

A photograph showing a military helicopter on the deck of a ship. The helicopter is olive green and has its rotors folded. A crane is positioned to the left of the helicopter. In the background, a city skyline with several tall buildings and a bridge is visible across a body of water. The sky is overcast.

DEFAUS19

# Project Army Asset Utilisation Platform

PITCHER

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Press**

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# ABSTRACT AND OUTCOMES

Project AAUP will provide the Army with a simple, responsive, reliable and value for money method of sourcing managing and monitoring a wide array of logistic service providers.

Defence logistics forms the foundation of combat power and supports and sustains the organisation through all areas of responsibilities ranging from capability acquisitions through to complex war fighting. The evolution of logistics has been driving logistics managers to ensure the required material support to sustain operations in both peace and war is available when war fighters need it. This transformation has been driven by technological innovations, changes in the conduct of warfare, lessons learned, and the ever-expanding roles and functions of the defence organisations. The pace of transformation in defence logistics has however, been significantly slower in comparison to the transformation of logistics practices of the civil sector.

Commercial organisations and industries innovate and develop new methods of efficiencies in order to remain competitive. However, for Army, business processes adopted today are still heavily man power intensive and extremely costly. Defence is one of the most advanced technological industries in the world creating revolutionary systems and ground breaking technology. Despite developing some of the most advance weapons and platforms in the world, Defence organisations are unique in that they have never corresponded the advancement of their business systems and administrative processes at the same rate to their warfighting technologies.

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# PROPOSAL

Commercial organisations and industries have continued to innovate and develop new methods of efficiencies in order to remain competitive. These innovations provide incredible opportunities for Army to benefit from commercial best practice, improved business processes, a reduction of man power requirements and costs.

Project AAUP is designed to provide Army with a simple, responsive, reliable and value for money method of sourcing, managing and monitoring a wide array of logistics service providers. Based off a “Software-as-a-Service” business model, Project AAUP will offer a quality web-based platform whereby Army is able to gain greater visibility as to the movement of their own assets, compare contracted service providers against their own assets and where cost effective, choose to utilise these new assets over engaging contracted service providers. Additional features such as label printing, audit functionalities and the packing logic will enable Army to receive a service offering that is unparalleled.

By taking the time to understand the specific requirements, Army will be able to integrate other important components including enhanced security. These other features and service offerings represent a number of areas for Army to evolve and expand the product and develop new business verticals to increase logistics efficiency over the long term.

Project AAUP would provide Army with a world-class, IT enabled logistics solution to enhance logistics capability, increase efficiency, enhance visibility, limit contractor dependency and reduce costs across the supply chain.

Project AAUP offers a solution to compare quotes and delivery options from hundreds of available carriers. The system allows users to automatically book their shipment online, print the consignment label and track & trace. Similar to online businesses such as Webjet and iSelect, where users can search all options in one place, a ‘freight aggregation’ platform that draws quotes instantly from carriers, allowing clients to choose the courier that suits their requirements and budget will provide a new level of capability and accountability for Army. Through a website, customers could track, produce shipping documentation, insure goods-in-transit and participate in carbon offset programs. Project AAUP could integrate with content management systems (CMS), warehouse management systems (WMS), accounting systems and enterprise resource planning software (ERP). Project AAUP is suggested as a scalable platform that aims to reduce costs and create demand, by breaking down the barriers between units and logistics providers.

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