



# **The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP**

## **Premier of NSW**

### **Minister for Western Sydney**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday 22 June 2012

### **WORLD CLASS MANUFACTURER FLIES INTO WESTERN SYDNEY**

NSW Premier and Minister for Western Sydney Barry O'Farrell today officially opened the premises of a new manufacturer that will create up to 400 jobs in Western Sydney.

Mr O'Farrell said Quickstep's relocation from Perth to Bankstown was a vote of confidence in the workforce and facilities to be found in Western Sydney.

"This is a vote of confidence in the Western Sydney economy at a time when governments and communities are concerned about their jobs," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Today Quickstep officially starts operations in its \$15 million advanced aerospace composite parts manufacturing facility in Bankstown and it's a great step forward for the company.

"The company's decision to relocate from Western Australia to NSW is part of an aggressive growth strategy by this world-class manufacturer of high end carbon fibre products.

"Sydney offers Quickstep the scale, resources, facilities and skilled workforce needed to help them realise its growth strategy, and the move is already paying dividends."

The company announced earlier this year that it had secured an exclusive five-year contract with Lockheed Martin to produce carbon fibre wing flaps for its C130J Hercules military transport aircraft - worth between \$75 million and \$100 million.

It also has a 22-year agreement with Northrop Grumman, BAE Systems and Marand worth up to \$700 million to manufacture a number of parts for the international F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter Program.

"The NSW Government has identified defence as a key part of our manufacturing sector," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The manufacturing industry supports around eight per cent of all jobs in NSW and represents more than 30 per cent of all our State's exports.

"I congratulate Quickstep and wish the company well in NSW."

Quickstep managing director Philippe Odouard said that in Bankstown the company has a world class manufacturing capability that is competitive in the global aerospace market.

“We also develop our own technology for carbon fibre component manufacturing which represents a great opportunity in the automotive sector, where Quickstep is partnering with some of the world’s leading companies,” Mr Odouard said.

“We are very grateful to the NSW Government for supporting Quickstep in the development of this state of the art facility,” he said.