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Australia Funds Development of Counter-Drone Defense Technologies

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Australia has taken a significant step in strengthening its national defense by investing in new technologies to combat uncrewed aerial threats. Through Project Land 156, the Department of Defence (DoD) is allocating funding to multiple companies to develop systems designed to counter uncrewed aerial systems (CUAS), reflecting a growing emphasis on protecting strategic assets from modern drone-related risks.

Under this multi-phase initiative, the Australian Government has awarded contracts worth A\$16.9 million (approximately US\$11 million) to 11 companies, including five Australian-based firms. These awards mark the first wave of efforts aimed at building an integrated and responsive CUAS capability for the Australian Defence Force (ADF). According to a

government statement, the goal is to eventually deploy at least 120 threat detection and drone neutralization systems across various defense installations.

The development effort will not stop there. The DoD revealed that more acquisitions are expected shortly. These include contracts for a central command-and-control system, additional sensors, and electronic effectors capable of neutralizing hostile drones. These tools will give the ADF expanded options to monitor and secure military infrastructure against surveillance, sabotage, or potential attacks delivered via unmanned aerial platforms.

Project Land 156 reflects Australia's proactive approach to addressing emerging defense challenges, especially as drone technology becomes more accessible and widely used in both military and civilian contexts. By fostering innovation within its defense sector and supporting local industries, the government is reinforcing the country's security posture while also promoting domestic capability development.

As threats evolve, investment in systems like CUAS ensures that Australia remains equipped to defend its national interests, maintain operational readiness, and deter potential adversaries through advanced and adaptive defense solutions.