

## Quickstep wins new defence project

- **Quickstep to establish production for F-35 Lightning II flare housings**
- **Opportunity to supply global market**
- **New advanced manufacturing technology**
- **US and Australian Government, industry funded project**

**Sydney, 31 July 2018 – Quickstep Holdings Limited (ASX:QHL)**, Australia’s leading independent manufacturer of advanced carbon fibre composite components, today announced that it will receive funding to produce housings for an F-35 Lightning II countermeasure flare.

Mark Burgess, CEO and Managing Director of Quickstep, said: “This exciting new project will involve Quickstep applying advanced tooling and process engineering skills to establish world-class advanced manufacturing capabilities for production of F-35 countermeasure flare housings.”

Funding via Chemring Australia from the F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office, through a multi-million dollar U.S. Government contract, will support engineering and production tooling for the production improvement project. Additionally, a New Air Combat Capability – Industry Support Program (NACC-ISP) grant of A\$1 million will complement investment being made by Quickstep.

During the project, Quickstep will commission additional advanced manufacturing processes and technologies at Bankstown, extending its capability to support the F-35 Program and other defence and aerospace projects.

The F-35 Lightning II Program is the world’s largest military aerospace program.

### **About Chemring Australia**

Chemring Australia is a leading developer, manufacturer and supplier of high quality energetic materials and products for the defence and safety markets. In 2008 Chemring Australia won a major contract with the Australian Defence Department to produce aerial countermeasures, making it the only producer of air-launched countermeasure flares that are deployed operationally by Australia and its allies in the Southern Hemisphere. Chemring has invested A\$30 million in establishing a state-of-the-art countermeasure and pyrotechnic manufacturing facility in Lara, Victoria.

### **About Quickstep Holdings**

Quickstep Holdings Limited (ASX: QHL) is the largest independent aerospace-grade advanced composite manufacturer in Australia, operating from state-of-the-art aerospace manufacturing facilities at Bankstown Airport in Sydney, NSW and a manufacturing and R&D/ process development centre in Geelong, Victoria. The group employs more than 200 people in Australia and internationally. Quickstep partners with some of the world’s largest aerospace/defence organisations including Lockheed Martin (USA), Northrop Grumman (USA), Boeing Defense (USA) and BAE Systems (UK), as well as Victorian-based Marand Precision Engineering. Quickstep is currently working on new opportunities with a number of additional companies including General Atomics (USA).

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More information about Quickstep is available at [www.quickstep.com.au](http://www.quickstep.com.au)

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