



Wakulda Air Battlespace Management System

In March 2004, Boeing Defence Australia signed a A\$125 million contract with the Commonwealth of Australia to deliver the Vigilare air battlespace management system to the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) as the foundation for its national network-centric warfare capability. The system was to become a core component of the RAAF's air defence surveillance network and replace previously disparate systems to provide a single, integrated air defence system.

Renamed Wakulda in 2019, the system receives, interprets and consolidates data from more than 250 defence and civil radars and other sensors including F/A-18 Classic and Super Hornet aircraft, E-7A Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning & Control aircraft, the Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN), civil and military Air Traffic Management systems and radars, AP-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and Royal Australian Navy ships.

The live inputs from these sources are fused at two Regional Operations Centres that display a recognised air picture of the battlespace from the various ground- and air-based defence sources. It is from here that the RAAF can control and command the skies over continental Australia and up to some distance from the coastline.

Wakulda's combination of cutting-edge technology, fully integrated tactical data links within a single operational human-machine interface, easy customisation, and a unique "record and replay" training capability made it the most remarkable and advanced command and control system of its time.

Since becoming operational in 2010 (pictured above), Wakulda has been incrementally upgraded to enhance its capability in collaboration with the RAAF. It is anticipated that the system will continue to provide the Australian Recognised Air Picture for another 10 years.

