

Executive Biography

Darren Burrowes BE (Hons), MBA, FIEAust, SMIEEE



Darren Burrowes
Chief Technology Officer
BlueZone Group

Darren is Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer at BlueZone Group.

BlueZone Group is an experienced Defence SME with a track record of over 20 years in support of unmanned maritime systems and robotics. Defence interests include Mine Counter Measures, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Submarines. BlueZone provides underwater technology products and engineering services to diverse market sectors including Offshore Oil & Gas, Hydrographic Survey and Oceanographic Science.

In 2000 Darren co-founded ATSA Defence Services Pty Ltd as the Engineering Director. ATSA was a start-up company resulting from the \$1bn Minehunter Coastal Project which saw six "Huon" Class Minehunter ships constructed for the Royal Australian Navy in Newcastle, NSW. Darren has continued to lead the company technology strategy through business acquisition and organic growth forming BlueZone Group in 2015. BlueZone is an innovative company with operations in through-life support, maritime unmanned systems, robotics and electro-mechanical systems for the blue economy.

Darren graduated with degrees in Electrical Engineering and Business Administration. Darren has career experience as a Weapons Electrical Engineering Officer in the RAN, roles in two major shipbuilding projects (ANZAC Ship and Minehunter Coastal), and experience in start-ups and growing technology-based companies. He is a Fellow of Engineers Australia and Senior Member of the IEEE. As a member of the NSW Ai Group Advisory Council and industry delegate to the NSW Defence Innovation Network Darren actively contributes to Defence, industry and academic collaboration.

In 2012 at Elemental Energy Technologies Limited (now Mako Turbines), Darren lead the engineering effort required to develop, test and commercialise the SeaUrchin™ marine energy turbine technology, which was recognised by an Engineers Australia National Engineering Excellence Award.

In 2018 Darren was a Regional Finalist for EY Entrepreneur of The Year. Darren co-founded Rights House, an Angel investment group and is an active Angel investor with a preference for investment in technology-based start-ups.

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