

# Significant Cases of Global Arms Trade

---

## Australia's LAND-Program

---

**Key Data:**

**Years:** 2021 - ongoing

**Involved Countries:** Australia

**Weapon Systems:** During specific stages of the program different systems are acquired.

**Arms Producers:** various such as Rheinmetall Defence Australia

**Perpetrators/Involved Parties:**

**Victims/Affected:**

---

Within the LAND 400 program, Australia aims to enhance its armament capabilities by acquiring and supporting various land combat vehicles. Here is a summary of the entities involved in arming Australia within the LAND 400 program, based on the provided web search results:

The Land Combat Vehicle System (Infantry Fighting Vehicle) project, also known as LAND 400 Phase 3, is a significant effort within the program. This project aims to replace the existing M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carrier fleet and acquire up to 450 Infantry Fighting Vehicles [[1]]. The Australian Government, through its Department of Defence, is responsible for overseeing and funding this project.

The LAND 400 program, as a whole, is designed to enhance Australia's mounted close combat capability by providing improved firepower, protection, mobility, and communication characteristics through the acquisition of armored fighting vehicles [[2]]. The Australian Army is actively involved in this program, as it seeks to replace its fleets of armoured cavalry vehicles (ASLAVs) and M113 armoured personnel carriers (APCs) [[3]].

In terms of industry partnerships, Hanwha, a global defense company, has shown interest in participating in the LAND 400 Phase 3 program. They aim to partner with Australian industry and deliver world-leading capability to the Australian Defence Force [[6]]. Rheinmetall, another defense company, has also been involved in the LAND 400 Phase 2 Acquisition Program [[8]].

It is important to note that the provided search results do not explicitly mention all the entities involved in arming Australia within the LAND 400 program. However, the Australian Government, the Department of Defence, the Australian Army, and industry partners like Hanwha and Rheinmetall play significant roles in these armament efforts.

Overall, Australia's LAND 400 program involves collaboration between government entities, defense industry partners, and the Australian Army to enhance the country's armament capabilities through the acquisition and support of land combat vehicles.

---

Commentary

The LAND 400 program is a significant and costly acquisition project in the history of the Australian Army. With an estimated program cost ranging from \$14 to \$20 billion, it is considered the most expensive acquisition project in the Army's history. The program is divided into multiple phases, with the current focus being on LAND 400 Phase 3, which aims to procure and support up to 450 next-generation infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) to replace the Army's aging M113 Armoured Personnel Carriers.

While the LAND 400 program represents a substantial investment in military capabilities, it is important to consider the potential impact on other sectors. The decision to allocate significant financial resources to military projects can divert funds away from other public sectors such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. This diversion of resources may lead to debates and discussions about the allocation of public spending and the prioritization of different sectors .

It is worth noting that defense procurement decisions, including the LAND 400 program, involve considerations of national security, strategic priorities, and the need to maintain a capable and modern military force. However, the allocation of resources between defense and other public sectors is a subject of ongoing public discourse and policy debates, where different perspectives and priorities come into play.

Ultimately, finding the right balance between investing in defense capabilities and meeting the needs of other sectors remains a complex and multifaceted challenge for policymakers. It requires careful assessment, strategic planning, and decision-making processes to ensure that the allocation of resources aligns with the overall national interests and priorities.

---

## **Additional Information / Sources**

[1] "Land Combat Vehicle System (Infantry Fighting Vehicle) LAND 400 Phase 3 will be replacing the M113AS4 Armoured Personnel Carrier fleet. The LAND 400 Phase 3 – Land Combat Vehicle System (Infantry Fighting Vehicle) project is scoped to acquire and support up to 450 Infantry Fighting Vehicles."

URL: <https://www.defence.gov.au/project/land-combat-vehicle-system-infantry-fighting-vehicle>

[2] "Feb 7, 2020 · According to the Australian Army, "LAND 400 aims to enhance the mounted close combat capability of the Land Force by providing armoured fighting vehicles with improved firepower, protection, mobility and communication characteristics to enable tactical success in the contemporary and future operational environment."."

URL: <https://euro-sd.com/2020/02/articles/16054/australias-armour-renaissance-the-land-400-programme/>

[3] "Feb 16, 2018 · Among these programmatic riches, the jewel in the crown is Project Land 400, through which Defence intends to replace the Army's fleets of armoured cavalry vehicles (ASLAVs) and M113 armoured personnel carriers (APCs)."

