

Media Release

TERRITORY MANUFACTURER TO DISPLACE IMPORTED INSULATED PANEL MATERIALS WITH \$2.4 MILLION COMMERCIALISATION PROJECT

- ***Northern Territory manufacturer to commercialise a locally developed insulated panel solution designed for humid and cyclonic conditions via the Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem Fund (AMEF)***
- ***Collaborative project between Arctic Installations, MDI Systems, Rapid Engineering NT, and James Cook University to displace imported products unfit for tropical environments***
- ***\$2.4 million project backed with \$500,000 co-investment from the Northern Territory Government's AMEF, administered by the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC)***

A Territory-developed insulation solution, designed for the unique climatic and weather requirements of tropical regions, is set to displace fully imported material via a co-invested project from the Northern Territory's (NT) Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem Fund (AMEF). The NT-developed panels will also satisfy cyclone standards and in time, be further developed for broader applications across the agriculture and fishing sectors.

Developed by Darwin-based Arctic Installations, the Territory's only manufacturer and installer of Insulated Panel solutions, the new cyclonic design has the potential to displace products imported from Asian markets and interstate suppliers.

The project, backed by the Territory Government and Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC), brings together production machinery company MDI Systems, engineering service provider Rapid Engineering NT, and James Cook University. As a result of the co-invested project, Arctic Installations estimates an additional \$15 million of revenue will be generated over the initial five years, while also creating 25 new jobs within the Territory's manufacturing ecosystem over the same period.

The project will assist Arctic Installations to reach the Design for Manufacturing (DFM) stage, commission a new plant, subject several prototype panels to structural and cyclone testing, and launch a new locally manufactured product by the end of 2023. Arctic Installations is investing \$500,000 in the project, with an additional \$1.4 million in-kind contribution and a further \$500,000 in co-funding from the AMEF.

Gary Burns, Managing Director of Arctic Installations, said: "This co-investment will not only assist us in displacing imported products from overseas and hauling from southern states, but it will also lead to the generation of local jobs and boost local capability, thus bringing the lead time down from months to days,

"It's deeply satisfying to bring together a number of Northern Territory entities to solve a market need and develop a superior product that has applications far beyond our shores.

"In fact, we have just secured our first export deal with ETO energy in Dili which is a great endorsement of what we can do. Going off-shore opens up various opportunities within our region north of Australia and with further research and marketing we would like to aim further afield" said Burns

Northern Territory Minister for Advanced Manufacturing, Nicole Manison, said: "Advanced manufacturing is the way of the future, creating more local jobs and flow on effects for the Northern Territory economy.

AMEF is accelerating the Territory's advanced manufacturing capabilities and capacity, and we are seeing projects and industries coming alive right across the Territory from the Red Centre to the Top End.

Arctic Solutions will be manufacturing and commercialising bespoke roofing panels which would have otherwise been sourced from interstate, establishing a local supply chain, supporting Territory businesses and creating local jobs."

Northern Territory Major Projects Commissioner, Jason Schoolmeester, said: "With this announcement of co-investment into Artic Installations, the AMEF has now invested more than \$1.3M to support projects worth more than \$8.1 M in the Territory.

"This investment is supporting collaboration between local and interstate businesses to bring new capability and technology to the Territory and growing jobs and business opportunities in the new supply chains being developed."

AMGC's Director for the Northern Territory Charmaine Phillips, said: "In just over 12 months, the AMEF program has proven that there are world-leading manufacturing ideas in the Territory and with the right support and funding we can turn ideas into commercial outcomes,

"Arctic Installations demonstrates that we can and should be leveraging our unique climatic and weather conditions to develop better solutions for our region and beyond our shores. This project adds to the list of Australian innovators seeing that imported products sometimes don't meet our tough local conditions, then coming up with something better."

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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 Artic Installations

Established in 2015 Gary Burns, a specialist in in controlled environments, today Arctic Installations has over 40 employees and has grown and developed a trademark of quality, safety and attention to detail across Northern Territory and establishing South Australian branch in 2019.

The only controlled environment manufacturer and installer in the Northern Territory, we specialise in the erection and tendering of major cold storage facilities, architectural external insulated roofing and panel systems. Arctic Installations offer full service-controlled environment solutions to clients big and small.
<https://arcticinstallations.com.au/about-us/>

About the Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem Fund

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, investment to support small scale/pilot research projects in manufacturing

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