



Floating jigsaw is coming together



Key milestones are being met in the construction of the AMC floating dock.

Scheduled to be available for operations in mid-2009, the floating dock construction is on-track. Recent key decisions have just been made about its operational management and the builder of the dock's new wharf.

The Self Propelled Modular Transporters (SPMT) system is also on track with the modules coming out of the factory (see picture below).

Strategic Marine's Marketing Manager Jamie Anderson said the floating dock construction is going to plan and when completed would be the most technically advanced floating dock in the world.



The sidewall modules at the CUF await the arrival of the floating dock pontoon.



"While a few docks have automated ballasting systems, and others are fitted with simple manoeuvrability systems, none possess the highly advanced control systems and system integration our design incorporates," Mr Anderson said.

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By George – Georgiou got it!

Western Australian civil engineering company, Georgiou Group, has won the contract to build a new transfer and lay-by wharf at the AMC Common User Facility (CUF).

The wharf will complement the CUF's new floating dock and Self Propelled Modular Transporters (SPMT) system.

Georgiou Group CEO John Georgiou said the project provided an excellent opportunity for Georgiou Group's new engineering division to continue its growth in the industry.

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Minister's Foreword

As Western Australia's (WA) new Minister for Commerce, Science and Innovation, it is very gratifying to support the AMC and the Common User Facility (CUF), which has achieved exceptional success since it was initiated by the Court Government in 1998/99.



The Barnett Government's new direction for WA will continue to ensure this success. We recognise that industry development is the backbone of our economy and will work on policy that will ensure the State wins more new projects. More projects mean more opportunities for local industry to participate in servicing the requirements of these projects.

I see the AMC as a corner stone for the resources industry, with the potential to generate even more local, national and international industry commitment and participation.

I am very pleased to see many of the fabrication and construction projects that take place at the CUF are for major projects located in WA's regional areas - a big win for everyone.

Having education institutions, such as the award winning Challenger TAFE's Australian Centre for Process and Energy Training and the WA Centre for Applied Engineering and Shipbuilding, in close proximity to companies within the AMC creates work and apprenticeship benefits for students and industry alike. These informal partnerships are developing people with the knowledge and skills for the future growth of industry.

This edition of *AMC News* features a story that exemplifies the Court Government's vision all those years ago. It is a story on the benefits of clustering complementary companies in one location. Divex's project is a prime example of the cost and time savings that can be felt by building relationships with quality service providers in your local area.

A visiting UK fellow, Dr Nigel Gee, also discusses marine technology and the need for WA to stay abreast of technology developments. The AMC's new Technology Precinct will help to ensure this becomes a reality.

The AMC has been endorsed by the Liberal Government since its inception and I will continue to support its operation.

The Hon Troy Buswell MLA
Minister for Commerce; Science and Innovation

Floating jigsaw is coming together continued

"The floating dock project is right on schedule. Our next milestone will be the launch of the base pontoon from our Vietnamese yard.

"The pontoon, comprising the ballast tanks, will be transported to the AMC's Common User Facility (CUF) aboard a semi-submersible heavy-lift ship, and is due to arrive in early December. Once there, the pontoon will be fitted with the sidewall modules and the mechanical and electrical systems, turning it into a functioning dock."

Six sidewall modules will house the main power, electrical, mechanical, manoeuvring and control equipment that is needed to operate the dock. In the deep sink state, only two metres of these large structures will be above the water line - with 16.5 metres submerged.

Project Director Mike Bailey said some significant milestones would be met in the coming months.

"Although supported by overseas companies, this

is essentially an Australian project. AMC based, Phillips Engineering, is completing the sidewalls and will progressively outfit the structures with equipment and machinery prior to installation," Mr Bailey said.

"In addition, fabrication contracts for the pontoon roadway and for docking cradles are also underway in the AMC.

"The sidewall modules will be moved from Phillips Engineering's workshop to the CUF between October and December. During the subsequent six months, systems will be progressively brought on-line before proving trials begin in June."

The remainder of the systems, equipment and machinery is currently progressing through factory acceptance testing. The four main dewatering pumps have already been successfully trialled and are ready for installation. When operational, these will be able to pump 17,000 tonnes of water per hour.

By George - Georgiou got it!

continued

"The project will further enhance Georgiou's reputation in the marine and heavy civil construction fields, while also putting one of our great project teams on display," Mr Georgiou said.

"The project is a challenging one because it includes a number of different aspects and trades, all working simultaneously in and around a working wharf environment."

The floating dock will abut the transfer wharf allowing for the transfer of vessels, using the SPMT system, to the hardstand area of the CUF for repair and maintenance work.

The works also include the installation of essential utilities including power, communications, lighting, fire and water mains, fresh water mains, sewage, and stormwater drainage to service the floating dock and the adjacent ASC workshop, where the submarines will be repaired and serviced.

Mr Georgiou said the company would continue to liaise with LandCorp and AMC Management (WA) Pty Ltd to ensure any disruptions created by the project are kept to an absolute minimum.

The wharf is expected to be completed in March 2009, before the floating dock and SPMT system are delivered.

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FMC Technologies Vice President Tore Halvorson and Anne Nolan discuss opportunities in WA.



Anne Nolan at the department's booth.

Norway welcomes DoIR's new DG

New Director General of the Department of Industry and Resources (DoIR), Anne Nolan, slipped straight into the role when she attended one of the world's biggest energy exhibitions within her first month as head of the department.

