Fairbanks Morse Defense Hosts Ontario Premier Doug Ford



PETERBOROUGH, Ontario – Fairbanks Morse Defense (FMD) announced its Ontario Naval Handling facility is contributing to regional economic growth with 80% of its manufactured products destined for global markets. The announcement came during Ontario Premier Doug Ford's first tour of FMD's newly-acquired Canadian headquarters, where he saw FMD's team of skilled workers producing critical, export-ready maritime technologies.

During the visit, Ford and FMD leadership discussed opportunities to expand the Naval Handling Facility and strengthen the skilled workforce behind Canada's naval shipbuilding programs. FMD reaffirmed its commitment to Ontario's maritime industrial base by bringing specialised training closer to Canadian customers and continuing to invest in the engineering and manufacturing capabilities that make the province a critical supplier of naval handling systems to

Canada and allied fleets.

“Ontario has the workers, the expertise and the world-class companies to help build the next generation of allied naval fleets,” said Premier Ford. “By exporting naval systems to our allied partners, Fairbanks Morse Defense Canada is proving that technology built in Peterborough can compete with the best of the best and help our allies around the world. Our government will continue to support companies like Fairbanks so they can build on this success, creating more skilled jobs and attracting more investment to support shipbuilding right here in Ontario.”

FMD established its Canadian headquarters in Peterborough following its acquisition of the Rolls-Royce Naval Handling facility in July 2026. Since the acquisition was announced, FMD Canada has increased its headcount by roughly 17%. FMD Canada is actively exploring opportunities to contribute to training, hiring and retention of a skilled, local maritime workforce.

“What we do at this facility is proof that Ontario has the talent, dedication and manufacturing expertise to compete on the world stage,” said Jessica Banks, Vice President of FMD Canada. “With the continued support of the regional and national governments, we can build on our success by investing in regional workforce development and growing our ability to produce the advanced naval technologies that are in demand at home and worldwide.”

Premier Ford has been an advocate for expanding Ontario’s share of federal shipbuilding contracts. Since 2025, Ontario has committed $215 million to strengthening its shipbuilding industry, including investments in workforce development, manufacturing capacity and infrastructure. FMD supports a broader role for Ontario in Canada’s National Shipbuilding Strategy and efforts to improve the province’s competitiveness in maritime manufacturing and defence.

Building on a nearly century-long relationship with the Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Coast Guard, Fairbanks Morse is combining a strong regional manufacturing presence with an established international customer base to better serve Canadian and global allied navies.

FMD’s Peterborough facility supplies Mission Bay Handling Systems for Canada’s River-class destroyer programme, the United Kingdom’s Type 26 frigates and Australia’s Hunter-class frigates. Its capabilities include large-scale assembly, testing and integration of complex naval and undersea handling systems, as well as expertise in towed array winches, variable depth sonar systems and acoustic sensor handling equipment.

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