

Feature Story

Boeing's Helicopter Aircrew Training System achieves Final Operational Capability

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Boeing Defence Australia's (BDA) world-leading Helicopter Aircrew Training System (HATS) has been granted Final Operational Capability by the Chief of the Royal Australian Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan.

HATS was set up at HMAS Albatross at Nowra, New South Wales to support the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Air Arm 723 Squadron to train generations of Navy and Army aircrew transitioning to Australia's future combat helicopters.

Along with industry partner, Thales Australia, which delivers the HATS synthetic training device support and sustainment under subcontract to BDA, HATS has ensured all Navy and Army aircrew are trained to the highest standards as they move to their operational units.

HATS has also graduated up to 143 aircrew since its first course in 2018.

"This achievement of Final Operational Capability (FOC) is a great reflection of all those who have contributed to the HATS capability over the years," said BDA's director of Sustainment Operations, Amy List.

"FOC means not only have we, as the contractor, delivered all requirements for the system to operate effectively, but also that the Commonwealth has been able to finalise all of their Fundamental Inputs to Capability to ensure the school is delivering mission-ready aircrew to the Navy and Army.

"We are now focusing on meeting the future needs of the Australian Defence Force to continue to fulfil our mission."

HATS program manager Ian Gibney said the critical capability had greatly boosted both local industry and jobs in the region.

"Our world-class capability has strengthened Australian industry capability," Gibney said. "HATS is a premier, proven aircrew training program that unites best of industry towards a common goal – the defence of Australia and its allies."