

# ARCHIVED REPORT

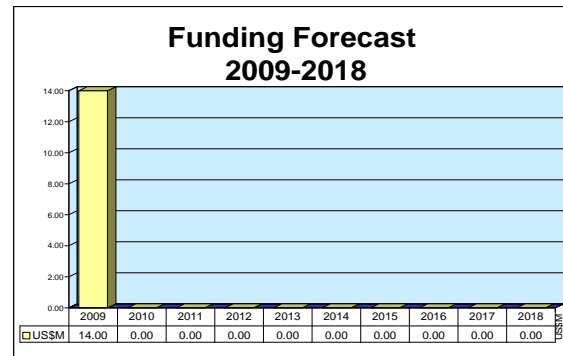
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## Soldier Combat System (LAND 125) - Archived 6/2009

### Outlook

- Forecast International estimates that the Australian Department of Defence will invest some \$14 million in 2009 on the Soldier Combat System program
- According to the Defence Materiel Organization of the Australian Department of Defence, Soldier Combat System equipment will be acquired only as technologies mature
- Given the lack of information available on the Australian Defence Force's Soldier Combat System project, Forecast International will **archive** this report in June 2010



### Orientation

**Description.** The Soldier Combat System (LAND 125) is an Australian Defence Force project. The aim of the project is to identify the technology, training, and doctrine that will improve the combat capability of the individual infantry soldier and his squad. The project has selected and integrated a number of subsystems to equip the individual soldier.

NOTE: The Soldier Combat System is a system consisting of multiple systems (a "system of systems"). As such, the focus of this report is on the Soldier Combat System as a whole rather than the individual systems that compose it.

**Status.** Elements of the Soldier Combat System (LAND 125) are being introduced.

**Application.** Dismounted combat.

#### Sponsor

Australian Defence Force (ADF)  
Defence Materiel Organization (DMO)  
Land Systems Division  
Land Close Combat Systems Branch  
Soldier Combat Support Systems Program Office  
LAND 125 - Soldier Combat System (WUNDURRA)  
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Web site: <http://www.defence.gov.au>

### Technical Data

Under the Soldier Combat System project, the Defence Materiel Organization (DMO) of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) has explored ways to increase the effectiveness of the Australian Army's smallest unit, the section. DMO research indicates that the best way to

accomplish this is to view the foot soldier as a "combat system" rather than as an individual combatant.

Equipment thought to be used in the Soldier Combat System includes integrated combat load-carrying gear,

## Soldier Combat System (LAND 125)

thermal weapon sights for night fighting, personal radios, helmets, and body armor.

### Program Review

The Australian Department of Defence's *Defence Capability Plan: 2004-14* breaks the Soldier Combat System program into four phases. Phases 1 and 2 involve Soldier Combat System technology evaluation and system design. Phase 3 involves the acquisition of the initial elements of the Soldier Combat System. Phase 4 provides Soldier Combat System elements to Force Element Groups of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), and updates technology previously fielded for Soldier Combat System elements.

In early 2004, the Australian Department of Defence awarded Defcon Technologies (working in partnership with Selenia Communications) a contract to supply Selenia Communications' Personal Role Radio for technology demonstration trials (part of Phase 2). Radio deliveries under the contract began in August 2004 and ended in September 2004.

In March 2005, the Australian Defence Minister announced that the Australian Department of Defence would scale down the acquisition of Soldier Combat System elements in Phase 3. Instead of purchasing AUD450 to AUD600 million worth of Soldier Combat System equipment, the Australian Department of Defence will procure equipment worth only AUD35 million (\$27.5 million).

The Defence Minister also stated that the Australian Department of Defence would begin introducing Soldier Combat System elements in late 2005. Upon completing this initial delivery of combat gear, the program will transition to "an evolutionary project that will continue to monitor emerging technologies."

#### ***Program Issues Request for Proposals***

In November 2006, *Military Procurement International (MPI)* reported that the Australian Department of Defence had issued a notification of an upcoming requirement for modern battle management systems (BMS) for the Australian Army. Specifically, the Defence Materiel Organization (DMO) is finalizing a Request for Tender (RFT) as part of projects Land 75 and Land 125 (Soldier Combat System) for acquisition of new BMS for use in mounted and dismounted operations. A combined RFT, covering both Land 75 and Land 125 (Soldier Combat System), will seek a single prime contractor and system integrator for a fully interoperable mounted and dismounted BMS. Forecast

International has not been able to determine whether the DMO has awarded this contract.

