



SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF CRITICAL FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS

BACKGROUND

Each ship is capable of deploying over 1,000 troops by sea to support ADF operations. A key element of this capability is each ship's ability to deploy with up to 18 helicopters and secure these aircraft below deck on two separate decks.

To meet the seaworthiness requirements of deploying with such a large number of aircraft, Canberra and Adelaide Platforms are fitted with folding fire barriers within the hanger deck. In addition, a second folding fire barrier is fitted on the heavy vehicle deck. These fire barriers are Lloyds accredited and play a critical role in restricting the spread of fire in the event of an incident or emergency on either deck.

THE CHALLENGE

As part of its service contract with Babcock to support critical fire safety systems onboard Canberra and Adelaide, NDT Australia was tasked with the installation of the folding fire barriers. The challenge was to develop robust support capacity in Sydney, where the ships are based.

The original folding fire barrier system was designed and built by Darchem, a UK based engineering &

manufacturing company. This meant that an additional challenge of having UK based technology fitted to the Australian ships was the significant lead time for supplying parts to undertake repair work. Due to the nature of the system, minimal inventory was held within Australia, and there was a strong reliance on manufacture and shipping from the UK.

THE SOLUTION

NDT quickly identified the need to develop a strong supplier network within Australia to manufacture critical parts to support the system.

It was primarily driven to improve the supply time for critical components and support the Australian Government's strategic intent to further develop Australian Industry capability and not rely on overseas suppliers. NDT has successfully engaged several local fabricators to work collaboratively with Darchem to manufacture parts to meet the needs of the Australian ships. A recent maintenance period saw the successful installation of equipment supported by Darchem UK and installed by NDT Australia and local partners. NDT continue to expand their local supply network to meet its ongoing support contract with Babcock, and the expanding needs of the Royal Australian Navy.