Leading a small Western Australian (WA) delegation, Anne undertook the task of

promoting the State's thriving oil and gas capabilities at the Offshore Northern Seas (ONS) Exhibition and Conference Festival in Stavanger, Norway, held on 26 to 29 August 2008.

Until the Ekofisk oil field was discovered in 1969, Stavanger was just a poor fishing town. Now, it is one of the richest destinations in the European Union, the world's third largest exporter of gas and the fifth largest exporter of oil.

For four days, ONS focuses on innovation and the latest in technological research and developments in the oil and gas realm. It brings together leaders from the world's oil and gas industry, government and science, to build opportunities, form mutually beneficial business relationships, and to learn and discover.

Anne has agreed to share with us the highlights from her four-day visit to the ONS Exhibition and Conference Festival.

A DG's diary – from Anne Nolan

You can draw many similarities between Stavanger and WA. Just as WA is Australia's number one resources investment destination, Stavanger is Norway's *oil capital*. Norway has a strong culture of innovation and that is something WA can learn from.

The department had three aims for this trip - to attract Norwegian companies to engage in WA; to attract skilled engineers and geoscientists to immigrate to WA; and to attract oil and gas operators to WA.

A big ask you might say, but we had access to more than 41,000 delegates from the global oil and gas industry.

Our booth at the exhibition received strong interest and a WA delegation was also there to promote WA's capabilities. The delegation comprised of key influential oil and gas representatives - Director of UWA's Energy Initiative Tim Shanahan; AMC Management (WA)'s Jonathon Smith; WA's London Office Stuart Russell; DoIR Project Manager Jim Leven; and WA's representative for INTSOK Rob Parker.

During the four days I was in Stavanger, my daily schedule consisted of back-to-back meetings with some of the biggest players in the oil and gas industry.

I met with the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD), FMC Technologies, VetcoGray, Cameron, Marintek, Risavika Gas Centre and Nemo Engineering AS.

A meeting with NPD, an oil and gas industry regulator for the Norwegian Government, and the Norwegian Petroleum Ministry was very interesting. It highlighted the similar challenges and opportunities from a policy and regulation perspective in WA and Norway. Comparing their approach could be very useful for WA.

The meeting with Norway's national petroleum producer, StatoilHydro, may open the doors to the possibility of them establishing operations in WA. Already located in 39 countries around the world, StatoilHydro is currently investigating potential opportunities here. They have

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A DG's diary – from Anne Nolan

also requested further information on the tight gas opportunities in the Perth Basin.

A meeting with Cameron was positive, with Cameron also indicating an interest in locating a facility in the AMC subsea cluster development.

I also made a presentation at the LNG forum to more than 300 delegates who were keen to learn about future expectations for our gas industry, as well as current opportunities in WA.

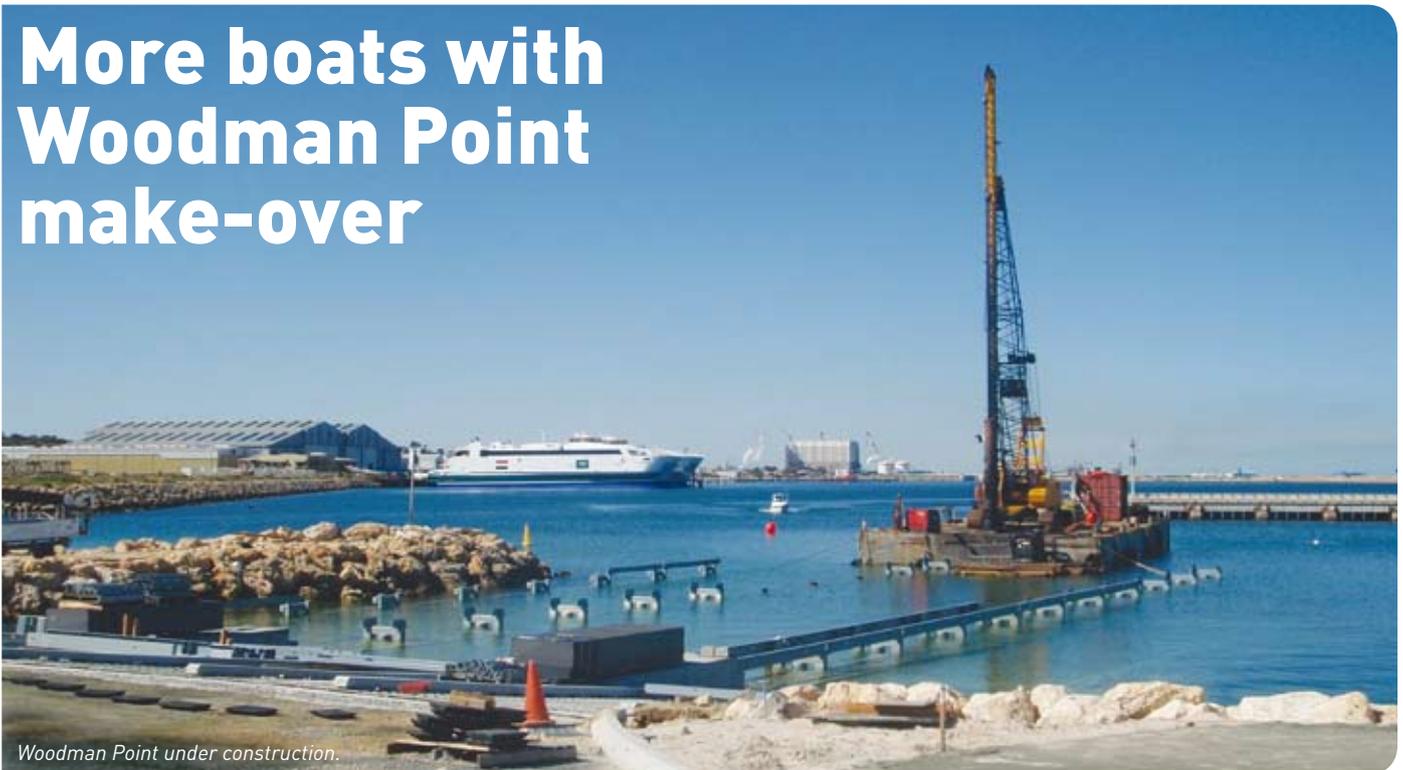
Our success at ONS was apparent just one week after the event, when a Norwegian engineering company, Nemo Engineering AS, flew two representatives to Perth to tour the AMC.