In February 2007, *MPI* reported that the Australian Department of Defence, through the DMO, had indicated that the Land Systems Division of the Soldier Modernization Systems Program Office was seeking companies capable of manufacturing, delivering, and supporting modular combat body armor systems (MCBAS). These systems would provide dismounted close combatants with protection and enhance their survivability against contemporary battlefield threats. According to *MPI*, the MCBAS is part of Project Land 125 Phase 3 and would equip the regular infantry battalions, cavalry reconnaissance scouts, airfield defense squadrons, combat engineer squadrons, artillery command tactical parties and forward observers, the Combat Training Center, and the respective training command schools. A prime system integrator is being sought to supply and support MCBAS capability. Forecast International has not been able to determine whether the DMO has awarded this contract.

In March 2007, *MPI* reported that the Australian Department of Defence was seeking companies capable of supplying a ballistic and laser ocular protection system (BLOPS) for Australian Army personnel as part of Project Land 125 (Soldier Combat System). This capability would provide combatants with protection from ballistic and laser threats without compromising the soldier's situational awareness in close combat. The BLOPS would primarily comprise special goggles for protection in close combat/high threat situations and protective glasses for general use. Forecast International has not been able to determine whether the DMO has awarded this contract.

In February 2008, *MPI* reported that, according to the Australian Department of Defence (via the Defence Materiel Organization), the Land Systems Division of the Soldier Modernization Systems Program Office was seeking proposals from companies for the manufacture and delivery to the Australian Army of modular load carriage (MLC) equipment. The MLC is part of Project Land 125 Phase 2B (Soldier Enhancement-version 1, SEv.1). According to *MPI*, the MLC will comprise webbing ensembles, mounted packs and large field packs. Forecast International has not been able to determine whether the DMO has awarded this contract.

## Funding

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The Australian Defence Force is funding the Soldier Combat System (LAND 125) project. The monetary value of the project is unknown.

## Contracts/Orders & Options

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No recent contracts have been identified.

## Timetable

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<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major Development</u>
	1993	Soldier Combat System (LAND 125) project initiated
Jun	1995	Capability definition study launched
Jun	1998	Capability definition study completed
	1999	Australian defense officials use war games to test urban and rural combat models
May	2002	Australian Defence Force decides to use the U.S. Land Warrior 1.0 platform as the benchmark for evaluating systems for the Australian Soldier Combat System
	2004	Australian Department of Defence awards Defcon Technologies a contract to supply Selenia Communications' Personal Role Radio for Soldier Combat System technology demonstration trials
	Late 2005	Australian Department of Defence introduces Soldier Combat System to troops
Jan	2006	Australian Department of Defence announces award of contract to SELEX Communications under the Soldier Combat System project
Mar	2007	<i>MPI</i> reports that the Australian Department of Defence is seeking companies capable of supplying a BLOPS for Australian Army personnel as part of Project Land 125 (Soldier Combat System)
Feb	2008	<i>MPI</i> reports that the Australian Department of Defence is seeking proposals from companies for the manufacture and delivery to the Australian Army of MLC equipment

## Worldwide Distribution/Inventories

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The Australian Defence Force will distribute the Soldier Combat System (LAND 125) to **Australian** foot soldiers.

## Forecast Rationale

The Australian Defence Force's Soldier Combat System (LAND 125) project identifies technology that will improve the combat capability of the individual foot soldier and his squad. The project has selected and integrated a number of subsystems to equip the individual soldier.

As indicated by the **Ten-Year Outlook** chart, Forecast International estimates that the Australian Department of Defence will spend some \$14 million in 2009 on the Soldier Combat System program.

Publicly available information regarding the Australian Soldier Combat System program is sparse. The latest information Forecast International has been able to obtain is a series of requests for proposals for

companies to manufacture and deliver various pieces of equipment for the Soldier Combat System. That said, no information has been disclosed regarding whether or not the Australian Department of Defence has in fact awarded contracts for these requests for proposals.

According to the Web site of the Defence Materiel Organization of the Australian Department of Defence, Soldier Combat System equipment will be acquired only as technologies mature. Moreover, the Soldier Combat System program will use or modify existing equipment where this option satisfies capability, cost, and integration requirements.

Given the lack of information available on the Australian Defence Force's Soldier Combat System

## Soldier Combat System (LAND 125)

project, Forecast International will **archive** this report in June 2010.

## Ten-Year Outlook

ESTIMATED CALENDAR YEAR COMMINGLED FUNDING (in millions US\$)												
Designation or Program		High Confidence				Good Confidence			Speculative			
	Thru 2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
MFR Varies												
Soldier Combat System Military <=> Australia <=> Army												
	310.20	14.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	14.00
Total	310.20	14.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	14.00