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# Land 400 plan to build war machines in Victoria and deliver jobs bonanza

Matt Johnston, state politics editor, Herald Sun  
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THOUSANDS of jobs would be secured for Victoria under a state government-backed bid to build a \$5 billion army war machine fleet locally.

The plan was unveiled today by defence giant BAE Systems, which wants combine its aerospace and maritime business arms to create a major new manufacturing hub at Fishermans Bend.

In welcome news for workers in the devastated automotive industry, BAE today partnered with the Andrews Government in its quest to build state-of-the-art AMV35 military vehicles as phase two of the \$20 billion Land 400 program. The *Herald Sun* can reveal a heads of agreement has been signed, and the company and government will today call for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's support. BAE Systems Australia chief Glynn Phillips.

It is understood BAE flags at least 500 direct manufacturing and supply chain jobs in the proposal, but government modelling shows the industry could stand to gain up to 2000 jobs.

The federal government will now have to decide whether to back the British-owned company building the fleet in Victoria, or the German-owned Rheinmetall manufacturing it in Queensland.

Premier Daniel Andrews said the choice to build 225 vehicles in the south "should be clear-cut" because we are "home to some of the world's best scientists, engineers and technicians".

"Our state is already the brains of our nation's defence industry," he said.

Opposition Leader Matthew Guy also backed the plan.

He said he would be willing to lobby his federal colleagues to bring the project to Melbourne.



BAE Systems Australia Chief Glynn Phillips

Part of the campaign to secure the contract includes demonstrating high local content used by BAE Systems, and the long-term future of defence and aerospace employment opportunities.

There are already plans for research and higher education facilities in a new Fishermans Bend Employment Precinct.

BAE Systems Australia chief executive Glynn Phillips said "this new defence hub will provide sustainable, long-term, highly skilled work for Australians".

"I am delighted that we can be part of Victoria's ambition to develop a defence industry that is globally focused, supporting the transition to a stronger and more diversified economy that will benefit all Australians," he said.

Federal Liberals, including Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson and senior government minister Greg Hunt, have campaigned strongly to convince Mr Turnbull.