech, NewSpace Research and Technologies, Boeing Defence, Advanced Navigation, Ocius Technology and Techno Source. Other representatives included consultancy firms, such as Anchoram, as well as from Deakin University and the Mayor of Geelong City, among attendees.

4. Discussion highlights:

4.1 Deepening Defence Ties: The India-Australia Defence Industry Roundtable reinforced defence as a key pillar of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) and for the security of the broader Indo-Pacific region. Bound by shared democratic values and a vision for a rules-based Indo-Pacific, both countries aim to enhance security cooperation. The Indian diaspora in Australia, the second-largest and fastest-growing, strengthens people-to-people and industrial ties, fostering trust and collaboration in defence production and strategic technologies for regional stability. Low-hanging fruits from Indian side for immediate collaborations are Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities, science & technology innovation partnerships, and collaboration in critical & emerging

technologies, specifically - Quantum computing and communications, AI related applications in defence, strengthening information warfare capabilities, underwater domain awareness and technologies, other space based critical dual-use technologies.

4.2 Co-Development Focus: India's strengths in shipbuilding, missile systems, drones, and space align with Australia's sovereign capability goals, creating immediate collaboration opportunities. RM highlighted Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facilities, AI, quantum computing, and underwater warfare as key areas and low-hanging fruits. Australian Industry leaders expressed enthusiasm for co-development, supporting India's 'Make in India, Make for the World' vision and mutual industrial integration however flagged more awareness on regulatory coherence, policies and ecosystem to co-produce.

4.3 Institutional Continuity: The roundtable proposed an India–Australia Defence Bridge to ensure ongoing dialogue and joint initiatives. A follow-up Defence Industry Roundtable in India in 2026, alongside thematic seminars on critical technologies, joint ventures, clearance and import-export related issues for sustained dialogue. Here, Indian High Commissioner, Shri Gopal Baglay emphasised sustained engagement through similar workshops and seminars to deepen mutual understanding of operational frameworks, enabling co-production and innovation-led partnerships that enhance supply chain resilience, better understanding of India's defence ecosystem and drive long-term defence cooperation.

4.4 Holistic Innovation Approach: Beyond defence, collaboration in space, AI, quantum research, and autonomous underwater systems aims to promote Indo-Pacific peace and prosperity. With support from the Ministry of Defence, Government of India CUTS International with local partners such as the Newland Global Group, Sydney and the Australia-India Business Council, the event integrated governments, academia, and industry, with the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre advocating SME involvement. Emerging firms like Carbonix, Grabba Technologies, and Titomic showed interest in joint ventures in semiconductors and drones, strengthening cross-border innovation and supply chain linkages.

4.5 Defence innovation bridge - The discussion proposed the establishment of the ‘India–Australia Defence Bridge’ as an institutional mechanism that fosters continuous dialogue and joint initiatives, enabling co-production, co-development, and innovation-led collaboration in defence technologies. Furthermore, the Indian High Commissioner to Australia suggested that, rather than one-off events, there should be a series of follow-up workshops and joint capability seminars that enable industry participants to understand each other’s strengths, market and operational frameworks.

4.6 CSOs, think tanks, cooperation - Discussions also underscored the importance of building bridges between governments, academia, civil society organisations (CSOs), and think tanks to promote cross-border research partnerships, strengthen supply chain linkages, and enhance industry readiness for a holistic approach to defence innovation and capacity building. Such roundtables and discussions are critical in policy recommendations and promote awareness generation. Lastly, healthy democracies promote such voices from the grassroots.