Nemo Engineering AS provides turn key and bespoke engineering for the offshore industry, mainly in pipeline projects. They also specialise in the design and delivery of small and medium-sized subsea structures.

Nemo is already doing business in Australia and there is a possibility that they will open a workshop in Australia, possibly at the AMC.

Overall the result achieved over these four days was impressive and there is no doubt that people all over the world who are involved in oil and gas are catching onto the WA opportunities for exploration, our capabilities in innovative technologies and our exceptional and growing services industries.

More boats with Woodman Point make-over



Woodman Point under construction.

The first stage of the Woodman Point boat ramp upgrade is nearing completion.

The very popular Woodman Point boat ramp is undergoing a face-lift to increase the boat-launching capacity for Perth's recreational boat enthusiasts.

Now deemed the fifth precinct within the AMC, the Woodman Point Recreational Boat Precinct is already one of Perth's busiest recreational boat ramps.

The site now boasts eight boat-launching ramps and includes two additional holding jetties as well as a floating universal access jetty. Access roads and footpaths, rock revetments, drainage and minor works including fencing, barriers and signage have also been incorporated.

Work will continue on the first stage of the boat launching facility upgrade with a sealed parking area for 350 cars and trailers being built to help ease congestion for boat owners.

The next stage will incorporate a 300-vessel boat stacking facility, and the development of a light marine industry including boating-related retail space and industrial areas. Expressions of



Woodman Point under construction.

Interest are still being considered for the operation of the boat stacking facility.

The \$3 million first stage upgrade is being completed by local civil construction and mining company, WATPAC JMS Civil and Mining Pty Ltd.

To keep up-to-date on the latest developments at the site visit <http://www.dpi.wa.gov.au/woodmanpoint>

UK naval architect in town

World-leading naval architect, Dr Nigel Gee, is in Perth as the Innovator-in-Residence for the Centre for Marine Science and Technology (CMST) at Curtin University of Technology.

He was also a special guest speaker at the October AMC Stakeholders Forum.

In Perth until the end of January next year, Dr Gee answered some of our questions about what Western Australia (WA) can do to stay ahead of the marine technology game.

Dr Gee's passion for naval architecture began at an early age through a fascination with ships and the sea.

His achievements include the design of the world's fastest naval vessel for the US Navy – the 1500 tonne, 55 knot, X-craft – as well as the design of the world's fastest passenger catamaran. Dr Gee is best known for his groundbreaking pentamaran ship design. He also started the specialised ships and boats design company, Nigel Gee and Associates, now BMT Nigel Gee.

Dr Gee said the brief from Curtin involved looking at marine innovation from the standpoint of industry and academia.

"Specifically how they interact, their research needs, education and training needs, and the impact of innovation on the wider community in WA," Dr Gee said.

He believes WA is among the world-leaders in the design, development and build of advanced high-speed ships and boats, and in other leading edge technology areas. Historically this has been due to the efforts of a wide spectrum of local businesses, innovators, university research centres and the State and Federal Governments.

"To stay at the leading edge of marine technology, the talent of the engineering community in WA needs to be supported and encouraged to continue to innovate," he said.

"Industry, the Australian Defence Force, universities and other research centres clearly have a major role here, but innovation and further development can be accelerated with appropriate financial support from the State and Federal Governments."

One of the big questions for the marine technology community is its future direction. Dr Gee believes future research needs will be driven by the requirements of the subsea oil and gas industry, the Australian Defence Force's future naval programs including the Collins class submarine replacement, and the continuing needs of the successful fast ship industry.

"I think physical co-location of people and businesses is fundamental to achieving progress in innovation."

He also suggests two drivers will have particular importance in the future, rising fuel prices and the current world recession. He said rising fuel prices coupled with increasing congestion of land-based transport will force transport businesses to look at transporting more goods by sea.

"This presents significant opportunities for WA's boat builders, there will be a need to develop more efficient ships

across a wide size and speed spectrum," he said.

"Secondly, we have been threatened during the last few weeks with a world-wide recession due to problems in the banking sector."

