

In 1987, our founders, Bill Ferris and Joseph Skrzynski, established institutionally funded private equity in Australasia.

For the next thirteen years, they managed four private equity funds. During this time, the firm recorded the first institutionally funded management buyout (MBO) in Australia (1991) and the first Australian backed IPO (*initial public offering*) in Asia (Datacraft), listed in Singapore (1997).

In 2000, they collaborated with New York-based Castle Harlan to create CHAMP Private Equity. In the same year, an AUD\$500 million group of funds, known as CHAMP I, was raised. It was the largest domestic buyout fund in Australia at the time. It was also the first time an Australian buyout fund had received a major commitment by an overseas institution.

In the same year, the firm recorded the first Australian backed IPO (LookSmart) on the NASDAQ valued at more than \$1 billion.

In 2008 CHAMP Private Equity became the first Australian funds manager to establish an Asian presence. It also became the first Australian representative on the International Private Equity Valuations Committee.

In 2014, John Haddock was appointed Chief Executive Officer.

As pioneers of the private equity industry, Bill Ferris and Joe Skrzynski maintain a close connection to CPEC, acting as senior advisers.

The business also draws on the expertise of outside advisers.

<https://cpecapital.com/about-us/#pioneering-spirit>

Bill Ferris and Joe Skrzynski have sold their shares in CPE Capital... but they remain actively involved in the company.

Joe Skrzynski has had a dual career in business and the not-for-profit sector. He is the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of CHAMP Private Equity, the longest established private investment management firm in Australia with AUD\$5 billion in institutional mandates, for control investments in Australia and Asia. He has served as President of the Industry Association and has been awarded, together with his Co-Founder, the Inaugural Life Time Achievement Awards by both the Australian and Asian Private Equity Associations. In the not-for-profit sector he has held Government appointments as Chair of the Sydney Opera House Trust, the National Capital Development Authority, the National Film School, the Special Broadcasting Service, and membership of The National Investment Council and Senate of the University of Sydney, where he graduated in Economics.

He is currently Chair of The Conversation Media Group, The Sky Foundation and is a director of Philanthropy Australia and The Observership Program and is on the Australian Committee for Human Rights Watch. He was awarded membership of the Order of Australia in 1993 and made an Officer in 2008 in recognition for services to the community and to the private equity industry.

<https://www.hrw.org/about/people/joseph-skrzynski-ao>

Bill Ferris has held numerous public positions including almost 10 years as the Chairman of the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade), Director of the Reserve Bank of Australia,

Both Ferris and Skrzynski are known for their generous work in various philanthropic endeavours.

They both need to make their positions clear on the use of Australian investments in the ongoing attempt at genocide of the Palestinian people.

Except where quoted, information on these companies are taken from their own websites, rather than produce extensive footnotes, we have provided the websites of the companies named and urge you to spend some time looking around.

## The Money

“ASDAM is majority owned by funds managed by CPE Capital.”  
[www.asdam.com](http://www.asdam.com)

Renegade Activists Action Force have been campaigning on issues of Australian militarism since the 1980s.

Australia's role in the West's global war fighting has been a focus of our work.

Believing that the first step in challenging the masters of war is to expose them, we provide solidarity and anti-war campaigns with resources that draw the links between Australia and the many military and environmental travesties taking place around our planet.

**We believe that the first step in challenging the masters of war is to expose them.**

The thing about the masters of war, the people who make and profit from selling the weapons that kill children sheltering in their homes... and we're not talking here about factory floor workers doing a mundane job because there is hardly any other engineering work in Australia, but about the people who own the companies that employ them... is that they don't look like the kind of blood sucking monsters you'd expect.

**If you met them socially you'd probably mistake them for regular human beings**

Renegade Solidarity Audio Force is a collaboration between Renegade Activists and the Solidarity Sound System.

We have been the crew behind the sound for all the big Melbourne Palestine rallies and Motorcades, dock pickets and most of the smaller rallies and actions that take place in support of Palestine around Melbourne.

We have been providing sound, stage and other logistic services to human rights, climate and First Nations' events for five years.

Contact us at  
[info@renegadeactivists.org](mailto:info@renegadeactivists.org)  
[audioforce@renegadeactivists.org](mailto:audioforce@renegadeactivists.org)  
Follow us on Instagram at  
[renegadesolidarity.audioforce](https://www.instagram.com/renegadesolidarity.audioforce)  
And our Patreon at  
[www.patreon.com/renegadesolidarityaudioforce](https://www.patreon.com/renegadesolidarityaudioforce)



[www.renegadeactivists.org](http://www.renegadeactivists.org)

**Produced on the lands of the Wurundjeri people that have never been ceded.**



These people are widely considered pillars of Australian society: the kind of people who sit on the boards of the ABC, SBS, Austrade boss, Philanthropy Australia and (without even a hint of irony) Human Rights Watch Australia.

This is the story of a relatively new Australian weapons company: Australian Sovereign Defence and Advanced Manufacturing Group, normally referred to as ASDAM.

ASDAM are Australia's largest supplier to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, manufacturing parts for every F-35 in the world... including those used by Israel to wage a genocidal war on Palestinians.

