

Defence Industry
Internship Program

**2020/2021 year
in review**



2020/2021 IN REVIEW

Now in its third year, the Defence Industry Internship Program has grown to include over 50 SME's and offer 100 internships. For the first time ever QTAC has seen a representation in every state and territory of Australia.

52 SMEs



100 INTERNS



During the global pandemic, QTAC was still able to make two site visits with each participant. Our spread throughout Queensland and South Australia enabled us to utilise a combination of both face to face and online methods to deliver excellent outcomes for our partners.

OUR SMEs HAVE TOLD US

DIIP provides an opportunity for the SMEs to engage sharp young minds and provide students with practical experience in the design of products and systems for their Defence customers. The quality of the interns provided by QTAC was exceptionally high, which enabled the SMEs to create scenarios that benefited both the students and the organisations. Our SME's recognise and appreciate the financial contribution DIIP makes towards the costs of hosting these interns, as it assists their organisation to accelerate a number of projects in a short time period.

Many of our SME's have gone on to offer their intern ongoing employment, whether it be permanent full-time or part-time contract work. Our SMEs recognise the value in retaining the skills and knowledge that the interns have acquired during their internship.

OUR INTERNS HAVE TOLD US

DIIP placements provide interns with the opportunity to develop important technical skills while learning from experienced engineers. The exposure to real world engineering and manufacturing gives them an incredible insight into the Australian Defence Industry and its supply chains and an invaluable way to gain practical skills in a professional environment. Regardless of the size of the classroom, they would never have an experience as enriching or informative as these whilst getting to work with the calibre of the organisations involved in the program.

Many of our interns have gone on to recommend DIIP to their wider student network.

“We at Innovaero have been pleasantly surprised by the quality of our 2 interns. Their willingness to learn our business tools and methods and to put these to good use has been a credit to them and the DIIP program. The design knowledge and practical skills they have shown have been a great asset to moving Innovaero forward on this tricky prototype phase of our project. We would certainly be looking to continue our relationship with this program in the years to come.”

**Kevin Niven, General Manager,
Innovaero**



“Having been selected to take part in the DIIP for the first time was something that we were looking forward to very much, and we were not disappointed. From candidate selection, clear communication and regular follow ups and having an understanding of exactly what the host companies requirements and expectations are, was all explained and communicated very effectively. QTAC has done a great job, particularly during the difficulties of COVID state requirements. We would have no hesitation in taking part in the program in the future.”

**Phil Bowles, Chief Operating Officer,
Spee3D**

“Sonartech has been a part of the Defence Internship program for many years. DIIP provides an opportunity for us to engage sharp young minds on the interesting problems we have to solve in the area of underwater acoustics, while providing them practical experience in the design of products and systems for defence customers. It is also an opportunity for our senior engineers to mentor young engineering students. The program always attracts high quality students and some of our former interns now work with us as graduate engineers.”

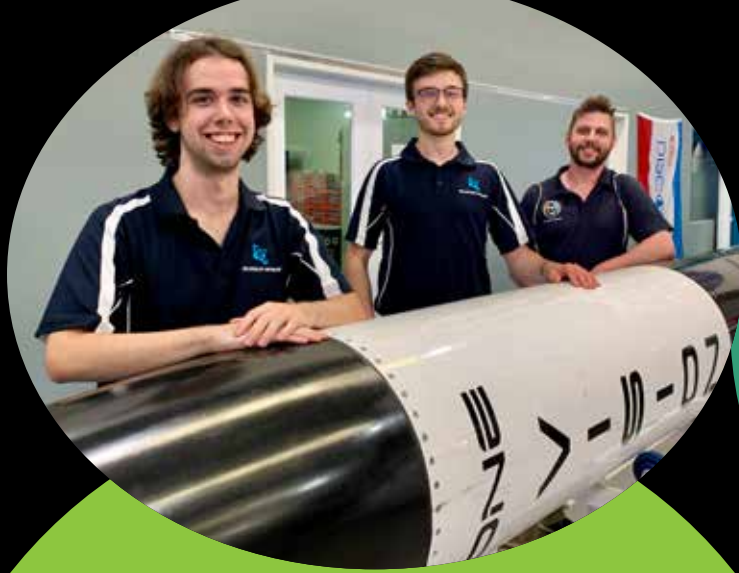
**Robert O'Brien, Chief Technical Officer,
Sonartech**



“Jenkins Engineering Defence Systems Pty Ltd (JEDS) is once again pleased to have had the opportunity to host another two DIIP interns over the past three months.

