

On the 23rd of April 2023, the Albanese Government released the Defence Strategic Review (the Review), which sets out a blueprint for Australia's strategic policy, defence planning and resourcing over the coming decades.

*"Realising the ambition of the Review will require a whole-of-government effort, coupled with a significant financial commitment and major reform."*

- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese

Emerging from the Review, the inaugural National Defence Strategy was announced by the Labor Government on the 17th of April 2024.

**"The Albanese Government's investment in the Defence portfolio will see overall funding reach \$765 billion over the decade, including \$330 billion for the capability investments outlined today."**

So what does this whole-of-government effort look like?

We could speak to the militarisation in schools, like the Subs in Schools or STEM Punks programs, aimed at primary and high school aged children, or the Australian Space Program, increasing satellite and ground control for defence related purposes, or the changes to Commonwealth Procurement Rules to increase opportunities for small to medium enterprises (SMEs), like Electromold.

But let's focus on industry.

The Australian Government offered a series of Industry Capability programs for the purpose of streamlining supply chains for defence. Alongside the GSC Program, there's industry support offered for Air Combat, Australian Industry, Intelligence and Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance. And there's ODIS...

#### **DEFENCE TRADE CONTROLS AMENDMENT ACT 2024**

On 27 March 2024, Parliament passed the Defence Trade Controls Amendment Act 2024 (the Act), which will commence in September 2024.

It will fast-track the delivery of capabilities to the Australian Defence Force by streamlining trade and collaboration with the AUKUS partners, including in tech, raw materials, intelligence, weapons and electronic warfare.

This new legislation removes red tape (oversight) in defence trade with AUKUS partners by the establishment of a licence-free environment for Australian industry, higher education and research sectors. Framed as unlocking investment and collaboration opportunities for Australian defence industry under the AUKUS framework, its just a cash cow for killers.

*"This will benefit defence industry in Australia, unlocking \$5 billion - more than half of our annual exports - to our AUKUS partners."* - Defence Minister Richard Marles

#### **OFFICE OF DEFENCE INDUSTRY SUPPORT**

*"The Office of Defence Industry Support (ODIS) provides a seamless experience for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to engage with Defence."*

Working alongside the Defence Industry Development Strategy announced by Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy, ODIS provides Federal Government support and funding to SMEs to increase their capability for defence manufacturing through grant programs and subsidies, allowed through National Security Exceptions from free trade agreements. ODIS also provides 'security' measures for businesses who are being rightly targeted for their complicity in genocide and war crimes, in the form of the

XP-188.

## **DEFENCE, INDUSTRY AND A WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH**

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.

### **THE FIRST STEP IN CHALLENGING THE MASTERS OF WAR IS TO EXPOSE THEM**

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 Burn City. We have been providing sound, stage and other logistic services to human rights, climate and First Nations' events since 2017.

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[renegadeactivists.org](https://renegadeactivists.org)

**PRODUCED ON THE STOLEN LANDS OF THE KULIN NATIONS. SOVEREIGNTY HAS NEVER BEEN CEDED**

As the movement for a Free Palestine and anti-militarism grows in so-called Australia, much of the focus has been drawn to the role of the small to medium manufacturing enterprises and their direct role in the global arms trade.

This direct involvement is enabled by the Australian Government's Global Supply Chain Program, which facilitates relationships with the biggest merchants of death.

### **240 AUSTRALIAN SUPPLIERS ARE INVOLVED IN THE GSC PROGRAM**

*"The Global Supply Chain (GSC) Program is a key export initiative that provides Australian companies with opportunities in the international supply chains of defence primes... Australian suppliers benefit by having an embedded team within participating Primes to apply internal influence for the inclusion of Australian capability within their global supply chains."*

-Australian Government Department of Defence Global Supply Chain Program Fact Sheet

Within this list of 240 suppliers sits **Electromold Australia**, a small to medium enterprise (SME) owned by Lovitt Technologies Australia.

So how does a small, seemingly innocuous factory at 202 Holt Parade, Thomastown become so deeply entrenched in the military industrial complex?

A backgrounder by Renegade Activists

**#6**

**202 HOLT PARADE, THOMASTOWN**

**ELECTROMOLD**  
Australia



**ELECTROMOLD**  
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Electromold Australia provides crucial processing and surface coating for defence, aerospace and commercial primes. Electromold are the most specialised surface coating manufacturer in the southern hemisphere, as approved suppliers of Lockheed Martin (Approval Number: PQA300), Boeing (Processor Code: BE10272619), BAE Systems and Pratt and Whitney, alongside National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program (NADCAP) Approval.