Other factors include:

- A probable slowdown in demand for the small leisure craft industry.
- A possible slowing of orders for super-yachts (this is far from certain as the mega-rich often survive recessions very well).
- A probable tightening of defence budgets.
- A probable fall in demand for new fast ferries, but perhaps an increase in demand for fuel-efficient medium-speed ferries.
- A continuing demand for freight vessels.

Dr Gee said educating children in early years was the key to helping the skill shortages in science and engineering.

"More of today's children would be interested in careers in science and engineering if they were better informed of the opportunities early in their schooling," he said.

"Together with Curtin, I am planning a number of visits to schools here, in the hope of informing young people of the possibilities for rewarding careers in these fields."

Dr Gee's visit is perfectly timed, as progress to the Central Services Facility (CSF), in the AMC Technology Precinct, is nearing completion.

Dr Gee said clustering of related businesses in a fairly small geographical area works well.



The new Central Services Facility is nearing completion.

Companies located together, play together!



A commercial diver welds deep under the ocean.

Companies co-locating, or *clustering*, at the AMC are reaping the benefits of being located in close proximity to each other to gain mutual benefits.

One such example is a successful partnership between Divex Asia Pacific and Modular Engineering that began in 2006, and has since evolved to incorporate many other companies located at the AMC.

Divex, located at 1 Success Way, is the largest supplier of commercial and defence diving technology and equipment in the Asia Pacific region. The company is currently working on three orders for a special diving system that allows divers to work in hostile environments deep under the ocean.

The Saturation Diving System is a pressurised living quarter for divers working in an oil field environment. The system allows divers to go deeper under water, up to 300 metres in depth, and stay under the water longer, up to eight hours a day.

A diver under normal conditions can only dive 50 metres deep, a very big difference.

Each system comprises of two decompression chambers where six divers live, a transfer chamber for divers to change into their diving suits, a diving bell which is lowered into the water by a winch, a rescue chamber for emergencies and two control containers which house the important equipment that keeps the divers alive.

It is important that the Divex workshop is kept as clean as possible due to the sensitive hi-tech equipment it is installing into the system, so the company outsources the *dirty* work to other companies which have the expertise and workshop space to complete it.

So what are the benefits of clustering?

Probably two of the biggest concerns in business is time and cost, and these are definitely two of the biggest benefits of clustering.

Divex's Managing Director Doug Austin said they saved money and time by clustering for this important project to make systems that provide life-support for divers.

"This is the first time a Saturation Diving System has been made in Australia, and we haven't had to look too far for suppliers," Mr Austin said.

"Almost all of our suppliers are based at the AMC and I know our suppliers, such as Modular Engineering also outsource additional services to AMC based companies.

"Effectively, this saves us time and money but more importantly, I know I can trust them to do a good job because they have proven themselves professionally, and you can't compromise on quality when you have 12 lives to think about."

AMC based Modular Engineering, an ISO 9001 accredited steel fabrication company, fabricated the Lloyds Class, BS 5500 design diving bell and decompression chambers in their Sparks Road facility, using as many as seven sub-suppliers located at the AMC.

Modular Engineering Director John Davies said even the simple task of transporting a decompression chamber that weighs 17 tonnes for surface treatment can be expensive but using a supplier located just one street away cuts this cost significantly.

“Working close to your suppliers simplifies the process of vendor prequalification, quality control and activity surveillance, and we save time, money and a lot of stress,” Mr Davies said.

“Savings can then be passed onto the client, in this case Divex, making it a very cost effective way to do business.

“We know most of our suppliers personally and by continually building these relationships we all benefit. By knowing your suppliers and your suppliers knowing you and your expectations, it takes a lot of uncertainty out of a job.”

Another key supplier at the AMC, Westralian Engineering, were approached by Divex to carry out the total mechanical manufacture of the launch and recovery lifting systems, dive compression skids that hold the divers saturation vessels and winch base skid.

Westralian Engineering Managing Director Frank Mastaglia said working in the same vicinity as a supplier can make a job a lot easier.

“It allows the client to have continual contact with the manufacturer,” Mr Mastaglia said.

“This is very important considering the complexity of the project. You are basically there face-to-face and eliminate any costly down time.”

Rigtech Energy Managing Director Kristian Smith located on Alacrity Place in the Fabrication Precinct said they constructed the containers to house the saturation and dive control systems.