=

Participating Defence Companies: Remarks and Highlights from the Roundtable

S. No.	Name of the Company	Core Strengths of the Company	Presence/Offices In (Australia - India, etc)	Looking for Indian Partners - Y/N (If already, who?)	Remarks/ Suggestions made at the Roundtable	Action Point & updates
1.	Energy Renaissance (ER) Defence	Sovereign Australian defence-grade lithium-ion battery technology for military mobility applications. Core capabilities include NATO 6T Battery Systems and Cybersecure Battery Management	Tomago, New South Wales, Australia	Yes	Joint Venture Opportunities: Partner With Indian defence battery manufacturers to combine Australian technology IP with Indian manufacturing capacity Technology Licensing Agreements: License cybersecure BMS technology for Indian defence applications Co-Development Programs: Jointly develop next-generation	To leverage complementary capabilities: Technology Transfer: Cybersecure BMS technology adapted for hot-climate operations Contract Manufacturing: Production facilities leveraging Indian manufacturing scale with Australian advanced battery technology and IP Supply Chain Integration: Integrate the Indian component suppliers into sovereign battery supply

		System (BMS)			<p>NATO 6T- based military energy storage systems optimised for Indo-Pacific operating conditions</p> <p>Market Access: Establish pathways for mutual market access - Energy Renaissance Defence into Indian defence programs; Indian partners into Australian and broader NATO supply chains</p> <p>Supply Chain Resilience: Create redundant, sovereign supply chains across both nations, reducing dependency on external suppliers</p> <p>Innovation Partnerships: Collaborate on emerging technologies, including NATO 6T-based autonomous systems power, directed energy weapons support, and electric vehicle military platforms.</p>	<p>chains for both nations</p> <p>Platform Integration: Collaborate on battery solutions for shared defence platforms</p> <p>Regional Hub Development: Joint capabilities to serve broader Indo-Pacific defence markets</p> <p>Looking to accelerate and co-produce in India</p>
--	--	--------------	--	--	--	--

2.	Bodd	Uniform sizing technology and human performance tool (rapid health and wellness screenings)	Melbourne , Australia	Yes	Seeking market access and partnerships for pilot projects / co-development opportunities that demonstrate how body data can improve operational Efficiency. Expressed the need to further understand defence companies and the broader ecosystem	Interested in Technology transfer to strengthen capability in both nations, and integration into uniform and equipment supply chains to reduce waste and improve speed.
3.	Carbonix	Design, manufacturing, and operations of RPAS/UAS	Artarmon, NSW, Australia	Yes	<p>Interest in Supply chain integration, technology Transfer. Expressed that they are now looking to work in Asia, as they already have worked in Australia; With this, they seek to understand the Indian defence ecosystem.</p> <p>Requested guidance on understanding India's defence ecosystem and procurement process</p>	<p>Key Outcomes are - Policy alignment, supply opportunities, offset participation, market access</p> <p>Having no presence in Asia but wanting to now push and work in Asia.</p> <p>Want more clarity from the Indian Government on how to expand capability and work in the Indian ecosystem</p>

4.	APAC, Titomic (Additive manufacturing)	Cold Spray Additive Manufacturing	Melbourne , Victoria, Australia	Yes	<p>Seeking Product co-development, particularly in Spacecraft/Rockets; Establishment of manufacturing presence in India.</p> <p>They are working and are likely to announce a contract soon with the support of the government of Australia.</p>	Seeking Support for the Indian facility build, alignment with policies, understanding of engagement enablers, including governmental support mechanisms and bodies (both Aus and India).
5.	Bluglass	Photonics, Compound Semiconductors, GaN lasers	Silverwater, NSW, Australia	Yes	<p>Co-development of novel applications, manufacturing supply agreements</p> <p>Already working with the DRDO and advancing discussions on underwater domain awareness and communications.</p> <p>Blue Glass mentioned that they are already working with the DRDO</p>	JV opportunities, innovation partnerships, market access,

					and are part of the Indian procurement process in the advancement of underwater communications and weapon systems advancement..	
6.	Quasar Satellite Technologies,	Ground Station, Space Domain Awareness	Sydney, Australia	Yes	<p>Interest in supplying the ground station and space domain awareness intelligence data</p> <p>They mentioned that as a space company, they look forward to working on space observations and also would be happy to share data with the Indian side.</p>	Seeking Market Access, Partnerships and happy to share data with the Indian side
7.	Inventis Technology - Opentec Solutions	Manufacturing- Rugged Computers and Electronic Safety Solutions	Sydney, Australia	Yes	Suggested integrating its combat-rugged platforms into joint defence initiatives, such as enhancing command-and-control systems for	Co-manufacturing, supply chain integration, technology transfer); Looking for JV opportunities, market access,

