

3 November 2025

Official Opening of MDS-20 Countermine Detector Production Line

Adelaide, South Australia — 3 November 2025 — Assistant Minister for Defence and Space Industries Michael Brown MP has officially opened the production line for the new MDS-20 Dual-Sensor Countermine Detector at Codan's Mawson Lakes headquarters, marking a milestone in South Australian advanced manufacturing and sovereign capability.

Codan has a long history of supporting defence, public safety and humanitarian organisations through its leading advanced communications solutions and metal detection products. The company has grown significantly in the past four years from 250 to 1000 people globally, exporting to more than 150 countries.

Designed and developed in South Australia by Minelab, a Codan company, the MDS-20 detector reflects decades of leadership in counter-explosive detection technology and the company's commitment to transforming lives through critical technologies.

The MDS-20 integrates advanced metal detection and ground-penetrating radar technologies in a compact, lightweight and reliable platform delivering detection capabilities against low-metal landmines and the most challenging improvised explosive device components.

South Australia's Assistant Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Michael Brown MP, said South Australia has long been home to leaders of defence industry and manufacturing, spearheaded by companies like Codan and driven by a State Government committed to excellence in the sector.

“Codan is a great example of South Australian innovation and its global impact, all made possible through local engineering, local high-tech experts, right here in Mawson Lakes,” said Assistant Minister Brown.

“This production line will save lives, not only those of the Defence personnel using the MDS-20 detector, but also of Minelab’s international defence and humanitarian customers using this homegrown capability to protect their own communities.”

The MDS-20 builds on Minelab’s globally trusted portfolio, including the world-renowned F3 humanitarian demining detector. Purpose-built for both military and humanitarian operations, it delivers reliable detection of low-metal mines, plastic explosives and complex IEDs in all soil types and conditions.

Codan Managing Director & CEO, Alf Ianniello, said the launch demonstrated the company’s strategic growth and investment in innovative communication, connection and detection solutions.

“Our technologies perform in the world’s harshest environments from defence and peacekeeping missions to humanitarian demining. The MDS-20 represents the next evolution of Australian innovation, designed, engineered and manufactured by our team in Mawson Lakes for customers around the world.”

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About Minelab:

Minelab is an innovative, multi-award-winning business that has scaled world markets to achieve global leadership in advanced electronic detection technologies. Headquartered in Mawson Lakes, South Australia, with regional offices in Ireland, India, UAE, Mexico, Brazil, and the USA, Minelab develops and manufactures world-leading handheld detection systems.

Since its founding in 1985, Minelab has introduced more innovative and practical technology than any competitor, establishing itself as the leading global provider of detectors for gold prospecting, treasure hunting, and landmine clearance. Through continuous investment in research and development, Minelab is today recognized worldwide for technical innovation, rugged reliability, and field-proven performance. Minelab is a Codan Limited company (ASX: “CDA”).

About Codan Limited:

Listed in the ASX200 index, Codan (CDA) is a Group of innovative technology companies and one of Australia’s leading technology exporters. Codan designs, develops and manufactures critical technologies used worldwide by defence forces, public safety and emergency responders, miners and humanitarian teams.

The company began in a small Adelaide workshop in 1959 with three University of Adelaide friends aiming help people communicate across Australia’s most remote regions. Today, that same innovative spirit has grown into a global technology business exporting advanced communications, connection and detection solutions across more than 150 countries.

In the past four years, Codan has grown from 250 people to now more than 1000 located at 15 sites across Australia, the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

