

Media Release

DARWIN-BASED MANUFACTURER TO UNDERPIN TOP-END SELF-RELIANCE WITH MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR INVESTMENT INTO CAPABILITY

- *Steeline GRP, the largest Territory-owned steel roll former, will boost the Northern Territory's advanced manufacturing capability and capacity, generating new jobs and skills following co-investment via the Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem Fund (AMEF)*
- *The company will add substantive steel processing capability through a state-of-the-art, leading-edge manufacturing plant and processing equipment, resulting in new high-quality local product offerings.*
- *The multi-million dollar co-invested project is forecast to generate \$7.25 million in additional revenue over five years and result in a 30 per cent increase in Steeline GRP local employment – many skills of which do not currently exist in the Territory.*

Darwin-based Steeline GRP has been awarded \$800,000 in co-funding through the Northern Territory Government's Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem Fund (AMEF), administered by the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC), to support an ambitious 18-month project which is forecast to generate \$7.25 million in additional revenue over five years.

Steeline GRP's expansion of existing operations provides an important strengthening of capability and capacity to the existing manufacturing ecosystem and reduces reliance on interstate or overseas supply. The collaborative project will not only upskill existing staff but create 10 new Territory-first manufacturing jobs which will remove the need to outsource work from interstate and overseas.

The operation will deliver a local source of high-quality steel product and processing capability to support critical industries such as oil & gas, maritime, civil, minerals, construction, and defence sectors. Specifically, it opens great potential for the Territory's ecosystem to supply critical local projects such as Darwin's ship lift, as well as, many other forecasted strategic infrastructure projects in emerging sectors.

Steeline will collaborate with Charles Darwin University (CDU), measurement and automation solutions specialist Diverseco, and Territorian aluminium boat and trailer maker Custom Works, to install a state-of-the-art long-reach robot, router and beamline for metal fabrication, while equipping workers with the skills needed to operate such sophisticated Industry 4.0 machinery.

“Our advanced manufacturing facility will house state-of-the-art automated metal manufacturing technology and will be supported by skilled staff possessing STEM capabilities that do not currently exist in the NT. In short, we will be removing the requirement to outsource work interstate or overseas, while creating more local jobs – it’s a win-win for the Territory,” said **Steeline GRP’s General Manager Tony Halikos**.

In total, Steeline’s collaborative project will commit \$3.5 million to grow the capability and capacity of the Northern Territory manufacturing ecosystem, with Steeline matching the AMEF’s co-investment of \$800,000 dollar-for-dollar while committing a further \$1,903,000 to the project through the provision of in-kind services, support and labour.

“The AMEF has begun to transform the Territory’s manufacturing ecosystem in a short amount of time. The co-investment fund is achieving exactly what it was set out to do – generate jobs, increase local capability and drive growth across the Territory, with Steeline playing a pivotal role in boosting local jobs, innovation and opportunities,” said the **Northern Territory’s Minister for Industry, Nicole Manison**

The impact of investment in the project will be significant for the Territory which has a substantive list of companies looking for a local supply of products such as large pieces of finished structural steel and aluminium plate typically bought from interstate or overseas, creating significant supply chain risks. Furthermore, this local capability will significantly reduce the impact of high transport costs and, at times, questionable reliability.

“The AMEF has a significant and complementary role to play in underpinning a variety of major projects across the Top End. Steeline’s new capabilities will arrive at a time of major infrastructure, investment and innovation projects for the Territory” added **Northern Territory’s Major Projects Commissioner, Jason Schoolmeester**.

AMGC’s Director for the Northern Territory, Charmaine Phillips said, “Steeline’s project represents an important lift in the ability of NT’s manufacturing ecosystem to support economic development and major projects across the region – precisely what the AMEF was designed to achieve.”

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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 Steeline GRP

Established in 1995, Steeline GRP is the largest Territory owned steel roll former and metal roofing supplier. Steeline Grp currently supports the NT's construction industry manufacturing Australian Made roofing and building products manufactured onsite in our modern 15,000m² manufacturing facility in Berrimah, Northern Territory.

Boasting many of the world's best manufacturing machines and the ability to manufacture an array of coil steel and structural products including roofing, walling, gutters, flashing, structural purlins, metal trusses and wall frames by using only the highest quality BlueScope Steel materials and producing superior building products that are specifically designed for Northern Australia conditions all with approved NT Deemed to Comply.

Our long term local team are proud to deliver the highest standard of customer service with knowledgeable and locally upskilled staff who understand the Territory's climate and challenges associated with our seasonal weather and building industry requirements.

Our vast range of products, free advice, fast turnaround time and delivery service across the Northern Territory represents our ethos of "service over and above".

Steeline's commitment to investing in new machinery and new products is driven by its passion and commitment to support its local industry and locally community.

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

Media Contact

Tyson Bowen

Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre

M: 0418 826 936

E: Tyson.bowen@amgc.org.au