

VEEM gets a crack at supplying RAN's new frigates



Sean Smith | The West Australian
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VEEM managing director Mark Miocevic at the company's Canning Vale plant. Credit: Justin Benson-Cooper/The West Australian



Perth industrial manufacturer VEEM has won an order for a propeller blade that will test its ability to supply the \$35 billion-plus program charged with turning out Australia's next generation of warships.

The company disclosed today the order from defence contractor BAE Systems would enable VEEM to "formally demonstrate it has the propeller manufacturing capability" to help build the first three Hunter class frigates for the Royal Australian Navy.

VEEM is already a manufacturer of commercial propellers and boasts established links to the defence sector, having produced more than \$200 million of components for RAN ships and submarines since 1987.

Construction of the first of the nine Hunter class frigates is due to get under way in South Australia next year.

VEEM has been working on a suitable propeller blade for the vessels with Norway's Kongsberg Maritime, one of the component providers for the Type 26, the reference ship for the Hunter frigates.

VEEM managing director Mark Miocevic said the company "is very confident of being able to meet the exacting specification (for the propeller blades), having previously delivered blades to defence clients around the world".

"This will contribute significantly to maximising local sovereign industrial capability for the Hunter class frigate program," he said.

VEEM, founded by Mr Miocevic's parents in Willetton in 1968 to balance and repair drive shafts, also turns out gyrostabilisers, which reduce the rolling motion of ships.

It employs about 180 people at its plant in Canning Vale.

The company's shares were 4¢ higher at \$1.22 as at 11.30am, valuing the group at \$153.4 million.

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