



TFTC - THE FUTURE THROUGH COLLABORATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Program success is celebrated at 2019 Launch of The Future Through Collaboration Mentoring Program

ACT: At 12:30pm on Thursday 2nd May 2019, The TFTC Mentoring Program welcomed its 2019 participants and congratulated its 2018 program graduates at an official luncheon. Guests at the event also celebrated the fifth-year milestone of the program.

Held at Rydges Capital Hill Hotel, in Canberra, mentees and mentors from across Australia gathered to celebrate and kick-off the 12-month program. Senior members of the Defence Sector community joined participants to show their support, with Suzanne Shipp, the Chief Executive of Digital Solutions for Nova Systems launching the day and sharing her perspective as a recent mentor on the program.

Ms Shipp noted the importance of the program's growth and ongoing success. "For the benefit of the entire Defence community it is critical that we attract, retain and nurture all the talent that is available to us. So it is crucial that we provide talented female engineers and project managers more flexibility around different life stages in the workplace, ensure women are connected with the workplace whilst on parental leave, have structured professional development programs for women returning to the workforce from an extended period of time, incorporate structured positive career planning for females into senior leadership roles and use sponsors and mentors to engage and enable career advancement. By engaging this 50% portion of our population, we can deliver the solutions for the future."

This year's The Future Through Collaboration mentoring program welcomes women working across engineering, project management and technical areas and has also been opened to include women from the Information Technology (IT) and cyber disciplines for the first time. To date, the program has given 144 women working in Defence and Defence Industry an opportunity for mentorship they wouldn't have likely had otherwise.

LCDR Jacqueline Dew, Royal Australian Navy also spoke at the launch about her experience as a graduating mentee,

“I feel I have gained a great deal from the program, both personally and professionally...specifically, I believe that my personal levels of stress have decreased as a result of participating in the program, and this benefits me both at work and at home. I believe that I manage the high tempo in my workplace better than I did at the start of the program and have got much better at prioritising! The insights that I have had into the way I operate as a manager have been particularly beneficial.”

After establishing a pilot program in 2015, the program was recognised for its valuable contribution to the Defence Industry and was awarded the Essington Lewis Award for Support/Services in 2017. The 2019 program welcomed participants from Department of Defence, Royal Australian Navy, Royal Australian Air Force, BAE Systems, Airservices Australia, Raytheon Australia, Jacobs, Nova Systems, KBR, and Beca.

The TFTC Mentoring Program is a unique collaboration, the only program of its kind which aims to tackle the issue of diversity head on by supporting the development of women within the engineering and project management disciplines. It has a focus on creating a supportive and inclusive industry environment as well as developing skills that will allow participants to thrive in Defence Industry.

The program partners hope to further expand the TFTC program and ensure that mentoring practice becomes a requisite element in future capacity building for Defence Industry.

More about TFTC: Established in 2015, the TFTC Mentoring Program provides women working within the engineering and project management disciplines in the Defence Industry the opportunity to work with a senior Defence Industry mentor. Over 12 months they develop skills and create a network designed to enhance the capability of the Defence Sector in Australia. www.tftc.net.au

For Further Information Contact:

Lauren Bachir, TFTC Mentoring Program
0448 009 693, lauren@tftc.net.au