					Indo-Pacific maritime exercises or ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) under Quad frameworks	innovation partnerships, South Asian Manufacturing
8.	Black Sky Industries	Sovereign rocket motors and whole guided weapons	Logan, Queensland, Australia	Yes	Expressed that they have no presence in India and are looking to accelerate and co-produce.	Looking for Opportunities for co- development and supply chain Security: two-way greater market access
9.	JIRRA Enterprise Space	Space technology for launch and recovery capability, propulsion systems, turbopump design, orbital command platforms	Mawson Lakes, South Australia	Yes	JIRRA seeks to establish joint R&D, manufacturing, and co-investment frameworks between Australia and India in dual-use launch technology and sovereign manufacturing. Core focus areas include: Propulsion co-development & testing infrastructure Additive manufacturing and materials innovation	Actively seeking to develop partnerships for co-manufacturing, test facilities, and investment participation under the Defence Corridor and Make-in-India initiatives. Looking for joint ventures and co-investment frameworks for propulsion & modular launch systems; Bilateral policy and funding alignment supporting sovereign capability programs; R&D collaboration

					<p>Dual-use ISR and responsive-launch Applications</p> <p>Creation of a cross-border funding and innovation channel for space- defence integration</p>	<p>in advanced materials, testing, and additive processes; Offset participation &innovation-funding partnerships across both Nations, Capital, and technology corridor creation to scale Indo-Pacific launch Capacity; Integration with defence-aligned innovation agencies (e.g., CSIRO, IN-SPACE) for co-funded pilot programs; Sustainable investment ecosystem linking Australian design and Indian manufacturing agility;</p>
--	--	--	--	--	--	---

10.	Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC)	Focus on Value-Added Global Competitiveness, Industry Collaboration and Networking, and Innovation and Commercialisation Acceleration	Sydney, NSW, Australia	Yes	Expressed that the medium enterprises should be given importance and precedence, and work on the supply chains	Larger supply chain of interest, seeking a partnership with Indian partners
11.	Navantia Australia	Integrated Platform Management System, Port Surveillance and Security System, Simulation and Training and Marintec	Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Western Australia	Yes	It has successful ongoing and meaningful collaboration going on in the maritime sectors, with a major warship development capability centre in place, inviting Indian companies to innovate and offered a platform for deeper industrial collaboration, particularly in naval capabilities.	Inviting Indian companies to innovate and become part of its innovation capabilities
12.	Titomic	A global leader	Melbourne	Yes	They are a space	Looking for joint ventures in a

		in Titomic Kinetic Fusion – a cold spray additive manufacturing technology.	, Victoria, Australia		company with promotes JVs in Rocket vessels and are soon going to announce a contract with the support of the Department of Australia	similar space and promotion of capabilities to promote the co-production of rockets
13.	Ferra Group	Design & Engineering, Electromechanical Assembly & test, Logistics and Sustainment	Brisbane, Queensland, Australia	Yes	Ferra Group mentioned they are already working on the co-development and co-production with India on the Tejas aircraft. They invited India to collaborate and promote co-production and join hands on global projects.	Looking to promote co-production and co-development for global projects.
14.	Space Machine Company	Space infrastructure	Botany, Australia	Yes	Expressed that the priority and focus of both Australia and India should be on space & aerospace, and laid out priorities on working with the governments of both side	Seeking more inputs on joint ventures with India, Open for partnerships
15.	Grabba Technologie	In mobile biometrics for	Brisbane,	Yes	Expressed that clearance is an issue, and therefore	Suggested need for more awareness regarding

