

Industry & Logistics

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Facility Programme LAND 400

Construction has concluded on a state-of-the-art defence infrastructure facility aimed at supporting, sustaining, and training Australian Army personnel in the operation of the next generation of Armoured Fighting Vehicles. This project also marks an extension of BESIX Watpac's involvement in the LAND 400 programme.

BESIX Watpac was granted the project contract in 2021. The facility features newly built and upgraded maintenance and simulation facilities located at Adelaide's Edinburgh Defence Precinct in South Australia.

This endeavour follows the successful completion of the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence: a large-scale industrial facility commissioned by Rheinmetall Defence Australia in 2020 responsible for producing the BOXER CRVs.

The BOXER Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) fleet represents a significant advancement in reconnaissance capabilities, intended to replace the aging Australian Light Armoured Vehicle, which has served for nearly 3 decades. The CRV, built on the Rheinmetall Boxer platform, offers enhanced size and capabilities compared to its predecessor.

Project overview

The project consisted of three main components: maintenance facilities, a simulation centre, and site works.

Maintenance facilities

The JLU-S Vehicle Workshop includes 16 vehicle maintenance bays, grit blasting and wash bay, engine/hydraulic room for petrol oils and lubricants, working accommodation, and amenities for workshop staff.

AFV Simulation Centre

The AFV Simulation Centre is a two-storey facility comprising classrooms, a lecture theatre, and offices for Field Service Representatives, along with workspaces and amenities.

Site works

Site works involved the creation of vehicle hardstands for parking and temporary storage of vehicles under repair, as well as circulation areas. Additionally, there were 12 trickle charging stations, a new HV kiosk, car park, and a central energy plant.

Innovative modular construction methodology delivers significant programme savings

A groundbreaking modular construction method was employed to expedite the construction of the Simulation Centre. This involved building the structural steel plant platforms on the ground, allowing for the installation of mechanical and hydraulic services on the platforms before lifting them into position. This approach not only saved time completing the project in just 60 days with a total of six 25-tonne lifts, but also improved efficiency and safety by eliminating the need for rooftop installations.

Strong defence and secure facilities capabilities

BESIX Watpac has a robust and long-standing partnership with Defence dating back to 1995. Over the past decade alone, they have delivered more than AU\$1 billion in Defence capital facilities and infrastructure throughout Australia.

Project details

Armoured Fighting Vehicle Facility Programme LAND 400

Location

Adelaide, Australia

Client

Government of Australia - Department of Defence

External partners

AECOM, Aurecon

Role

Head Contractor

Contract type

Build

Construction

2021 - 2023



Our team tackled various challenges to provide innovative project solutions, including redesigning duct pathways to accommodate seismic bracing, optimising roof beams and sheets to improve buildability and provide installation efficiencies, and adjusting cable tray locations to meet seismic and logistic constraints.

Richard Stead, BESIX Watpac National Defence Manager