

## Media statement

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### Providing career paths for students in growing sector

A program designed to provide study and career paths for Hunter students was given further support today when Federal Minister for Defence Materiel, The Hon Jason Clare MP, announced the second Phase of the \$2.9 million ME Program.

The RDA Hunter ME Program was launched in 2009 and successfully brought together four high schools and four local organisations to encourage students to choose subjects that would enable them to pursue future study and career paths in advanced manufacturing.

The Minister announced the details of the program at a special launch at BAE Systems with representatives of Callaghan College, Newcastle High, West Wallsend High, St Pauls as well as industry partners BAE Systems, Forgacs, Ampcontrol and Varley Engineering.

With additional funding the program will be expanded to include four additional high schools and four industry partners.

RDA Hunter CEO, Todd Williams said that the expanded program would aim to encourage students into studying high school maths, science and IT. These subjects would enable them to access further study and employment in jobs such as fields such as resource management, electronics, ship building, sustainability, aerospace engineering, infrastructure management, IT and communications.

“Up to 800 local students are expected to participate in Phase II of the RDA Hunter ME Program through excursions, industry visits, and classroom activities. Of those about 100 students will take part in work experience activities,” Mr Williams said.

“The ME Program has been the successful collaboration of school teachers and industry working together to provide students with real world experience as part of their studies,” he said.

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