	s	borders and security.	Queensland, Australia		needs more awareness on the same and how to promote joint ventures	mechanisms to promote joint ventures and navigate export control regimes
16.	Arborescents	fluorescence-based handheld chemical-threat detector	Victoria, Melbourne, Australia	Yes	They seek to promote manufacturing, especially semiconductors in India, recognising the strategic importance of secure supply chains in critical technologies	Looking for co-producing partners in India.
17.	Loomtex	Fabrics for defence applications	Breakwater, Victoria, Australia	Yes	Scaling up orders for combat readiness and uniforms, and happy to expand in the larger Indo-Pacific region	Looking for partners in India to cater to and partner for uniforms in difficult terrains and harsh climates.
18.	Advanced Navigation	Global innovator in assured positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) technologies, specialising in inertial	Sydney, NSW, Australia	Yes	Doug mentioned that their company is the only company which has the know-how of companies having fibre navigation solutions.	Advanced Navigation's EP-enabled INS and EW-resistant PNT technologies align seamlessly with India's defence priorities under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2020), enabling collaborations with MSMEs on co-production of modular

		navigation systems (INS)				navigation payloads for drones, submarines, and border surveillance
19.	Akula Tech	Cutting-edge satellites capable of autonomously learning from payload data and adapting to operational changes	VIC, Melbourne, Australia	Yes	Suggested Co-development, manufacturing, supply chain integration, IAF procurement	Seeking Market access, innovation partnerships, integration with IAF supply chains, Defence technology collaboration pathways
20.	NewSpace Research and Technologies	Next Generation Intelligent Cyber-Physical Uncrewed Systems, Multi-rotor and electric UAVs	Bengaluru, India	Yes	They have successfully worked with the American companies and ecosystem, and now want to explore the Defence ecosystem of Australia	Looking for JVs and partnerships in the Space sector in Australia along with Testing Centres, Co-development of USV, UUSVs, supply chain integration, technology transfer. Want to co-develop a net-new product for India, Australia and their allies

21.	Boeing Defence	Long-term sustainment, innovative systems integration, and deep industry partnerships	Brisbane, Queensland, Australia	Yes	They are an independent and standalone manufacturing aerospace service provider in Australia, and are looking to partner with Indian firms and cater individually to the larger Pacific needs of India	The company seeks to leverage India's manufacturing ecosystem and Australia's regulatory and infrastructural strengths to co-develop advanced defence platforms, including the F/A-18 Super Hornet for India's carrier operations and P-8 maritime surveillance aircraft. Boeing aspires to foster cross-border innovation through supplier networks, joint R&D, and local production, enhancing supply chain resilience and interoperability. By expanding its presence in India with over 275 suppliers and supporting Australia's Airpower Teaming System, Boeing aims to drive mutual defence industry growth.
-----	-----------------------	--	--	------------	---	---

22.	Ocius technology	Renewable-powered autonomy, patented hardware for harsh marine environments, and versatile applications that outperform traditional manned vessels	Alexandria NSW, Australia	Yes	Seeking to co-develop hybrid propulsion for ISR drones or wave-powered gateways for maritime domain awareness, with shared IP licensing and offset credits	Focus on dual-use tech for ASW (e.g., underwater sensors), electronic warfare modules, or mine countermeasures arrays. MSMEs in Bengaluru or Hyderabad could contribute to testing and customisation for Indo-Pacific threats
23.	Assystem	An international engineering and project-management group offering design, digital and advisory services for complex infrastructure and industrial assets across	Operates through its subsidiary LogiKal with offices in Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney	Yes	Seeks partnerships with Indian defence industry firms under India's defence-industry policy (which encourages foreign-Indian joint ventures, manufacturing in India, and technology transfer)	Leverage its Australian-based engineering delivery teams (via LogiKal) and link them with its India operations (such as those of Assystem in India) to create a cross-national engineering platform

		sectors including transport, utilities, aviation and defence				
24.	Technosource	Provides integrated hardware and software solutions for asset-tracking, inventory management, POS systems and data capture, serving diverse sectors including defence, logistics and retail	Victoria, Australia	Yes	No comments at the roundtable discussion	Partner with Indian defence firms to integrate its tracking/inventory systems into Indian infrastructure, support interoperability of assets across both countries, and enable a common electronic ecosystem for the two militaries or joint exercises

Conclusion

The India-Australia Defence Industry Business Roundtable held on 10 October 2025 in Sydney represents a watershed moment in bilateral defence cooperation, marking the first-ever ministerial co-chaired defence industry engagement between the two nations. This historic gathering has laid a robust foundation for transforming and

marking five years of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership into tangible industrial collaboration that advances shared security interests across the Indo-Pacific.

