The Minister for Defence Industries and Community Support, David Tollner, will speak at 9am tomorrow about his vision for the defence support industry at the inaugural Northern Australia Defence Summit that is being held in the Darwin Convention Centre from 29 to 30 October.

Minister Tollner said the event, which is being organised by Informa Australia, is an important forum for Australia’s Defence and local industry to network, discuss and share ideas.

“The defence support industry is an important contributor to the Territory’s growing economy with approximately 14 000 Defence personnel and families living here,” Minister Tollner said.

“In 2011-12, Defence spent approximately $1.58 billion in the Territory.

“This type of spending creates significant opportunities for local businesses, which are able to provide a range of services from support for specialised high-tech defence equipment through to basic repairs and maintenance.

“The Northern Australia Defence Summit will bring together people from local industry and Defence to discuss and share ideas about how they can better work together to meet each other’s needs.”

A number of high profile Defence and industry executives will provide presentations at the summit on topics ranging from opportunities for sustaining Defence platforms in the Northern Territory to information on specific projects such as the Defence Logistics Transformation Program (DLTP). DLTP will modernise and enhance Defence's warehousing and distribution functions, including those in the Northern Territory, to provide optimum support to Defence operations.

Commander Northern Command, Air Commodore Ken Watson, will also deliver a keynote address at the summit.

For a full list of speakers and topics, visit the Australian Defence Magazine website.

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