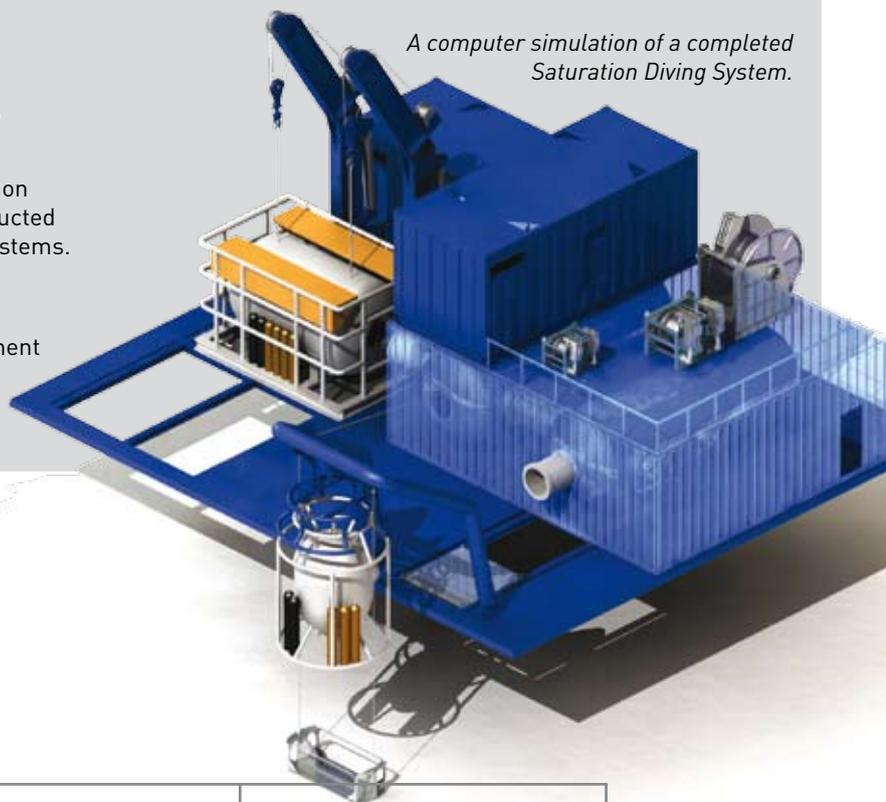
“Made to marine order standards, Rigtech fabricated the purpose built containers. Constructed with custom penetrations, the containers will be used to house equipment such as air conditioning, marine windows and doors, and electrical and tubular entries,” Mr Smith said.

“Predominantly a large portion of our business comes from the offshore industry on the North West Shelf of WA but in the past six months we have picked up a lot of workshop engineering work from the Henderson area. Our clients now include Divex, Rigcool and Unirig.”

By using businesses in the local area Divex, and in turn Modular Engineering, have created opportunities for suppliers at the AMC. This effect is also replicated by other companies within the complex and is one of the reasons the AMC is thriving.

Mr Smith said Rigtech does not currently use other businesses in the AMC, but as they expand it is inevitable that they will call upon their neighbours. This is even stated in their business plan.

For a comprehensive list of companies at the AMC who can help you with your next project, visit www.australianmarinecomplex.com.au and click on the business directory link.



A computer simulation of a completed Saturation Diving System.

AMC companies unite

This chart shows the AMC suppliers who were used on the Divex project.

Divex Asia Pacific Pty Ltd
1 Success Way
Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9437 6800
www.divex.co.uk

Modular Engineering Company Pty Ltd
Lot 163 Sparks Road
Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9410 1555
www.modularengineering.com.au

Rigtech Energy
73 Alacrity Place
Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9437 1098
www.rigtech.com.au

Westralian Engineering Services Pty Ltd
23b Possner Way
Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9437 5455
www.weseng.com.au/

Unirig Pty Ltd
10 Sparks Road
Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9410 2480
www.unirig.com.au

Marine Inspection Services
NATA Certified Non-Destructive Testing
8 Egmont Road
Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9437 6155

Air Liquide WA
Industrial Gas Supplies
3 Channel Close, Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9312 9100
www.airliquidewa.com.au

Acacia Corrosion Control
Surface treatment
16 Possner Way
Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9437 5527

Australian Pressure Testing Services
NATA certified hydrostatic pressure testing
22 Sparks Road, Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9437 3099
www.pressuretesting.com.au

Tru-Blu Group
Specialist equipment hire
2 Egmont Road, Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9437 6433
www.trublugroup.com

Cockburn Engraving
Stainless steel nameplates
139 Sparks Road
Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 94371236

Interloy
Alloy steels
39 Sparks Road, Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9437 2822
www.interloy.com.au

Alphablast
Lot 560 Sparks Road
Henderson WA 6166
Phone: +61 8 9437 3055
www.alphablast.com.au

Common User Facility update

The sheer size of the condensate tanks for the Blacktip project are on display next to the CUF Main Fabrication Hall.



Bon Voyage Blacktip

One of the most significant projects undertaken at the CUF was farewelled recently when the Blacktip Wellhead Platform and onshore condensate tanks left for the Bonaparte Gulf in October.

Ausclad Group of Companies (AGC), under contract from Saipem, completed the multi-million dollar project in 15 months which included material procurement, supply, fabrication, assembly and construction of an unmanned wellhead gas topside platform. This included the jacket substructure, topside platform, buoyancy tanks, piles, grillage and sea fastenings, with a total weight of around 2800 tonnes.

Load-out of the Blacktip components was a massive operation that was carried out in three stages.

Multi wheeled transporters were used to move the jacket, topside platform and tanks from the fabrication areas to the wharfs where they were loaded onto barges including the Mermaid Guardian and Seatow.

Owned and operated by ENI Australia, the Blacktip Platform is stationed in an offshore gas field in the Bonaparte Basin, 250 kilometres south west of Darwin. The gas is transported by pipeline to an onshore gas processing plant currently under construction near Wadeye in the Northern Territory.

Success breeds success

The success of Blacktip has led to bigger and better things at the CUF with AGC set to use the AMC once again to build Apache's Reindeer offshore gas development project.

The multi-million dollar contract includes the fabrication of a wellhead topside platform as well as material procurement, supply, fabrication, testing, assembly and load-out of the structure.

The offshore production facility will consist of a fully-integrated topside

platform, jackets, piles, load-out barge skid rails and buoyancy tanks.

