



## Industry

# DELIVERING NEXT-GENERATION MILITARY CAPABILITY

COMPLETED BY BESIX WATPAC IN STAGES TO PROVIDE EARLY ACCESS TO THE MOST CRITICAL FACILITIES, THE \$174 MILLION STATE-OF-THE-ART MILITARY VEHICLE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (MILVEHCOE) IS THE MOST ADVANCED MILITARY VEHICLE MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN AUSTRALIA.

Spanning 11-hectares, the facility plays a crucial role in the manufacture and testing of military vehicles to boost Australia's national defence capability and was delivered by BESIX Watpac for the Queensland Government.

The new headquarters for Rheinmetall Defence Australia-New Zealand, the facility enables the company to produce, test and maintain more than 200 Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles for the Australian Army, along with medium and heavy logistics trucks.

More than a manufacturing facility, the MILVEHCOE features highly specialised and unique elements including an outdoor

vehicle test track, electromagnetic compatibility chamber, and a fully enclosed weapons test firing range.

BESIX Watpac Senior Project Manager David Tracey said the MILVEHCOE showcased the company's expertise in the successful delivery of highly specialised facilities.

"Due to the sensitive nature of the vehicles being produced and serviced at the MILVEHCOE, stringent high-security requirements were incorporated into our design and subsequently into construction," David said.

Larger than four football fields combined and with a peak workforce of 450 on site, robust safety measures and a focus on quality and punctuality ensured issues were addressed promptly and the facility handed over in a logical, staged manner.

"Our staged delivery methodology enabled a fast-tracked handover of the first group of buildings to Rheinmetall so they could move their headquarters to the facility and begin their fit out while BESIX Watpac works continued on other elements."

The 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> production building includes three simultaneous vehicle production lines, a weld shop, armoury, prototyping workshop, turret and simulator assembly, paint booths, heavy maintenance and a large warehouse area.

The MILVEHCOE also features a corporate training centre, administration building, car parking and water storage tanks, along with waste and recycling facilities.



**ONE OF OUR SUCCESS FACTORS HAS BEEN THE PROACTIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN BESIX WATPAC AND THE PROJECT WORKFORCE TO MAINTAIN PRODUCTION DURING COVID-19.**

**DAVID TRACEY, BESIX WATPAC SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER**

## 39,000+ m<sup>2</sup>

GROSS FLOOR AREA

## 94 %

LOCAL INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION

## 450

PEAK SITE WORK FORCE

### // Project details

## MILITARY VEHICLE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (MILVEHCOE)

#### Location

Redbank, Queensland, Australia

#### Client

Queensland Government

#### Contract type

Managing Contractor

#### Construction Period

2018-2020

#### Contract value

170 million Australian dollars

### // Collaborative engagement

Strong outcomes were delivered for local subcontractors and Indigenous workers through a comprehensive jobs and training plan, helping us exceed targets. We conducted on and off-site business and jobseeker events bringing together local sub-contractors and Indigenous workers, which both groups embraced.

### // Safety first

Ensuring the safety of all site personnel meant overcoming challenges associated with the management of a large project footprint and workforce numbers. In order to separate workers and vehicles within this large and complicated site, the BESIX Watpac team developed the "Green Mile" initiative which was a green, hard plastic walkway easily identifiable to workers and visitors which provided a safe pathway around site. BESIX Watpac also initiated very popular monthly safety awards which were voted on by the Safety Committee.



MILITARY VEHICLE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (MILVEHCOE), REDBANK, AUSTRALIA