

Media Release

NT MANUFACTURER TO COMBAT WATER QUALITY WITH HOME-GROWN, DEPLOYABLE PURIFICATION SYSTEM

- *Northern Territory (NT) founded, owned and operated manufacturer Life h2o Australia (Life h2o) set to become a global player in the water purification industry via NT Government support*
- *Collaborative project between Life h2o, Terracorp and BP Waters to commercialise world-leading portable water purification and desalinisation system for use across multiple industries*
- *Proven in the harsh arenas of defence, disaster relief and remote area use, Life h2o's Life-Port will be manufactured in the NT and exported to the world, creating up to twenty-four new jobs in five years*
- *The \$900,000 project backed by a \$434,978 co-investment from the Northern Territory Government's AMEF, administered by the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC)*

A Northern Territory manufacturer is set to commercialise a deployable water purification and desalination system (WPDS) with the assistance of co-investment from the Northern Territory Government. Trialled with the Australian Defence Force, and deployed across defence, disaster relief and humanitarian aid campaigns over the past four years, Life h2o in collaboration with TerraCorp Industries and BP Waters will further develop the products towards full-scale manufacture in the Northern Territory.

Dubbed Life-Port WPDS, the mobile water purification system can remove contaminants from any water source, including hard metals, chemicals, minerals, viruses, and bacteria. The military-grade system exceeds water quality standards through the use of pre-filtration, ultra-filtration, and post-filtration processing. It also optimises health benefits by controlling pH levels while reintroducing essential minerals lost during purification. The WPDS can also operate on different power inputs to suit various applications and environments, making it suitable to be deployed with little notice.

Life h2o's plans will see the company establish a sustainable local manufacturing operation, expand its products into non-military markets, create employment opportunities, and boost NT manufacturing output and exports. As part of this initiative, Life h2o will develop key systems and components locally, including custom military-grade cargo cases to improve supply chain efficiency and meet client demands.

Managing Director of Life h2o Charley Feros, said Life-Port is an entirely Territory-developed and tested product, with significant commercial potential for the Top End.

"From the outset, we wanted Life H2o to be a Top End company, not just in physical presence but in supply chain, employment and exports. The support Life h2o has gained via the AMEF will enable us to develop a consumer facing product, establish an entirely NT-based supply chain and employ more Territorians,

“Life-Port WPDS has been wholly developed in the Northern Territory through leveraging the best Top End knowledge, skills and networks – and we intend to keep it this way and commercialise right here in the NT.” Said Feros.

The collaborative project aims to finalise Life-Port’s consumer facing design, secure tooling for onshore manufacturing in Darwin, and commercialise the Life-Port WPDS unit. By streamlining the local supply chain, it will reduce costs, stimulate the NT economy, and achieve the goal of becoming Australia’s first Northern Territory defence prime.

As part of the project, Life H2o has been awarded a \$434,978 co-investment from the Northern Territory Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem Fund (AMEF), administered by the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC) in total. Accounting for matched cash contributions, the two-year project will commit almost \$900,000 towards establishing the new capability.

AMGC’s Northern Territory Director, Charmaine Phillips said: “Life H2o’s Life-Port product is exactly what we want to see manufactured in the Northern Territory – a proven, military-grade solution to offering a vital resource – clean water. What’s more is that it is a technology that will have greater impact beyond its military provenance, providing assistance across the commercial, industrial, civilian, disaster relief and primary industries sectors.”

“Providing innovative solutions to meet the growing demand for clean water in regional Australia and the Indo Pacific is not only a testament to Life h2o’s commitment to delivering water security, but also a commitment to sustainability and growth of the NT as a manufacturing hub for the region.” said Phillips.

The project is expected to deliver \$5.5 million in additional revenue within five years and create at least fifteen new skilled roles at Life H2o’s Darwin facility. Life H2o’s project is the eleventh business to receive co-investment through the AMEF, which was launched in 2021. The AMEF has spurred manufacturing activity expecting to create up to 195 new jobs and generate up to \$100 million for the Territory’s economy in its first five years.

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About Life H2o

Founded in 2020 and 100% Australian owned, Darwin-based Life h2o Australia is passionate about helping those less fortunate. By working with other innovators and taking steps to solve one of the world’s most critical issues, we are striving to really make a difference. Life h2o Australia assist defence force personnel, as well as helping primary industry, disaster relief programs and humanitarian organisations.

Helping those in developing areas to secure a basic human necessity will have a ripple effect in improving quality of life, increase standards of living and help deal with preventable medical problems. Whether it be a post-conflict situation, inadequate infrastructure or a natural disaster, Life h2o Australia can assist in getting a vital resource to those that need it, when they need it.

<https://www.lifeh2o.com.au/>

About Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC)

The Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC) is an industry-led, not-for-profit organisation established through the Australian Government’s Industry Growth Centres Initiative. 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 industry 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

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

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