

# Land 8113 Phase 2 decided, but questions remain

A land-based maritime strike solution from Lockheed Martin has been selected as the preferred option for the Australian Army's Land 8113 Phase 2 project.

Led by Lockheed Martin Australia (LMA), the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) offer beat out the StrikeMaster package tendered by Kongsberg Defence Australia supported by Thales Australia. Made on 28 April, the announcement was originally expected last November but delayed for reasons unknown.

The Land 8113 Phase 2 solution will comprise the Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) Increment 2 missile fired from the M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) entering service with the Australian Army. Whereas the standard HIMARS fires a 227mm rocket from a six-round pod, HIMARS will fire PrSM Inc 2 using a two-round pod.

PrSM Inc 2 is the maritime strike version of the PrSM Inc 1 weapon, and successfully conducted its first flight test in March 2026. Lockheed Martin said the missile flew 350km and demonstrated the new multi-mode seeker that has been designed to engage moving targets at sea. The test firing will provide performance data for use in validating the system as part of its ongoing maturation and development. Additional PrSM Inc 2 flight tests are scheduled for later this year.

"This capability delivers on the National Defence Strategy direction to accelerate and expand the acquisition of land-based long-range fires to provide the ADF with a deployable strike capability to protect Australia's northern approaches and contribute to sea control and sea denial," Defence Minister Richard Marles said.

Costed at AUD\$2.3 billion over 10 years, the HIMARS-PrSM Inc 2



**ABOVE: US Army HIMARS fire during a training activity in support of Exercise Balikatan 2026 in Palawan, Philippines, on 27 April, 2026. Image: US Army**

combination will equip the Army's second long-range fires regiment at the Edinburgh Defence Precinct in South Australia, which is already home to the 10th Brigade now operating HIMARS.

Responding to questions from *DTR*, Defence stated that the second long-range fires regiment would build "towards an operational capability in the early 2030s".

Defence would not confirm when PrSM Inc 2 deliveries to Australia were expected. Given development of PrSM Inc 2 is not yet complete, Australia is thought unlikely to receive production missiles until the 2028-2029 timeframe, with the US almost certain to cater for its own demands before allocating production to other PrSM customers.

In 2025, Australia and the US established a co-operative program for PrSM that will "pave the way for future domestic production" of the missile. To date, however, there is no agreement or memorandum of understanding in place for manufacture of PrSM in Australia, of any variants. At best, the stated intent of the Government is to have Australian companies enter the US supply chain for PrSM and manufacture select components of the missile only.

With numerous recent examples of the US prioritising domestic needs to replenish munitions depleted during the opening weeks of Operation Epic Fury against Iran, reliance on a sole US source of PrSM production could potentially see Australia's PrSM needs placed in a queue until the US stock position is fulfilled.

It is known that along with the 90-odd HIMARS launcher vehicles that are to be delivered from the US for both Land 8113 phases, the 6x6 Mk 37 HIMARS support trucks, around 40 of them, will also be made in the US and provided via FMS.

**- Ian Bostock**