In 2013, Electromold Australia was acquired by Lovitt Technologies Australia in order to provide critical defence and aerospace capabilities onshore, as well as allowing "Lovitt to offer a more comprehensive range of services to its customers, whilst at the same time having far greater control and certainty in its supply chain".

- Marcus Ramsay, Managing Director, Lovitt Technologies, 2013.

So what does this mean, and where do Electromold's processed products end up?

Electromold are an approved Lockheed Martin supplier, and as such are part of the the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter supply chain, which we know is being used by Israel in its genocide in Gaza.

Furthermore, Electromold are also earmarked to undertake processing for Lockheed Martin's military satellite communication (MILSATCOM) solution under project **JP9102**, contracted by Australia. Contracts for this will likely be downstream, from Ronson Gears (18 Teton Court Highett VIC). Heat Treatment Australia cops a mention here too.

BAE Systems Australia has awarded contracts to six Australian SMEs as part of the delivery of critical hardware and software sub-assemblies into Block 2 of the global Evolved SeaSparrow Missile (ESSM) program. Next to Electromold in this line up is Ronson Gears, and Rosebank Engineering, owned by **ASDAM**, Australia's largest supplier to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program.

Alongside the primes, Electromold customers include:

-Marand Precision Engineering and Levett Engineering - both are also owned by **ASDAM** (more information on ASDAM can be found in Renegade Activists Backgrounder Volume 4)  
-Ferra Engineering - contracted by Boeing to manufacture **Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs)**, Electromold undertakes the surface finishing for this project. With Electromold's processing, Ferra supplies a finished product to Boeing, making their processing integral to domestically supplying the death machine.

-Redline Engineering - in 2023 Redline were awarded the contract for their cyber security systems with **Hanwha Defence** for the manufacture of High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) and rapid acquisition of precision strike missile under the **LAND 8116** program.

**"ELECTROMOLD CAN NOW BOAST THAT IT HOLDS THE WORLD'S HIGHEST SURFACE FINISHING ACCREDITATIONS ALLOWING US TO COMPETE ON THE WORLD STAGE."** - FORMER ELECTROMOLD DIRECTOR, ANTHONY COOK 2013

A SMALL FACTORY DOING BIG BUSSINESS

# WORKERS - WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Workers at Electromold are involved in manufacturing weapons that are being used by the Israeli Defence Force in the waging of a genocidal war on the people of Palestine.

This is an indisputable fact and is replicated in hundreds of factories, warehouses, universities and government offices across Australia and around the world.

In this situation it is easy to have the knee jerk reaction that the workers on the factory floor are to blame: This implies that workers are the decision makers. They are not.

These decisions are made by the world's leading capitalists and the governments they control.

Workers at Electromold are, like many of us, working to pay rent and put food on their tables, not to participate in war crimes.

The stranglehold that the military industrial complex has on Australian industry and society, coupled with the erosion of workers' rights, make it impossible for workers to take action.

The workers know, the bosses know and the Government knows that any attempt by workers to influence the end use of their labour is illegal and will result in their dismissal... and replacement by others needing to feed themselves.

Currently Government and industry are pulling out all stops to drive a wedge between those of us calling for an end to genocide and the rest of Australian society. This is evident on the factory floor by the recent moves of the Defence Department's Office of Defence Industry Support to scare workers and criminalise protests at factories like Electromold.

Recognising this, we join with the call from Palestinian trade unionists to workers around the world to take action to stop the flow of arms to Israel. This needs to be done in an effective and organised manner.

**We call on workers at Electromold firstly to look into exactly what their work is being used for and to speak and organise with each other and with their trade unions, local peace groups and other concerned folks to determine the best way to throw a spanner in the works of the warmongers.**

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Now manufacturing under the banner of George Lovitt Manufacturing, Electromold are capable of supplying not just Lovitt for fulfillment of their contracts but also for other SMEs listed prior. Lovitt Technologies are contracted by Boeing to manufacture the trailing edge fairings for the F-15, of which Israel procured 25 of its variant the F-15IA from Boeing in 2023. Lovitt also manufacture components for Boeing's P-8A Poseidon maritime reconnaissance aircraft, the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet Fighter Jet, the CH-47 Chinook Helicopter and the Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey tiltrotor.

Lovitt are also contracted for the development and manufacture of Boeing's MQ-28A Ghost Bat, an unmanned, armed Collaborative Combat Aircraft (CCA) that integrates AI and a suite of sensor packages onboard to support intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions and electronic warfare. In February 2024, Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy announced an additional **\$399million** for the Ghost Bat, on top of the **\$600million** of public funding allocated. The Defence Strategic Review prioritised the MQ-28A program for collaborative development with the United States, for easy sharing of classified military intelligence.