

Magazine designer readies for surge in munitions storage



A SOUTH AUSTRALIAN company is positioning to meet the coming demand for safe and secure missile and munitions storage facilities as Australian Defence Force (ADF) warstocks continue to expand and sovereign production initiatives ramp up.

Explosive Store Housing (ESH) has designed, built and commissioned more than 20 storage magazines on multiple sites across Australia to date, each custom-designed to store explosive ordnance of various kinds for projects in the defence, mining and critical infrastructure sectors.

The company, managing director Stephen Formby told *DTR*, is eyeing the significant infrastructure development work that must come alongside Australia's goal of establishing a sovereign guided weapons and munitions manufacturing capability and the increased emphasis on the procurement of precision strike and air defence missiles for the ADF.

These drivers are expected to result in a consequent surge in demand for the storage of new missiles and munitions at various sites around Australia, some

ABOVE: A trio of earth-covered magazines delivered by ESH as part of an explosive ordnance storage precinct in South Australia. Image: ESH

of which are likely to be co-located with missile and munitions production facilities and others on ADF bases.

"Storage infrastructure is a fundamental enabler of sovereign guided weapons and munitions capability, and as Australia's sovereign manufacturing base expands, compliant explosive storage must grow in parallel if Defence is to realise the full value of its investment," Mr Formby said.

"ESH is well positioned to bolster Defence's immediate and long-term requirements for explosive store houses and magazines," Mr Formby continued. "As night follows day, Defence is going to need a lot more storage for missiles and munitions than it currently has."

Storage facility options from ESH include large hardened, earth-covered magazines with integrated wing-wall

blast deflection geometry, reinforced concrete modular and concrete relocatable magazines. All structure designs are compliant with the AS2187.1 standard and engineered for Australian conditions and austere environments.

"As a 100% Australian-owned company, we hold all the IP for our designs. This lowers cost and enhances quality control and transparency during the build phase and responsiveness in facility support over the life-of-type of the facility," added Mr Formby.

ESH uses a proprietary modular concrete panel and roofing methodology that reduces construction time, labour costs and onsite risk while improving repeatability and program certainty. The approach, according to Mr Formby, "enables accelerated delivery, aligning with Defence's increasing emphasis on speed to capability".

When acting as prime contractor, ESH adopts a turnkey project delivery approach that, in addition to the magazines, includes infrastructure, civil works, earthworks, access roads, security systems and drainage. *DTR*

- Staff Reporters