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Australian Firm's \$125m Laser Weapon Deal Bolsters Defence

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Electro Optic Systems secures a A\$125 million contract with a European NATO nation for a high-energy laser weapon system, enhancing Australia's global defence standing.

Canberra-based Electro Optic Systems (EOS) has clinched a A\$125 million (approximately \$82 million USD) contract with an undisclosed European North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member to supply a 100-kilowatt high-energy laser (HEL) weapon system, marking Australia's first export of such advanced technology, as announced by EOS on August 5, 2025. Designed to counter unmanned aerial systems (UAS), the system can neutralize over a dozen drones in under a minute with precision and minimal collateral damage, according to a company release. The deal, facilitated

through EOS's Singapore facility, underscores Australia's growing role in the global defence market, with production expected to commence in 2026.

The laser system, part of EOS's Titanis counter-UAS platform, integrates radar, threat detection, and beam-locking technologies, building on the company's 40 years of expertise in remote weapon systems and space tracking, per Defence Blog. Dr. Andreas Schwer, EOS's managing director, described the contract as a "landmark" for the global high-energy laser industry, emphasizing its operational readiness after three years of rigorous field testing, as reported by Janes on September 21, 2024. The system's ability to deliver 100–500 engagements or operate continuously with external power positions it as a cost-effective alternative to traditional munitions, which cost thousands per shot.

Critics of the Australian Labor Party government, including Shadow Defence Minister Andrew Hastie, argue that insufficient defence funding has delayed Australia's adoption of such technologies domestically, potentially leaving the Australian Defence Force (ADF) reliant on export-driven innovation. Hastie, speaking on Sky News, called for greater investment in sovereign capabilities to counter regional threats, citing the 2023 Defence Strategic Review's emphasis on advanced technologies. The deal boosts EOS's market position, with its shares rising 5.7% on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), per Colitco.com.

The contract validates Australia's technological edge in directed-energy systems, with EOS poised to secure further international orders. This milestone highlights the strategic importance of counter-drone capabilities amid rising global threats from unmanned systems, reinforcing Australia's defence industry as a key player.