Peter Jenkins, JEDS' founder and Managing Director, sits on a technical advisory panel for one of Sydney's major universities and has long been an advocate for the benefits to the engineering profession of full-time industry placements, such as this, during a student's Tertiary Education. The financial contribution the DIIP scheme makes towards the costs of hosting these interns is greatly appreciated as it facilitates JEDS being able to sustain its long practice of hosting up to four paid engineering interns annually.”

Lester Sutton, General Manager, JEDS



“We had a great experience with the Defence Industry Internship Program (DIIP). QTAC maintained close communications with us at all times and was always available if we had questions or needed assistance. The process from start to finish was well organised, well arranged and well supported. We are looking forward to continuing to be involved in the DIIP and would highly recommend it to any SME that was considering joining the program.”

Chris White, Manager, Defence & Autonomous Solutions, Autonomous Marine Services

“The DIIP internship program has so far been the highlight of my time at University. Being able to experience firsthand what it is like to work at an SME in the Defence Industry has been a fantastic experience, and I'm convinced that I would like to pursue a career in the Defence Industry. Having the support and oversight of QTAC throughout the program is a major advantage that really sets this program apart from any other internship, you can rest assured that the team will do their best to match you to a company that interests you and will look after you through your internship. I cannot recommend this program strongly enough to any engineering student.”

Connor Raggatt, Gilmour Space

“My internship with DIIP and Clarinox gave me something invaluable; practical experience. I had the opportunity to work on real-world projects, observe the methods and techniques of professional engineers, and develop practical technical skills related to my field of interest. This internship has allowed me to experience a taste of what my career may hold and catch a glimpse of some of the opportunities available to me. I am excited for the future.”

Genevieve Fahey, Clarinox

“The DIIP Program has been very smooth and hassle free for Advanced Navigation. The performance of the intern has been exemplary and has allowed us to accelerate a number of projects in a short time period. The skills and training gained during the program also set up a great candidate for a future full time position with the company. I would strongly recommend the program to other SME companies.”

Alex Tennant, Advanced Navigation



“The DIIP Internship was an excellent opportunity to gain engineering experience and develop myself further as a professional engineer. Both VEEM and QTAC provided every bit of support I could ask for throughout my time working on manufacturing-based defence projects. This program has undoubtedly prepared me for my future career.”

Luke Buhlmann, Veem

“DIIP was a fantastic experience for me. It allowed me to gain real world engineering experience that was unlike anything I had been a part of before. As a part of the DIIP, this experience came with the added benefit of being a part of the growing Defence Industry in Australia, setting me up well for future employment. Also, the connection between the DIIP and the SMEs allowed me to explore areas of industry that I was interested in learning more about. This made the internship even more rewarding as the experience I gained was in my areas of interest.”

Benjamin Chapman, Supashock



“Initially my DIIP application was at a halt due to the lockdowns, but the coordinator came back to inform me of an opening at one of their host companies that was relevant to what I was looking for. As it turns out, they were right on, as I have looked forward to waking up to go to my internship every day for the past 3 months of the summer break. The placement company’s project and goals are pretty much what I aspired to work in, with talented and friendly engineers, and provided invaluable on-field experience that I will never forget. I would definitely recommend engineering students to apply for DIIP as they could potentially have an amazing experience just as I have had.”

James Park, Sentient

“Through QTAC’s Defence Industry Internship Programme, I’ve had the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained at university to engaging, real-world engineering design projects. I’ve learned a broad range of engineering principles and technical skills, and have gained a greater understanding of where my interests and strengths lie within my chosen field. The DIIP has increased my confidence in my abilities as a soon-to-be engineer, and has proved to be a great opportunity to kick-start my engineering career.”

Dean McPhee, Spee3D





For more information, please visit:
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