Like Blacktip, the components of the wellhead topside platform and associated structures will be pre-fabricated at AGC's fabrication workshops in Kwinana while final assembly and load-out of the offshore structure will take place at the CUF.

Work will begin soon with project completion scheduled for September 2009.

Sign of the times

The Australian Marine Complex brand is known the world over as a centre of excellence for servicing the marine, defence, resource and oil and gas industries.

Now it's even more recognisable at a local level.

New signage, measuring up to 10 metres, sporting the Australian Marine Complex name, logo and website was recently erected at the CUF's Main Fabrication Hall and Shipbuilding Hall.

More signage will be installed around the AMC as part of on-going efforts to enhance the look and working environment of the facility.

Dial AMC Management to use the floating dock

AMC Management (WA) Pty Ltd has been selected as the preferred proponent to manage the operation of the floating dock and the Self Propelled Modular Transporters (SPMT) system.

AMC Management (WA) Pty Ltd General Manager Richard Clark said this was a significant enhancement to the capabilities that the Common User Facility (CUF) could offer WA-based businesses.

"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 them 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."

AMC Management (WA) Pty Ltd already manages the operations of the CUF and the contract will ensure that the floating dock and the SPMT are fully integrated into the CUF operations.

LandCorp Business Manager Luke Willcock said LandCorp is looking forward to working with AMC Management (WA) Pty Ltd as they have the significant skills and experience to ensure the first-class operation of the AMC-CUF.

Contract negotiations are still continuing between LandCorp and AMC Management (WA) Pty Ltd.

Land sales update

Subsea cluster plans progress

The AMC is further cementing its reputation as the Asia-Pacific region's premier oil and gas capital, with the construction of a subsea cluster to begin this November.

The subsea cluster will feature 17 lots, up to three hectares in size, with opportunities for freehold and leasehold contracts. Pre-sales are expected to commence before the end of the year and LandCorp is keen to talk with companies who specialise in subsea oil and gas operations.

Support Industry Precinct - Stage 4 on the way

Planning is currently underway for the release of a further 15 lots of land under Stage 4 and 5 of the AMC Support Industry Precinct.

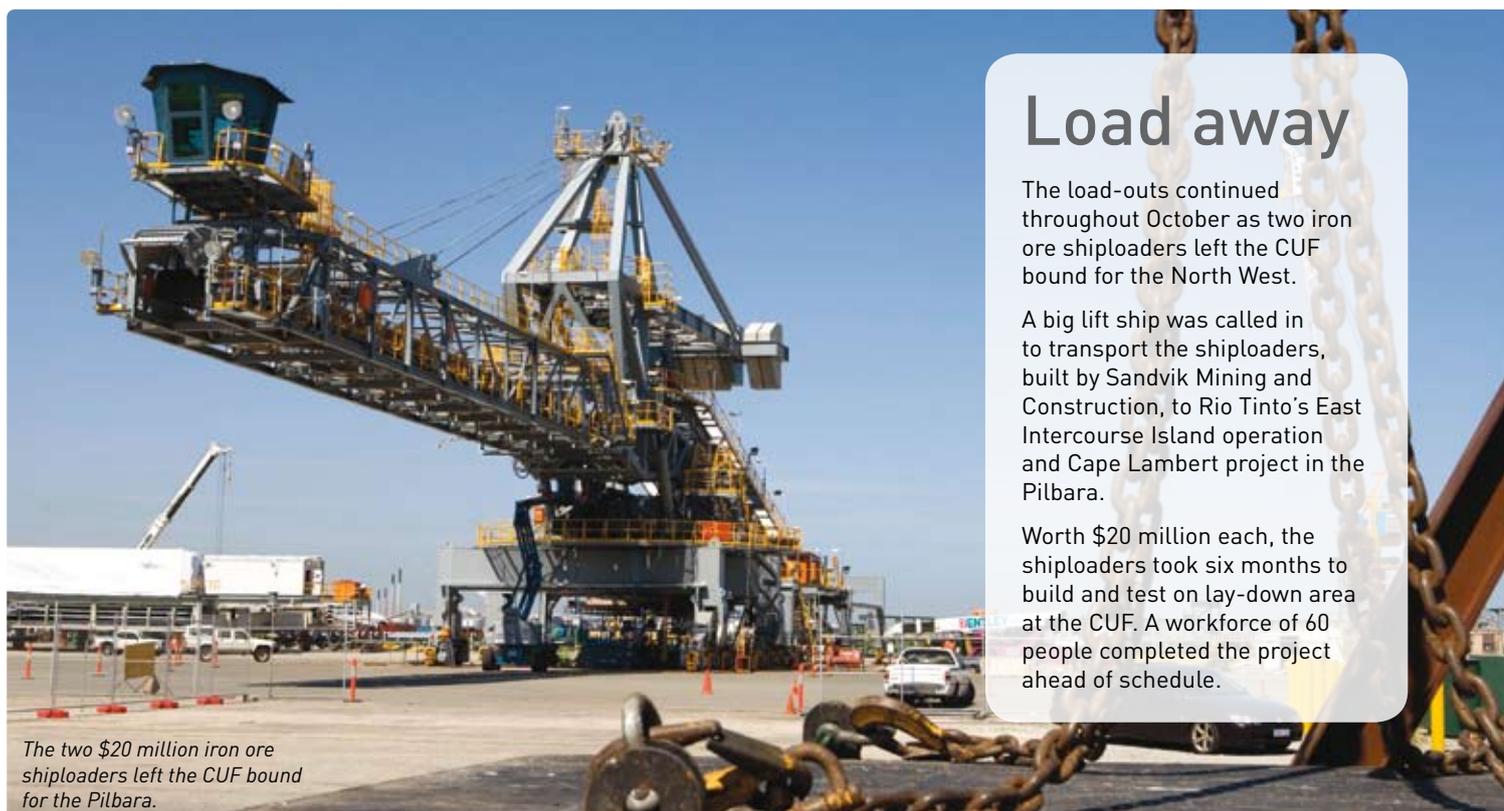
Special Use criteria will apply, with lots only available to compatible companies in the oil and gas, marine and defence sectors.