The roundtable successfully convened over twenty-four defence industry leaders alongside senior government officials, creating unprecedented dialogue between Australian innovators and Indian strategic priorities. The discussions revealed significant alignment between India's manufacturing capabilities and Australia's technological sophistication, particularly in critical domains including advanced navigation systems, autonomous platforms, space technologies, quantum computing, artificial intelligence applications, and underwater warfare capabilities.

Several key themes emerged as catalysts for future cooperation. First, the establishment of the proposed "India-Australia Defence Bridge" as an institutional mechanism will ensure continuity beyond one-off engagements, enabling sustained dialogue, joint capability seminars, and thematic workshops that deepen mutual understanding of regulatory frameworks and operational ecosystems. Second, the emphasis on co-development and co-production rather than traditional buyer-seller relationships, which signals a maturation of the partnership, with Australian companies expressing genuine enthusiasm for India's "Make in India, Make for the World" vision. Third, the participation of small and medium enterprises alongside major defence primes demonstrates a whole-of-ecosystem approach that can strengthen supply chain resilience and drive innovation-led growth.

However, the roundtable also identified critical enablers that require immediate attention. Australian industry representatives consistently highlighted the need for greater clarity on India's defence procurement processes, regulatory coherence, and offset policies. Many companies expressed strong interest in establishing manufacturing presence in India but seek more transparent pathways for technology transfer, joint ventures, and integration into defence corridors. These concerns underscore the importance of follow-up mechanisms including the proposed 2026 Defence Industry Roundtable in India to address practical implementation challenges and build institutional knowledge.

The convergence of interests spans the entire defence technology spectrum, from Energy Renaissance's sovereign battery systems and Carbonix's RPAS platforms to Boeing Defence's long-term sustainment capabilities and Advanced Navigation's assured positioning technologies. Companies like Titomic, JIRRA Enterprise Space, and BluGlass have already begun engagement with Indian entities including DRDO, demonstrating that momentum exists to convert dialogue into deliverables. The participation of organisations like the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre further emphasises the strategic imperative of involving MSMEs in bilateral supply chains, ensuring that cooperation extends beyond tier-one contractors to create distributed, resilient industrial networks.

Looking forward, the success of this initiative will be measured not merely by memoranda of understanding signed, but by concrete outcomes: joint ventures established, technology corridors activated, testing facilities shared, and indigenous capabilities co-developed for regional security challenges. The roundtable has effectively bridged the gap between governmental intent and industry capability, but sustained progress requires dedicated working groups, streamlined regulatory coordination, and predictable investment frameworks that encourage long-term commitment from private sector participants.

The India-Australia defence partnership stands at an inflection point. With shared democratic values, complementary industrial strengths, and aligned strategic interests in maintaining a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific, both nations have the opportunity to create a model for how middle powers can collaborate to enhance regional security architecture. The Sydney Roundtable has proven that the appetite for collaboration exists across government, industry, academia, and civil society. The task ahead is to translate this momentum into enduring institutional mechanisms and operational capabilities that serve not only bilateral interests but contribute meaningfully to broader Indo-Pacific stability and prosperity.

Therefore, establishment of continuous engagement platforms, thematic innovation partnerships, and transparent regulatory frameworks will be critical to realising the full potential of this strategic convergence. As both nations navigate an increasingly complex security environment, the defence industrial cooperation charted at this

roundtable offers a pathway toward greater self-reliance, technological sovereignty, and collective security; objectives that resonate with the aspirations of both people and the imperatives of regional peace.

For more details, you may contact: prh@cuts.org / asw@cuts.org

251111_Report on Defence Industry Business RT_OCT 10, Sydney_CUTS