

Kongsberg to Build Missile Factory in Australia



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The government of Australia has announced its decision to invest in the construction of a new factory for Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace ('KONGSBERG') strike missiles in Newcastle, Australia.

The factory will manufacture and service KONGSBERG's strike missiles to be used by the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Construction of the factory is expected to start later this year, the Australian government said in a press release.

The Australian government announced it would contribute up to AUS \$850 million in partnership with Kongsberg Defence Australia to manufacture and service missiles in Newcastle, including constructing a new factory in the Newcastle Airport precinct in New South Wales, about 120 km north of Sydney.

"Strong international demand for our strike missiles means we are expanding our footprint in selected countries. The missile factory will be the first to open outside Norway, which is

testament to the strong and growing relationship between KONGSBERG, Norway and Australia in cooperating to develop current and future defence capabilities,” said Eirik Lie, president of Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace.

The government also announced its decision to include Kongsberg Defence Australia as one of its strategic partners in the Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWE0) Enterprise. The GWE0 Enterprise is backed by a commitment of \$16 to \$21 billion over the coming decade through the Government’s 2024 Integrated Investment Program.

“We are honoured to have been selected as a strategic partner in the GWE0 Enterprise and look forward to continue to invest in Australia to support the armed forces, while generating jobs and economic benefits in the local area,” said John Fry, managing director at Kongsberg Defence Australia.

NSM & JSM

The NSM is an anti-ship missile with superior operational performance and high survivability against all enemy defence systems. The missile was developed by KONGSBERG and first deployed in 2012 by the Norwegian Navy. The air-launched JSM is currently being integrated on the F-35 fighter aircraft.

The NSM is the main weapon for the Norwegian Navy’s frigates and coastal corvettes, and has been selected by 13 other countries, including Australia. The JSM has so far been selected by Norway, Japan and the US Air Force.