To coincide with the Stage 4 works, LandCorp has committed around \$1 million to the rehabilitation and enhancement of adjacent bushland and public open space.

This will be the final stage of development within the Support Industry Precinct, so interested parties should contact the agents about the first release which is scheduled for the end of 2008.

Further information

For more information about current land releases within the AMC, visit www.australianmarinecomplex.com.au or contact selling agents Ben Widdowson or Matthew Lyford at Watchtower Real Estate on +61 8 9478 5777 or Rocco Demaio at Jones Lang Laselle on +61 8 9322 5111



The two \$20 million iron ore shiploaders left the CUF bound for the Pilbara.

Load away

The load-outs continued throughout October as two iron ore shiploaders left the CUF bound for the North West.

A big lift ship was called in to transport the shiploaders, built by Sandvik Mining and Construction, to Rio Tinto's East Intercourse Island operation and Cape Lambert project in the Pilbara.

Worth \$20 million each, the shiploaders took six months to build and test on lay-down area at the CUF. A workforce of 60 people completed the project ahead of schedule.

Industry and Export finalists



Celebrating 20 years of stellar achievement

Two companies located at the AMC are finalists in the 2008 WA Industry and Export Awards.

Divex Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, also featured on page six, is a finalist in the Small to Medium Manufacturer Export Award.

In the Large Advanced Manufacturer Export Award category, the second AMC finalist is Strategic Marine, a dynamic shipbuilding company with a growing reputation for producing quality, high performance commercial vessels for markets across the world.

The WA Industry and Export Awards are celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. During the past 20 years, the Awards program has provided support and recognition to hundreds of WA businesses, in many cases providing a launching pad for bigger and better business.

Divex has previously had success in the WA Industry and Export Awards, taking out the Small to Medium Manufacturer Export Award. It also won the Emerging Exporter category in 2006.

Divex manufactures and supplies its equipment to the military, professional and commercial diving sectors. Due to the innovative design and high-quality of its products, the company has won contracts in Singapore, Egypt, India and China.

Divex occupies two premises at the AMC to build its current orders of saturation diving systems, re-breathers, together with servicing and the provision of ancillary products and spare parts.

This is the first year that Strategic Marine has entered the Awards. In its seven years of operation, the company has established shipyards in WA, Singapore, Vietnam and Mexico.

In the past year, its business has expanded considerably with a move into steel shipbuilding following the establishment of its Vietnamese yard. It has since won several multi-million-dollar contracts for large steel vessels.

The category winners for the Awards will be announced on 31 October. The WA Industry and Export Awards are part of a national awards program. All WA export category winners automatically compete as finalists in the Australian Export Awards which will be held in Melbourne in December.

Paper visit brings praise

The Defence White Paper Community Consultation Panel visited the AMC as part of its Australia-wide consultation program.

The White Paper is a Federal Government Department of Defence planning document that will form the foundation of Australia's future defence capabilities. A series of accompanying reviews have also

been commissioned and this will play a part in developing defence business and budget priorities out to 2030.

Community Consultation Program Chair Stephen Loosely praised the AMC as a great model to develop industry for the State's benefit.

Welcome to United Industries WA

WA fabrication company, United Industries WA Pty Ltd, has relocated to the AMC.

Located in the Fabrication Precinct on 16,500 square metres of land, the new purpose-built facility features two workshops for heavy and light fabrication, as well as lay-down areas for storage.

United Industries WA has 35 years experience in industrial and commercial heavy steel fabrication, acoustics solutions, insulation and cladding, and general fabrication. The company provides engineering solutions for the mining, oil and gas, industrial and commercial sectors.

United Industries Managing Director Guy Galati said the expansion would allow the

company to further maximise the current opportunities in the mining industry.

"Since our move we have doubled our turnover and have employed an extra 70 workers, taking our total to 150," he said.

"We have new contracts with Fortescue Metals Group and Team 45, and are constantly tendering for new work.

"Our bigger workshops have allowed us to take on more work while continuing to deliver a reliable and professional service for our new and existing clients."

New equipment has been purchased to further improve United Industries work capacity. This includes a 1203 DBZ fully automated beam line, a fully automated TIPO D8 plate processor and a Licolne Plasma high definition plasma cutter with a 4.5 metre by 13.5 metre bed size.

Going forward, United Industries is getting ready to grow even further and

has purchased Lot 2 and Lot 207 in the Fabrication Precinct at the AMC.

"We will use this land to diversify our business base by focusing on the oil and gas sector, as well as increase our current capacity in mining," Mr Galati said.

