

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT**20 August 2026**

HITIQ Selected by Leading US Military Research Centre, Appoints Strategic Military Advisor

Key Highlights

- HITIQ signs Letter of Intent with the University of Southern Mississippi Sport and Tactical Athlete Research Lab (USM STAR) and the University of Mississippi National Center for Tactical Readiness (UM NCTR).
- Initial collaboration focused on measuring head impact exposure and head-neck kinematics in military and tactical training environments using PROTEQT D-MAX and PROTEQT iMG technologies.
- Collaboration intended to support broader Defence research activities, including firearms training and special operations environments, with parties intending to explore potential future CRADAs; the Letter of Intent is non-binding, with specific study scopes, funding, data and publication rights subject to separate formal agreements.
- Aaron Bell, formerly a full-time Lieutenant Colonel in the Australian Army with more than 25 years' experience in aviation engineering, strategic planning and Defence technology commercialisation, appointed Strategic Military Advisor.
- Mr Bell previously served as Chief Engineer for the Australian Army's Black Hawk, Kiowa and Chinook helicopter fleets and as Chief of Plans (J5) for Joint Task Force 633.
- In his advisory role, Mr Bell will support HITIQ's Defence engagement, capability development and procurement strategies, including engineering-level guidance on ruggedisation for military deployment environments.

Preferred US Defence Research Collaboration

HITIQ Limited (HITIQ or the Company) (ASX: HIQ) is pleased to announce the execution of a Letter of Intent with the University of Southern Mississippi Sport and Tactical Athlete Research Lab (USM STAR) and the University of Mississippi National Center for Tactical Readiness (UM NCTR), alongside the appointment of Aaron Bell, formerly a full-time Lieutenant Colonel in the Australian Army, as Strategic Military Advisor.

The Letter of Intent establishes a framework for collaboration between HITIQ, USM STAR and UM NCTR, with an initial focus on measuring head impact exposure and head-neck kinematics in military and tactical training environments using HITIQ's PROTEQT D-MAX and PROTEQT iMG technologies.

USM STAR is a laboratory with more than a decade of Congressionally funded research focused on improving warfighter safety and performance. UM NCTR is a Congressionally funded centre dedicated to advancing the health, performance and readiness of military, first responder and tactical personnel.

The collaboration is intended to support broader Defence research activities, including studies involving firearms training and special operations environments. The parties also intend to explore potential future Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) with US military stakeholders, subject to relevant approvals and future formal agreements.

The Letter of Intent is non-binding and establishes a framework for collaboration between the parties. Specific study scopes, funding arrangements, data rights, publication rights and any future CRADAs remain subject to separate formal agreements.

Strategic Military Appointment

Alongside the research collaboration, HITIQ has appointed Aaron Bell as Strategic Military Advisor. He is an aeronautical engineer, technology executive and former full-time Australian Army officer with more than 25 years' experience across military operations, aviation engineering, strategic planning and technology commercialisation.

Mr Bell served as Chief Engineer for the Australian Army's Black Hawk, Kiowa and Chinook helicopter fleets and later served as Chief of Plans (J5) for Joint Task Force 633, supporting Australia's operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the broader Middle East.

Mr Bell is a recipient of the Australian Defence Force Gold Commendation and the United States Meritorious Service Medal.

In his advisory role, Mr Bell will support HITIQ's Defence engagement, capability development and procurement strategies across key Defence markets. He will also provide engineering-level guidance relating to data optimisation, systems integration and ruggedisation considerations relevant to military deployment environments.

Strengthening HITIQ's Defence Commercialisation Strategy

Together, the US Defence research collaboration and Aaron Bell appointment strengthen HITIQ's Defence commercialisation strategy and support the Company's objective of establishing PROTEQT D-MAX as a Defence-specific solution for monitoring head impact exposure and blast-related events within military and tactical training environments.

The Company believes these initiatives further position HITIQ to engage Defence stakeholders, support technology evaluation activities and progress long-term Defence opportunities for PROTEQT D-MAX.

Leadership Commentary

Earl Eddings, Executive Chairman, HITIQ

“The establishment of this US research collaboration and the appointment of Aaron Bell represent important milestones in HITIQ’s Defence strategy.

USM STAR and UM NCTR bring significant expertise and research capability in military and tactical readiness, and their identification of HITIQ as preferred partner for this collaboration is a strong endorsement of our technology and Defence-focused development approach.

Aaron brings deep operational, engineering and Defence commercialisation experience. Together, these initiatives strengthen our ability to engage Defence stakeholders, support technology evaluation activities and progress long-term Defence opportunities for PROTEQT D-MAX.”

Aaron Bell, Strategic Military Advisor, HITIQ

“Defence organisations globally are placing increasing emphasis on technologies that can better protect and monitor the health and performance of military personnel.

HITIQ has developed a unique capability with potential application across Defence training, force protection and personnel readiness initiatives.

The establishment of this collaboration with USM STAR and UM NCTR is an important step in building the research relationships and engagement pathways required to support Defence adoption of the technology.”

Dr Chip Wade, Executive Director, National Center for Tactical Readiness (NCTR)

“Advancing technologies that improve the health, readiness and performance of military personnel is central to our mission.

The capability demonstrated by the company aligns closely with the research requirements and operational outcomes we are seeking to investigate through our military and tactical readiness programs.

This collaboration provides an opportunity to evaluate innovative sensor technologies in tactical training environments and contribute to a growing body of research focused on understanding head impact exposure, human performance and warfighter readiness.”

About HITIQ

HITIQ Limited (ASX: HIQ) is an evidence-based brain care technology company deploying advanced sensor and intelligence technologies for the detection, monitoring and management of head impact exposure.

Its flagship PROTEQT™ instrumented mouthguard is deployed across elite and community sport internationally.

PROTEQT D-MAX applies the same validated sensor technology in a military-specific configuration designed to monitor head impact exposure and blast-related events within Defence environments.

Authorised for release by the Board of HITIQ Limited.

For further information:

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