

RUAG Australia expands industry 4.0 manufacturing centre for JSF



KEY ENABLERS | 22 APRIL 2020 | STEPHEN KUPER

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RUAG Australia has announced the acquisition of next-generation technology to make its machine shop a state-of-the-art, interconnected, digital environment to support the development of the customer supply chains, including those for hydraulic components for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) F-35 program.



Industry 4.0 brings with it the next-level advancement of interconnectivity between devices, equipment, tools, visualisation systems, and their human users within the manufacturing system.

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optimisation and networking of existing computerised technologies with a central server to create cyber-to-physical systems for ensuring a smarter, more productive factory.

The move to full interconnectivity at RUAG's Hydraulic Centre of Excellence, housed at its Bayswater facility, generates significantly improved efficiencies as it creates a new human-to-machine interface.

Real-time performance data is immediately available at any given moment throughout the manufacturing system thus safeguarding reduced manufacturing lead times and securing a more efficient and reliable supply chain.

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Terry Miles, general manager of RUAG Australia, said, "Moving to Industry 4.0 allows us to more fully realise the potential of recent workshop upgrades and investments in manufacturing capabilities and in so doing ensure we deliver high performance for our customers."

The transition of the Bayswater facility to Industry 4.0 standards included the integration of a dedicated server capable of interfacing with manufacturing tools running dated software platforms as well as those featuring state-of-the-art data interfaces.

Software integration and machine connectivity ensures all manufacturing process data is logged into a relational database management system (RDBMS). Teams company-wide have direct access to the intuitive and straightforward system of representing data and are able to interrogate and trend machining performance in real-time.

RUAG Australia is an independent supplier and life-cycle support provider of systems and components on behalf of the RAAF and other international air forces, as well as civil aviation, worldwide.

"Exploiting the equipment's ability to be networked, we are able to generate a full array of visual performance indicators on demand that report on overall equipment effectiveness. Our process reviews are granular, where we trend uptime, identify otherwise-hidden process bottle-necks, and provide visual management controls within each work cell," Miles added.

The company combines engineering expertise with landing gear hydraulic actuator manufacture, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), and metal treatment and finishing in its role as a DASR Part 145, DASR Part 21J, EASA Part 145, CASA Part 145, NADCAP, and AS9100D approved organisation.

RUAG Australia ranks as a top SME on behalf of the Australian Defence Force, features as a supplier in the Australian Defence Export Office's Australian Military Sales Catalogue, and has been inducted into the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame.

RUAG MRO International is an independent supplier, support provider and integrator of systems and components for civil and military aviation worldwide. It also develops and supports simulation and training systems and solutions for international trained security forces.

Highly specialised in the support of aircraft and helicopters throughout their entire life cycle, the company includes maintenance, repair and overhaul services, upgrades, and the development, manufacture and integration of subsystems and components in their service portfolio.

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