"Our new land, leading-edge equipment and our convenient location at the AMC will provide us with a competitive edge over our competitors here and abroad. This is a very exciting time for United Industries."

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Kevin Ugle honed his skills on ACEPT's process plant.

ACEPT students back a winner

After less than a year of operation, the Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training (ACEPT) at the AMC is proving to be a winning formula.

Not only are students helping to fill the skills shortage in the oil and gas sector, but they are winning awards while doing it.

Kevin Ugle and Jeremy Walker were among the first students to walk through the doors at ACEPT, and have both now won top honours in the recent Challenger TAFE awards.

Kevin Ugle, joint winner of the top student award and outright winner of the top Aboriginal student award, completed Certificate III in Process Plant Operations and is now working for Woodside off the coast of Karratha.

Kevin, now a qualified oil and gas process operator, realised this was his perfect career after spending time working offshore.

Vocational award winner, Jeremy Walker, completed Certificate IV in Process Plant Operations at ACEPT. Jeremy is now working at Apache's Stag Platform and says the opportunities for his career as a production technician are endless.

Challenger TAFE's Managing Director, Liz Harris, said Kevin and Jeremy were great examples of how ACEPT's training programs were meeting industry needs.

"The outstanding achievements of Kevin and Jeremy underscore why more and more industries in the oil and gas, minerals and chemical processing sectors are looking to ensure their workers are formally qualified," she said.

"ACEPT training meets the demand for higher skills and facilitates industry expansion while promoting safety awareness and satisfying tougher regulatory requirements."

ACEPT runs courses all year round. Check out the website for more information <http://www.challengertafe.wa.edu.au/>

Royston comes to Perth

UK-based diesel engineering company Royston has set up a permanent base at the AMC with the purchase of local company, Power Station & Marine Services (PSMS).

Royston Managing Director Lawrence Brown said Royston's existing Australian customer base, and its focus on the defence, marine and offshore industries made Perth the logical choice for its new centre.

"We are delighted with the acquisition of PSMS and the opportunity it provides to develop our operations while offering a world-class level of sales, service and support to the diesel power industry, across the Southern Hemisphere," he said.

PSMS, a successful diesel engine repair and maintenance company, works closely with international offshore vessel and tug operators and currently employs six engineers.

Royston Commercial Director Sarah Wade said the acquisition will help Royston attract international customers by further enhancing its attractiveness to businesses in the Southern Hemisphere.

"The PSMS takeover is a stepping point to the rest of the world and will have an impact on recruitment in WA as PSMS Royston grows," Ms Wade said.

"Two more UK engineers have recently arrived and commenced work at the PSMS base in the AMC. More employees have been seconded and are expected to arrive in the coming months."



The new Perth operation will help Royston excel in the Southern Hemisphere.

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Defence work bigger at the AMC

Work being performed on HMAS ships Warramunga and Arunta1 for the Royal Australian Navy by BAE Systems.



BAE Systems Australia is in the defence top-seat following its recent acquisition of Tenix Defence.

BAE Systems Australia has now taken over Tenix Defence's water-front workshop in Quill Way at the AMC, as well as its other workshops in Australia.

BAE Systems is a global company with six home markets, including Australia. BAE Systems Australia will integrate Tenix Defence's operations into its existing processes, making it the largest defence supplier to the Australian Defence Force.

BAE Systems is a global defence and aerospace company that delivers a full range of products and services for air, land and naval forces, as well as advanced electronics, information technology solutions and customer support services.

Opening new opportunities in the maritime, land, joint and aerospace markets, BAE Systems Australia is now responsible for a major naval portfolio, one of Tenix Defence's strengths.

BAE Systems Australia Head of Communications Jim Parkes said the company was committed to a strategy to grow a footprint and presence in key home markets.

"The acquisition of Tenix Defence almost doubles BAE Systems presence in Australia and means that BAE Systems now provides an unrivalled depth of capability in the defence market," Mr Parkes said.

"It is a great step towards strengthening our position as a through-life capability partner to the Australian Defence Force."

With around 440 employees in WA and two bases at the AMC, BAE Systems Australia is a strong force locally and globally.

"The ability to leverage the skills and technologies from other parts of the global company combined with our significant in-country capability, means that BAE Systems will provide a real advantage to our customer."

BAE Systems Australia's two workshops at the AMC primarily develop communications systems for defence units, oil and gas platforms and FPSO, remote mining, transport, resource and energy operations as well as naval vessels for the Royal Australian Navy.

To accommodate the changes after the Tenix Defence take over, BAE Systems Australia has restructured their organisation to reflect its new presence in key sectors, but operations continue as usual at both of the AMC workshops.

Mr Parkes said the future for BAE Systems was very clear and the opportunities were very exciting.

"We are proud of our 50 year history of investment in Australia's defence industry capability, a tradition that will continue in the future. We are also confident that by combining Tenix Defence with BAE Systems, our overall capabilities will be strengthened for the benefit of our key customer."

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PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY IN THE AMC NEWS

The AMC News is received by more than 2000 readers including other businesses within the AMC, key industry representatives from many organisations, local councils and the media. This newsletter is a great way to promote your business and the new ventures at the AMC. In each issue we profile different companies within the Shipbuilding, Fabrication, Technology and Support Industry Precincts as well as activities in the Common User Facility.

So if you have some news or a story to tell about what your company is up to at the AMC contact:
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