



Media release

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Big moves at AMC

While the global economy has contracted in recent times, the Australian Marine Complex (AMC), based at Henderson in Western Australia, continues its rapid expansion with a number of significant developments taking place.

Self Propelled Modular Transporter (SPMT) system

The AMC has just taken delivery of a state-of-the-art Self Propelled Modular Transporter (SPMT) system comprising 512 wheels in 128 axle lines which is capable of moving vessels and heavy modules up to 4000 tonnes.

Western Trade Coast Business Manager Luke Willcock said the \$17million dollar machine was a vital piece of infrastructure that would deliver enormous benefits to WA.

“The scale of this transfer system is unmatched in Australia and the SPMT will only enhance the capacity of the AMC Common User Facility (CUF) to deliver major projects estimated to be worth \$2billion to the State’s economy over the next 25 years,” Mr Willcock said.

The SPMT transfer system is critical to ASC Pty Ltd’s multi-billion dollar Through-Life Support contract to provide service and maintenance for the Royal Australian Navy’s Collins class submarines at the AMC CUF over the next 25 years.

The SPMT will transfer submarines from the floating dock to ASC Pty Ltd’s submarine repair and maintenance facility at the AMC.

AMC Management (WA) Pty Ltd General Manager Richard Clark said the State Government had bought wisely as the SPMT would provide for greater flexibility and maximise common use facilities for the operations and future expansion of the AMC CUF.

“ASC won’t be the only user of the SPMT and certainly this kind of system will allow others to utilise the system elsewhere throughout the AMC,” Mr Clarke said.

“We expect clients which service the oil and gas sector will take advantage of the SPMT for the transfer of jackets and topsides, process plants and structural items including ship loaders, wharf decks and other heavy modules.”

Floating dock

Trials are also set to commence on a new \$60million floating dock which is in the finishing stages of completion. Strategic Marine, the WA company that won the tender to build the project, has installed the dock's sidewalls made from six steel modules which house the main power, electrical, mechanical, manoeuvring and control equipment.

Mr Willcock said the floating dock project represented a significant investment in WA industry.

"More than 60 percent of the floating dock will be completed locally including fabrication of 1,000 tonne steel sidewalls and the development and integration of all high technology 'smart' components," Mr Willcock said.

The AMC floating dock will be the most technologically advanced in the world featuring computerised touch screen control systems and automated ballasting to lift heavy vessels out of the water for service and maintenance."

Measuring 99m x 53m, it will be capable of providing the land transfer of vessels up to 3,500 tonnes and will be able to lift 12,000 tonne vessels out of the water for service and maintenance work.

While ASC Pty Ltd will be a major user for its Collins class submarine service operations, the dock will have many applications that will again add significant value to WA industry.

"It will facilitate commercial ship repair work; service the growing superyacht industry in WA; provide capability for the testing of sub-sea oil and gas components; and allow WA to bid for a range of major maintenance and construction projects across the marine, defence and resources sectors," Mr Willcock said.

A State Government initiative, LandCorp and Department of Commerce have developed the AMC to enhance WA's ability to service the marine, defence and oil and gas industries.

Delivery of major common use infrastructure including the Floating Dock, SPMT and Service and Supply Base form part of the State Government's vision to ensure the AMC continues to attract industry and generate ongoing benefit for the WA economy.

Operations tender

Like all CUF infrastructure, the floating dock and SPMT system will be multi-user and available to any customer with a suitable project.

LandCorp has announced independent facility manager AMC Management (WA) Pty Ltd as its preferred proponent to manage operations for these two new pieces of infrastructure.

AMC Management already manages the operations of the AMC CUF and the contract will ensure that the floating dock and SPMT are fully integrated into the facility's operations.

AMC Management General Manager Richard Clark said he was excited about the enhanced capabilities of the AMC CUF and the possibilities ahead.

“We have been marketing the capabilities of the CUF to vessel operators in the North West Shelf, and there has been a lot of interest in coming down and using the facility for their repairs and maintenance,” Mr Clark said.

“In effect, this will create new market opportunities for WA companies. Not only does this mean more business for the CUF, but also more business for tenants within the AMC in general.”

Transfer Wharf

A new transfer and lay-by wharf is nearing completion which will abut the floating dock and allow the transfer of vessels using the SPMT system to the hardstand area of the CUF for service and maintenance work.

Works are being undertaken by WA company Georgiou Group, and include the construction of the transfer and lay-by wharf, a transfer slab and installation of essential utilities including power, communications, lighting, fire and water mains, fresh water mains, sewage and stormwater drainage.

The floating dock, SPMT and transfer wharf are all part of a \$174million infrastructure upgrade program funded by the State Government and project managed by LandCorp.

Service and Supply Base

The AMC will also become home to a new \$35million service and supply base which will support oil and gas projects in WA.

The State Government recently approved the project and announced an agreement which will see Chevron Australia become its first user to support operations for the Gorgon Project, located about 150km off the State’s north-west coast.

“By securing service bases and wharf facilities at the AMC, Chevron can deliver significant amounts of equipment by sea which will substantially reduce the number of road trains required to service the Gorgon Project,” Mr Willcock said.

“The State Government developed the AMC Common User Facility, which is owned and managed by LandCorp, to enhance WA’s ability to service the marine, defence and oil and gas industries. This agreement once again demonstrates the significant benefits the AMC can deliver.

The AMC service and supply base will be developed by LandCorp and will feature a \$35million service wharf to accommodate roll-on/roll-off vessels along with a four hectare staging area located within the AMC Common User Facility.

Construction of the service and supply base is expected to commence in the second half of this year and is due to be completed by early 2010. LandCorp are calling for expressions of interest for marine, civil and drainage works, while tenders are also being sought for the supply of sheet and tubular piles.

A request for tender will also soon be issued for seabed dredging works. Details and documentation are available from LandCorp.

Subsea Cluster

The AMC is destined to become the Asia-Pacific region's premier oil and gas capital with construction of a subsea cluster now underway.

Wormall Civil Pty Ltd is nearing completion of their civil works contract that will provide a 20 hectare serviced estate specifically to suit the requirements of the subsea oil and gas industry.

The AMC Subsea Cluster, located adjacent to the AMC Common User Facility will feature 16 lots up to eight hectares in size with opportunities for both freehold and leasehold contracts.

It is intended the site will provide for common user laydown and access to extensive loadout and assembly and fabrication infrastructure.

"The oil and gas industry appears to be relatively insulated from the current economic situation with many of the freehold lots already presold and an incredible amount of interest being received for the leasehold lots" Mr Willcock said.

Support Industry Precinct

In addition to the Subsea Cluster, civil and earth works for Stages 4 and 5 at the AMC Support Industry Precinct (SIP) are nearing completion.

Set to be the final land releases at the SIP, Stages 4 and 5 will make a further 15 lots available at the highly successful and sold out precinct.

"More than 120 businesses have located themselves at the AMC so far and reaped enormous benefits from being clustered in close proximity to each other," Mr Willcock said.

Notwithstanding the current economic climate, demand for both projects are proving to be strong and potential purchasers should contact the dedicated sales agents Rocco Demaio from Jones Lang LaSalle on 0411 227 703 or Ben Widdowson from Watchtower on 0409 795 238.

The AMC is part of the Western Trade Coast, a strategic cluster of industry encompassing some of WA's major established industrial areas including the AMC, Kwinana Industrial Area, Rockingham Industry Zone and Latitude 32 Industry Zone.

Ends

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