

# CAST CRC and titanium components

**A CAST CRC and Ferra Engineering partnership has been highly successful in developing techniques to manufacture titanium components for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), a defence force combat aircraft being developed by the United States, Australia and eight other partner nations. The JSF is the centrepiece of a \$300 billion program with 6,000 aircraft expected to be produced.**

Mark Scherrer, CEO of Ferra Engineering said, 'Light metals technology developed with CAST helped Ferra to secure seven out of the 21 contracts let in Australia for the JSF Project.'

These long term, high precision metal component supply contracts will result in significant growth for Ferra. 'If they continue over the life of the project it is estimated they will be worth more than \$1 billion to Ferra,' said Mr Scherrer.

CAST CRC's CEO Dr George Collins said, 'These fantastic achievements are due to the exceptional people who work with CAST, our researchers, who are willing to spend time in industry to gain a real understanding of industry needs and our industry partners, who are willing to sacrifice production time to trial new technologies.'

CAST is also working with Ferra, the Department of Defence and Lockheed Martin Advanced Development Programs, USA, to reduce the cost of machining titanium alloys using lasers.

'Australian industry has the opportunity to be more competitive in winning work to manufacture titanium parts for JSF production,' said Australian Air Vice-Marshal John Harvey, Program Manager of Australia's JSF project and supporter of JSF Team Australia.

Titanium is a common ingredient in aircraft production, and is lighter and stronger than most metals and resistant to corrosion and high temperatures. Australia possesses around 40% of the world's known titanium resources and supplies about 25% of the international commercial market. There is potential for Australia to become a global supplier of titanium and titanium components for the aerospace industry.

**More information about CAST CRC is available from [www.cast.org.au](http://www.cast.org.au)**

The Lockheed Martin F35 Joint Strike Fighter



The laser-assisted machining technology developed by CAST is being trialled at Ferra Engineering for production of titanium aerospace components

