

# 'MoD college now past the point of no return'

## - VALE MP'S CLAIM

**VALE MP, John Smith, last week welcomed the new First Minister's 'close personal interest' in "making sure the benefits of the £12 billion Defence Technical College at MoD St Athan are maximised in Wales."**

Mr Smith said: "I welcome Carwyn Jones's firm commitment to the St Athan project.

"I want people here in the Vale and across Wales to remember that both the UK Government and the Welsh Assembly Government are fully behind the Defence Technical College going ahead at

St Athan. They have repeatedly backed up their words of support with deeds.

"To date, the Government has underwritten over £110 million of essential works linked with the project to get the site ready for construction.

"I believe that we have gone beyond the point of no return and this Government has no intention of walking away from St Athan."

In his letter to Mr Smith, who has been at the forefront of the campaign to bring the tri-service MoD college to Wales, at St Athan, Carwyn Jones, who is AM for Bridgend, said:

"I fully agree with you that the

Defence Technical College is a major opportunity for Wales at St Athan. I very much support and welcome this investment as it will provide a significant boost for jobs, skills training and supply chain opportunities.

"I know that you have championed its cause from the outset and I want to reassure you that my officials are working closely with the Ministry of Defence, Metrix and with local partners to deliver the project and to maximize the benefits for Wales.

"Rest assured that I will continue to take a close personal interest in this matter," Mr Jones promised.