They operate from 20 locations around Australia and the US and directly employ over 1000 people here.

Yet you've probably never heard of them.

So, who are these fuckers?

#4

A backgrounder by Renegade Activists



From  
@AUMANUFACTURING  
<https://www.aumanufacturing.com.au>

1 September 2022 10.10  
by Peter Roberts

Two of the veterans of the Australian venture capital industry have increased their footprint in defence manufacturing with their majority owned ASDAM advanced manufacturing business moving to take over another two Australian defence suppliers.

CPE Capital, founded by industry pioneers, former Austrade boss Bill Ferris, and Joe Skrzynski, have been investing in majority owned ASDAM which has grown to become the largest supplier to the F-35 joint strike fighter programme.

It has been reported as the purchaser of aerospace manufacturer TAE Aerospace and Swiss technology group RUAG Australia, having previously swallowed up Marand Precision Engineering and Levett Engineering.

...

The company designs and manufactures complex equipment for its predominately blue chip client base, including Lockheed Martin, Boeing, BAE Systems, BHP, Rio Tinto and carbon fibre road wheel manufacturer Carbon Revolution.

...

The focus by Ferris and Skrzynski on defence manufacturing bodes well for the growth of a new, major Australian owned and controlled manufacturing house.

The two pioneered the venture capital sector with their investment funds including CHAMP Ventures but in later years moved their focus from early stage to mid-sized development and expansion opportunities.

They have a track record of patient investment in companies, including unusually for venture and development capital, in the manufacturing sector.

ASDAM is one of a number of companies owned by CPE Capital, which has made 84 platform investments across \$4.3 billion in funds since 1987.



[www.renegadeactivists.org](http://www.renegadeactivists.org)

## The Killing Game: A Boon For Aussie Industry

# Rosebank Engineering

26/34 Fraser Street Airport West VIC 3042  
836 Muntain Highway Bayawater VIC 3153  
RAAF Base Amberley QLD 4306  
RAAF Base Williamtown NSW 2314  
372 Cormack Rd Wingfield SA 5013

[www.rosebankeng.com.au](http://www.rosebankeng.com.au)

The Australian subsidiary of Swiss Company RUAG, RUAG Australia was purchased by ASDAM and rebranded as Rosebank in 2022.

In addition to manufacturing the actuators that operate the bomb bay doors and landing gear on every F-35 in the world, Rosebank are involved in service and repair of just about all military craft operated by Australia and the US.

Rosebank also hold the patents for an approved method of repairing airframe components in Australia, the US, Canada and Europe.

TAE Aerospace provide MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul services) for most of the RAAF's planes.

In 2015 it was awarded the contract to be the sole provider of MRO services in the Asia-Pacific region for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

TAE have recently been awarded a contract for the MRO of the US Navy's FA-18s.

In addition to work on war planes, TAE provides MRO services for Land based military vehicles including the A1M1 Abrams tank.

As the largest MRO facility in Australia, they undertake work on all Australian military equipment

[www.taeaerospace.com](http://www.taeaerospace.com)



1 Jet Place Bundamba QLD 4304  
2 Kel Barclay Ave Adelaide Airport 5950  
Bldg 1 50 Raubers Rd Banyo QLD 4014  
Unit 2/13-14 National Drive Hallam VIC 3803

180 Philip Highway Elizabeth South SA 5112

# LEVETT ENGINEERING

[www.levett.com.au](http://www.levett.com.au)

Levett Engineering won the SA Exporter of the Year Award in 2018 for its exports to global arms companies including Lockheed Martin, Pratt & Whitney, Harris Corporation, Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems, Boeing, Gulfstream, Embraer and Goodrich.

Levett manufacture parts for Pratt & Whitney's F135 engine for the F-35 including turbine vane tubes, bearing housings and covers along with various other related mechanical system components.

Levett has been a part of the F-35 program since 2009.

Marand are the largest of the ASDAM subsidiaries and the first to be purchased. ASDAM's overall management structure is an extension of Marand's and many in the engineering industry refer to the whole ASDAM operation as Marand.

Marand was involved with the F-35 project from the start, with two of their engineers being seconded to Lockheed Martin's SkunkWorks labroatory in the US.

Marand make the engine removal and installation trailers that are used on the F-35 global fleet and are one of the suppliers for verticle tail fins.

They also act as a go-between for Lockheed Martin and other smaller Australian engineering sub contractors.

Marand's work is not limited to the F-35s or even fighter jets: they work with both Rhinemettal and BAE on Land400 fighting vehicle projects, with Kongberg on the Naval Strike Missile, with Rolls Royce on the Future Frigate Project, with Northrop Grumman on a towed minehunter, to name just a few.

Last year Marand made a deal with US naval giant, Fairbanks Morse, to provide Services and OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) parts for the AUKUS submarine project.

Marand do not limit themselves to the military: they also supply a range of equipment to mining giants including BHP and Rio Tinto.

[www.marand.com.au](http://www.marand.com.au)

153 Keys Rd Moorabin VIC 3189  
379 Melbourne Rd Norlane VIC 3214



Level 23 Aurora Place 88 Phillip St Sydney NSW 2000  
[www.cpecapital.com](http://www.cpecapital.com)