



THE HON. GREG COMBET AM MP
Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science

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**RPDE CONTINUES TO ATTRACT THE BEST FROM INDUSTRY
AND ACADEMIA**

Greg Combet, Minister for Defence Personnel, Materiel and Science, today announced 54 companies, academic institutions and government agencies have been selected to join the Rapid Prototyping Development and Evaluation Program. (RPDE).

“RPDE or ‘Rapid’ as it is known is a collaborative venture that was established to help Defence resolve difficult and challenging problems,” said Mr Combet.

“After four and a half years of operation, Rapid continues to break new ground in the area of Government to private sector cooperation and collaboration. The program is focused on developing solutions to issues that hold back the ADF’s capability to more effectively and safely undertake operations.”

“It is an immensely popular program within industry and academia, which can be seen by these 54 new recruits who will join 135 of their peers.”

“Rapid now has a pool of 189 companies, universities and government agencies from which it can source the intellectual horsepower necessary to address some of the most complex and diverse problems faced by Defence.”

The latest intake will add to the already impressive list of Australia’s leading organisations who undertake research and development in this country. Indeed, RPDE is unique in its structure and operations.

“All organisations who join the program must meet two key criteria. Number one is that they are Australian companies, and secondly that they undertake ongoing research and development as part of their core operations.”

“The Rapid Program continues to deliver answers for Defence, including providing solutions to keep our ADF members safe. It also helps further enhance the relationships between Defence and the industry base that supports it.”

“I would like to offer my congratulations to the new RPDE Associates on successfully qualifying for this important Program.”

A full list of companies now supporting the RPDE program can be found at <http://www.rpde.org.au/List>

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