URL: <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/project-land-400-defining-army>

[4] "The Defence portfolio is extensive, comprising a range of activities and issues such as military exercises and operations; peacekeeping; defence planning and funding; force structure and posture; military-to-military and civil-to-military relationships; strategic policy; international and military law; international and domestic agreements; capability ... See full

list on [aph.gov.au](http://aph.gov.au) Australian Government funding to the Department of Defence and the Australian Signals Directorate for the 2022–23 financial year is \$48.6 billion. The 2016 Defence white paper set a 10-year funding model for Defence totalling around \$447.6 billion, of which \$195 billion would be allocated to defence capabilities (pp. 177–183).- The 2020 Defence strategi... See full list on [aph.gov.au](http://aph.gov.au) Permanent uniformed personnel On 10 March 2022 the Morrison Government announced the permanent Australian Defence Force (ADF) workforce would expand by 30% to almost 80,000 personnel by 2040. This announcement centred on the premise that significantly more personnel would be needed to operate new capabilities, platforms and equipment. The ALP in Opposition agreed with the increase, but questioned how it might be achieved given the challenges faced by Defence in recruiting and retaining personnel. The ALP pledged, as part of th... Reserve force Reservists have been called out in greater numbers over the last few years and as such, the Reserve force numbers might see an increase of around 8% (from an estimated actual of 20,773 personnel in 2021–22 to 22,440 personnel by 2025–26, with the Army to receive the majority). ADF recruitment and separations Attracting the right people insufficient numbers to the ADF has always been a challenge but the ADF has managed to reach its recruiting targets by around 90% over the last few years. A greater challenge is retaining skilled personnel, particularly in critical employment categories. One of the key employment categories is the RAN's submarine workforce, which for many years struggled to recruit and retain personnel. In 2016, as a measure to increase the submarine workforce, the RAN issued the Submari... See full list on [aph.gov.au](http://aph.gov.au) Five years ago a large proportion of Australia's deployed military forces were stationed in the Middle East as part of multinational efforts to conduct counter-piracy, counter-terrorism and maritime security operations, such as Operation Manitou and air combat operations in Iraq and Syria, as well as special operations and army training in Iraq as part... See full list on [aph.gov.au](http://aph.gov.au) The principal method by which the Australian Government sets out Defence policy to the Australian people is by the publication of Defence white papers. These have been published in 1976, 1987, 1994, 2000, 2009 and 2013, but the most recent Defence white paper was published during 2016 and updated in the 2020 Defence strategic update. The DSU was accomp... See full list on [aph.gov.au](http://aph.gov.au) On 16 September 2021 the leaders of Australia, the UK and the US announced the formation of 'an enhanced trilateral security partnership called "AUKUS"'. There are 2 streams of work under AUKUS. The first is the acquisition of 8 nuclear-powered (not nuclear armed) submarines for the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) – an announcement that effectively cancell... See full list on [aph.gov.au](http://aph.gov.au) Decisions around Defence capability follow Defence's capability policy framework (pp. 1–2). The Defence Capability Manual describes the One Defence Capability System (formerly known as the Defence capability life cycle) which involves four phases that 'connect Government's priorities through to prepared forces that are available to be committed to operat... See full list on [aph.gov.au](http://aph.gov.au) For the first time there are publicly available metrics on Australia's defence industry, courtesy of a collaboration between the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Defence. This collaboration produced the Australian Defence Industry Account (ADIA). The ADIA aims to measure the 'direct economic contribution of Defence expenditure to th... See full list on [aph.gov.au](http://aph.gov.au) The structure of the Australian Parliament provides several avenues for scrutiny of Defence activities (in addition to the Bills process), including: 1. Senate Estimates hearings for the Department of Defence; Department of Veterans' Affairs; Australian Signals Directorate; Defence Housing Australia; Australian War Memorial (via the Foreign Affairs,... See full list on [aph.gov.au](http://aph.gov.au)"

URL:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/pubs/rp/rp2223/Quick\\_Guides/StateofAustraliasDefence](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp2223/Quick_Guides/StateofAustraliasDefence)

[5] "Nov 25, 2022 · The Australian Government will consider the findings of the Defence Strategic Review before deciding on the tender for the LAND 400 Phase 3 Infantry Fighting Vehicle project. The Review will make recommendations on priorities for investing in Australia's defence capability and posture, to meet the nation's security challenges over the next ..."

URL: <https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/media-releases/2022-11-25/land-400-phase-3-consideration>

[6] "The opportunity to partner with Australian industry and to deliver world leading capability to the Australian Defence Force is an exciting and motivating one for the Hanwha team in Australia and for our parent and sister companies throughout the ROK. Looking beyond the LAND 400 Phase 3 program, Hanwha seeks to expand its Defence"

URL: [https://www.defence.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-03/hanwha\\_land\\_400\\_phase\\_3\\_two\\_pager\\_for\\_casg\\_.pdf](https://www.defence.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-03/hanwha_land_400_phase_3_two_pager_for_casg_.pdf)

[7] "Aug 19, 2015 · Under the Land 400 project, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) will acquire a new fleet of vehicles to replace its M113 and Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) vehicles. The goal: to enhance the mounted close combat capabilities of its land forces against emerging and future threats as part of a joint force."

URL: <https://www.army-technology.com/features/featureready-set-go-australias-land-400-programme-4647058/>

[8] "the LAND 400 Phase 2 Acquisition Program by the AIC Director as potential Rheinmetall Global Supply Chain members through: a. The LAND 400 Supplier Web Portal that was created to supplement the initial AIC Road Show as a method for future AIC to register its capability directly with the LAND 400 Integrated Project team (IPT). b."

URL: <https://www.defence.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/Public-AIC-Plan-LAND-400-Phase-2-Acquisition-Rheinmetall.pdf>

---

**Author**

---

**Edited** vom 04.05.2022

---