

WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE AUSTRALIAN MARINE COMPLEX

The Australian Marine Complex (AMC) has been performing from strength to strength, with major infrastructure projects enhancing its capabilities as a centre of excellence in the marine, defence and oil and gas industries.

The latest addition to the AMC is the world's most technologically advanced floating dock and transfer system.

Measuring 99 metres by 53 metres, the dock is capable of lifting vessels up to 12,000 tonnes for service and maintenance.

It can also transfer vessels and modules up to 3500 tonnes from water to land.

The new A\$60 million floating dock is part of a four-year A\$170 million upgrade to the AMC, which also includes a 512-wheeled self-propelled modular transporter system, the eastern wharf and a transfer wharf.

The floating dock and the self-propelled modular transporter have been named Yargan and Kaalil respectively, in recognition of the Henderson area's traditional owners, the Noongar people.

Department of Commerce Marine and Defence Branch General Manager John O'Hare said the dock's control system, in particular the manoeuvring system, made the AMC floating dock incomparable.

"No other floating dock in the world can move in more than one direction and very few docks have the ability to transfer and offload vessels," he said.

"The design of the floating dock also allows for a second stage to be built to adjoin the dock and provide an additional 132 metres docking capacity which can be used as required.

"The floating dock is expected to contribute more than A\$2 billion to the Western Australian economy in the next 25 years."

The AMC floating dock will provide significant benefits to national security by enabling the Royal Australian Navy Collins Class submarine fleet to be serviced at the AMC Common User Facility until at least 2032.

The dock will also service the needs of commercial shipbuilders, the superyacht industry as well as testing of underwater subsea structures for the oil and gas industry.

The world's largest aluminium shipbuilder Austal has already used the floating dock to undertake hull cleaning of its new 102 metre trimaran vehicle-passenger ferry.

The AMC floating dock is a joint initiative between the Department of Commerce, LandCorp and AMC Management Pty Ltd.

The strong reputation that the Australian Marine Complex has built over the years has enabled it to attract other major infrastructure projects that will strengthen its existing capabilities.

Civmec Construction and Engineering is building an A\$24 million undercover fabrication and assembly hall at the AMC.

At 27,000 square metres in size, the facility will be the largest space of its kind in Australia and cater for the marine, defence, oil and gas and resources industries.

Mr O'Hare said the impressive size of the workshop would enable the State to compete for larger scale fabrication and module assembly tenders from the marine, defence, petroleum and resources industries.

"This investment is expected to provide 650 new jobs and a thousand more indirectly from new work that will be brought into WA," he said.

Civmec's Chief Executive Officer Jim Fitzgerald said the facility would meet the need for a one-stop-shop for large and small scale module assembly in the State.

"Civmec's vision is to create a multi-disciplined company capable of serving the increasing demands of the resources, oil and gas and marine and defence sectors," Mr Fitzgerald said.

The workshop is estimated to be completed by the end of 2010, with completion of the office some 12 months later.

In addition to the fabrication and assembly hall, Matrix Composites and Engineering has recently announced it will occupy 8.4 hectares of land in the Australian Marine Complex's new Subsea Cluster.

Located next to the AMC Common User Facility, the Subsea Cluster is a



Austal using the AMC floating dock to undertake hull cleaning of its new 102 metre trimaran

20 hectare serviced area specifically suited to the requirements of the expanding subsea oil and gas industry.

Built in two stages, Matrix's new development will incorporate an integrated buoyancy manufacturing facility that includes bulk chemical storage, warehousing, composite sphere manufacturing, composite layup and casting, painting, dispatch and one of the world's largest full scale hyperbaric testing centres.

Matrix Business Development Manager Peter O'Brien said the new plant would incorporate some of the most sophisticated oil and gas testing equipment in the world.

"Once completed, our facility will house the world's largest syntactic foam buoyancy plant," he said.

"It will also have the capability to manufacture and test any size of riser and production buoyancy to water

depths of 16,500 feet (5030 metres). This equipment will more than double Matrix's current production capacity."

Mr O'Brien said the company's new facility at the AMC would consolidate its existing operating sites from six to two.

"The site's proximity to the ocean and Chevron's work at the new service and supply base was the deciding factor when we chose to relocate to the AMC," he said. ■