2009 DEFENCE SUPPORT INDUSTRY AWARDS WINNERS

Territory businesses gathered at the Darwin Convention Centre last night for the 2009 Australian Industry and Defence Network NT Gala Dinner, featuring the inaugural Defence Support Industry Awards.

Minister for Defence Support, Dr Chris Burns, said these businesses play an important role in providing support services to the Australian Defence Forces and the economic development of the Northern Territory.

“I congratulate the award winners and nominees for their outstanding contribution to supporting the Defence Forces,” Dr Burns said.

“We know that the Defence Forces make a valuable contribution to the safety of our nation, and these local businesses are helping our service men and women do their jobs.

“The winners are fine examples of how the Territory defence support industry is rising to the challenge of meeting the needs of the Army, Navy and Air Force,” he said.

The winners of the 2009 Defence Support Industry Awards were:

- Chief Minister’s Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Defence Industry - Mark and Marian Taylor of Fingers Specialised Metal Fabrication
- Minister for Defence Support Award for Outstanding Emerging Defence Business – Rod McLintock from NT Welding
- Special Merit Award – Karl Powell from Coach Charters Australia

“Ten per cent of Australia’s Defence personnel are posted to the Territory and they are valuable contributors to the community and the economy,” Dr Burns said.

“The Territory is the only jurisdiction with a Defence Support ministry and a dedicated Defence Support division within the Department of Business and Employment.

“The awards are another way we are working with and encouraging local business to position themselves to become valuable defence support services providers,” he said.

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