

Media Release

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Australian Marine Complex - A Module for Success

A revolution in preassembly construction methods being pioneered in Western Australia at the Australian Marine Complex (AMC) will continue to drive the state's resources boom by delivering major infrastructure projects.

Modular construction, a method involving the preassembly of components into transportable parts, is seen as the way of the future and is being readily adopted by the resources, defence and maritime industries.

"Modular construction saves time and money over traditional methods as building components at a fabrication facility allows for more stringent quality control and shorter project schedules," AMC Management (WA) Pty Ltd General Manager Richard Clark said.

"Components can be commissioned and tested ahead of transportation eliminating the potential for time-consuming and expensive fitting errors in the field, while other factors including weather delays and in-air fieldwork are also minimised reducing the customer's risk and local labour costs."

The State Government developed the AMC Fabrication Precinct and Common User Facility (CUF) specifically to provide capacity for modular construction by supplying the infrastructure and resources to allow Australian companies to compete for major projects.

"This foresight has generated more than \$175 million worth of business and 1600 new jobs from projects using the CUF and its world class wharfs, laydown and fabrication facilities since opening in 2003," Mr Clark said.

More than 38 major modular construction activities have occurred at the AMC CUF in the four years it has been in operation and include:

- 3,000 tonne, 250m long iron ore loadout wharf and conveyor for Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) Port Hedland export facilities constructed by Thiess
- 750 tonne iron ore shiploader built by Sandvik for Rio Tinto and shipped to Dampier
- 500 tonne jacket constructed by the Ausclad Group of Companies (AGC) for Shell Todd's Pohokura gas field, New Zealand
- 430 tonne biodiesel refinery constructed by AGC for Natural Fuels Australia Limited and delivered to Darwin
- Platforms for Apache Energy's John Brookes and Linda fields off the north west coast

Mr Clark will make a presentation at the inaugural *Modular Construction and Pre Assembled Fabrication* national conference to be held in Perth on 27 November, 2007

Energy; Resources; Industry and Enterprise Minister Francis Logan will open the conference in recognition of the State's leading role in the development of this construction method.

Other Western Australian experts in this field will also present at the conference including Chief Operating Officer Austal Ships Pty Ltd (Henderson) Stephen Murdoch and Manager Strategy and Business Development United Group Infrastructure (Kwinana) Paul Birighitti.

Following the presentations, Mr Clark will lead delegates from across Australia on a site tour of the AMC Common User Facility to demonstrate the sophisticated fabrication and assembly infrastructure available to multiple concurrent users.

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