

## Media Release

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### ***WORLD-FIRST AIR-POWERED, SIDE-TIPPING TRAILER TO GROW NT MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES***

- ***World-first haulage trailer to be manufactured in Alice Springs with the assistance of the Northern Territory Government's Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem Fund (AMEF)***
- ***The new haulage trailers, for bulk transport, pastoral and mining operations, are set to reduce emissions and operating costs for freight operators, while increasing fleet flexibility and payload capacities***
- ***The half-million-dollar co-invested project will add new manufacturing capability in the Top End, ensuring that more manufacturing activity occurs in the region***

An Alice Springs-based manufacturer, led by Alice Springs local, will scale-up manufacture of the world's first pneumatic, side-tipping, haulage trailer dubbed Air Tip. The project will grow Territory-based design and engineering capability with co-investment from the Northern Territory Government via the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC) managed Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem Fund (AMEF).

Developed in collaboration with Ross Engineering and the Complete Group, the durable pneumatic side tipping trailer will offer improved payload capacity, reduced operational costs, reduced emissions and does away with the need for a power-take-off (PTO) mechanism to be fitted to trucks – allowing for greater flexibility and improved use of vehicle fleets.

The fully integrated trailer makes use of the truck's standard pneumatic system which removes the need for fitment of expensive hydraulic systems – which can run into the tens of thousands of dollars. Owing to its unique design, Air Tip's trailer integrity is improved whilst still reducing the overall weight of the trailer by 12 per cent and increasing the trailer's payload by 4.8 per cent.

Through its engineering partner, Ross Engineering, Air Tip will also embark on establishing bespoke design, fabrication and contract manufacturing capabilities to support the NT manufacturing ecosystem.

Air Tip's co-funded project, worth \$553,000, will combine equal investments of \$276,500 from the Northern Territory Government's AMEF and Air Tip and is anticipated to create ten new jobs in the Northern Territory over five years, including engineering, fabrication, professional and apprentice roles in Alice Springs.

**Clarke Petrick, Founder and Managing Director of Air Tip** said "This co-investment will have broader implications across the Territory, giving Air Tip, Ross Engineering and the Complete Group the capability to design, engineer and fabricate componentry in Alice Springs – a capability once outsourced interstate.

"The addition of new robotic laser cutting and CNC capabilities will enable us to test, develop and commercialise the Air Tip system in shorter timeframes, reducing the lag effect of having to outsource core manufacturing processes," said Petrick.

**The Northern Territory's Minister for Advanced Manufacturing, Nicole Manison** said "Advanced manufacturing is creating the jobs of the future, right here in the Northern Territory. AirTip will grow Territory-based design and engineering capability in Alice Springs.

"By making these important investments, the Northern Territory Government is growing industries, expanding exports, creating new opportunities for investors and securing exciting local jobs for Territorians," said Manison.

**Managing Director of AMGC, Dr Jens Goennemann** said "Through the co-investment, Air Tip and its partners, Ross Engineering and the Complete Group will establish a long-needed and highly valued manufacturing capability in Alice Springs, supporting manufacturing activities beyond its own products,

"To date, via the AMEF, AMGC has expanded the Territories manufacturing ecosystem with a new electronics testing facility, robotics and training support and now advanced CNC and robotic laser fabrication skills to provide an enduring capability for the Territory – precisely what the fund has been designed to do," said Goennemann.

**AMGC's Northern Territory Director, Charmaine Phillips** said "AirTip is proof that we have highly capable manufacturers in Central Australia willing to invest to grow their local, national and potentially international impact,

"Co-investment in AirTip's haulage solution will ensure that an innovative product moves to commercialisation, while also building key manufacturing capability and services in Alice Springs, and the Territory," said Phillips.

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### **About Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC)**

The Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC) is an industry-led, not-for-profit organisation. AMGC's vision is to transform Australian manufacturing to become an internationally competitive, dynamic and thriving industry with advanced capabilities and skills at its core.

Through the delivery of its world-leading research, Manufacturing Academy, workshops, and ground-breaking projects, AMGC aims to develop a highly skilled and resilient local manufacturing sector that delivers high-value products – via the integration of innovative technology – to domestic and international markets. <http://www.amgc.org.au>

### **About the Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem Fund (AMEF)**

The Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem (AME) Fund of \$7.5 million seeks to build the advanced manufacturing ecosystem in the Northern Territory. The fund aims to grow advanced manufacturing capabilities and increase investment in and output of advanced manufacturing activity in the Northern Territory, and grow the number of advanced manufacturing jobs located in the Northern Territory.

The AME fund will provide grants to industry-led advanced manufacturing projects located in the Northern Territory across the Territory's priority sectors where those projects:

- Commercialise new products and processes, including transitioning a new product or process from prototype stage to full commercial operations

- Support early stage, fast fail, grants to support small-scale and pilot research projects in advanced manufacturing

Further information is available via <https://www.amgc.org.au/projects/>

### ***Media Contact***

**Tyson Bowen**

Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre

**M:** 0418 826 936

**E:** [Tyson.bowen@amgc.org.au](mailto:Tyson.bowen@amgc.org.au)