Chief Minister Adam Giles has presented the Defence Support Industry Award for Excellence in Defence Industry to RGM Maintenance at a gala dinner at the Darwin Convention Centre.

“Only yesterday, I was thrilled to open RGM Maintenance’s $3.2 million service centre at Darwin’s rapidly expanding Defence Support Hub in Holtz and it was a great honour to present them with this prestigious award in recognition of their achievements,” Mr Giles said.

“The business has worked extremely hard to grow its support service to Defence in the Territory and has actively sought out new business opportunities arising from new local Defence projects.

“RGM is an example of the kind of business we want to encourage to set-up shop here as part of a ramp-up of our defence support industry.”

A special recognition award was also presented to Bulletproof NT Tactical Gear to recognise their achievements in providing products and services to Defence personnel for the past eight years.

“Bulletproof NT has worked tirelessly to increase its market and now services NT Police, Customs and US Marines as well,” Mr Giles said.

“Defence is already important to the Territory economy, spending more than $1.4 billion dollars here every year but we want to see that spend increase substantially. Companies like tonight’s winners will be critical to that process.”

Earlier today, the Chief Minister used a keynote address to the Northern Australian Defence Summit in Darwin to encourage more Defence investment in the Territory and a greater role for support industries.

“Defence is committed to a major upgrade of Tindal Airforce Base to support the new F35 Joint Strike Fighter and I would like to see local business carry out a lot of that work,” Mr Giles said.

“Australia has committed to the purchase of a number of MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft to patrol our ocean approaches and Tindal would be a logical base for those as well.

“The Land 400 Armoured Vehicles project will replace the Army’s ageing ASLAV’s over the next few years and there is an opportunity for local businesses to support and service the new vehicles too.
“U-S Marine rotations will increase to 2500 personnel by 2017 and I am urging the U-S government to purchase its supplies locally wherever possible. I would be very supportive of the Marine rotations being expanded in the future.”

A copy of this morning’s speech is attached.

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