

NEW FABRICATION HALL FOR COMMON USER FACILITY

The Western Australian Government has pledged a further \$66 million to the Australian Marine Complex to increase common user infrastructure as part of the WA Defence Shipbuilding Strategy.

The funds include a \$6 million commitment by LandCorp to build a second fabrication hall in 2005 to increase the capacity of the existing facility, which has generated more than \$20 million in work for the local economy since the Common User Facility opened in July 2003.

Subject to a successful bid for work arising from \$2 billion of defence contracts to build two amphibious vessels for the Royal Australian Navy, the State Government, would also, as part of the pledge, commit \$60 million for specialist facilities to lift ships out of the water and relaunch them.

The Premier Dr Geoff Gallop announced the initiative on a recent site visit to the CUF's main fabrication hall where assembly work was underway on an oil and gas platform and mining trucks (see story inside). The event was attended by around 80 industry and Australian Marine Complex representatives.

Dr Gallop said that by investing in common user infrastructure, the Government was seeking to further develop the cluster of industries at the Australian Marine Complex and enhance the capacity of WA to compete for future naval defence contracts, as well as more work in the resources industries.

The Premier also announced that Commodore Mike Deeks would join the WA Government on retirement from the Royal Australian Navy to champion the State's interests at the Federal level to help capture more defence and shipbuilding contracts for Western Australia.

The Premier Dr Geoff Gallop with Henry Walker Eltin plant engineering superintendent Garry Brogden at the Common User Facility.



AUSTAL CELEBRATES LATEST LAUNCH

The largest aluminium ship ever constructed - *Benchijigua Express* - with the proud Austal workforce that built it. See page 2 for the full story.

TAFE TARGETS TECHNOLOGY PRECINCT



Challenger TAFE is leading a consortium of TAFEWA colleges looking to establish a \$13 million satellite campus at the Australian Marine Complex.

The new facility - due for completion in late 2006 - will become the "shop front" for Australian and international businesses wishing to access training associated with the marine and resources sectors. See page 6 for full story.



TRIMARAN ANOTHER AUSTAL FIRST



The *Benchijigua Express* at Austal's slipway in the Shipbuilding Precinct at the Australian Marine Complex.

Austal, a world leader in shipbuilding and a major employer within the Australian Marine Complex, has completed another groundbreaking project with the construction of the largest aluminium ship ever built.

The 127-metre cargo-vehicle-passenger ferry, bound for the Canary Islands, will sail loaded at speeds in excess of 40 knots, providing capacity for 1350 passengers and over 340 cars and trucks.

Austal chairman John Rothwell said construction of the fast ferry for Fred. Olsen, S.A. was the largest single project to be undertaken by Austal.

"The sight of this gigantic ship, the largest aluminium vessel to ever be built in the world, caused me to stop and reflect on where we have come from and what our future potential is," Mr Rothwell said.

At the height of construction approximately 430 people worked on the project. Construction took 12 months with an additional two months set aside for commissioning and sea trials.

For more information please visit www.austal.com

KEY GROUP - ENGINEERED FOR SUCCESS

Following recent expansions, the Key Group now has a \$3 million investment in land, equipment, facilities, and most importantly, people at the Australian Marine Complex.

With a reputation as a leader in the fields of general and precision engineering services, commercial ship repair and diving services, Key Group's focus is to build on 15 years of growth and success.

Comprised of a number of complimentary businesses, Key Group provides a wide range of services to Western Australian, Australian and international organisations including the mining, power generation, offshore oil and gas, bulk handling, chemicals, and petroleum refining industries, as well as both commercial and military ship repair.

Key Group sales and marketing manager Tony Borger said being located at the Australian Marine Complex was extremely beneficial for the ISO 9001 accredited company.

"One of the greatest benefits is the opportunity for ship repair, particularly as one of the very few MARAV (Master Agreement for the Repair and Alteration to Vessels for the US Naval Service) registered companies in WA," he said.

"We do about 40 per cent of the commercial ship repair that comes into town. With a complete commercial diving



Rubber lining of engine components reduces wear and improves safety.

facility, we can do anything from propeller polishing, to hull inspection, as well as video and still photography to Lloyds' international standards."

Mr Borger describes Key Group as a provider of solutions, rather than a service provider.

"Key Group prides itself on completeness of service. We engage with the client and genuinely try to get to the bottom of the problem, rather than just sell product and solve short-term issues. This service ethos has meant that we have a 90 per cent client loyalty rate over 15 years, rare in our industry."

For more information please visit www.keygroup.net.au

STRONG DEMAND FOR CUF



The success of the CUF's 'common user' capability has been well demonstrated since it opened in July 2003.

The Common User Facility (CUF) at the Australian Marine Complex has been highly successful, generating over \$20 million for the local economy in its first 18 months of operation.

The fully serviced state-of-the-art mobile fabrication hall has already been used to assemble modules for Woodside's Goodwyn platform, cryogenic pressure vessels for the Hismelt plant at Kwinana and assembly of a large product stacker for Comalco's bauxite operations in Weipa, Queensland. It was also used for the fabrication of the Linda offshore platform for Apache Energy.

Opened in July 2003, the \$200 million facility has proven of great benefit to more than 50 users, handling multiple projects from a number of diverse business sectors including defence, mining, oil and gas and marine services.

New projects for the CUF include assembly of the John Brookes platform for Apache Energy and joint venture partner Santos, laydown storage for Burrup Fertilisers and loadout of the first of two iron ore ship loaders for Dampier for Rio Tinto.

The CUF's clean safety, environmental and industrial record

in the first 18 months of operation is a great credit to the users and facility manager AMC Management. AMC Management manage the facility on behalf of LandCorp, the Western Australian Government's land development and asset management agency.

AMC Management general manager, Michael Bailey said with up to 10 users sharing the facility at any one time, the success of the facility's 'common user' capability had been well demonstrated.

"Larger projects are now realistic objectives for the future from all three of the targeted markets of oil and gas, marine and defence and the mining sector," Mr Bailey said.

"The CUF will be attractive to a number of the major defence contracts coming through Western Australia simply because the CUF's loadout, assembly and wharfing facilities are the best available in the country. They are also strategically located near Fleet Base West on Garden Island.

"Significant oil and gas projects in the pipeline and large-scale mining equipment projects are also targeting the CUF."

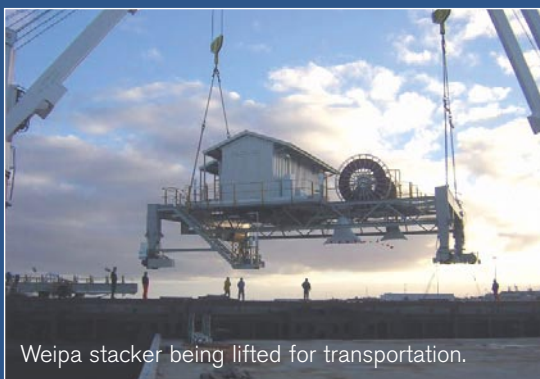
DAMPIER IRON ORE SHIP LOADER

August saw the commencement of assembly of Rio Tinto's iron ore ship loader for Dampier Port. The ship loader is one of two planned for the Dampier Port upgrade. The ship loader was manufactured by Voest-Alpine using the CUF laydown area for final assembly and loadout.

Loadout and delivery to site is scheduled for March 2005. The second ship loader is planned to follow with delivery in November 2005.



One of Voest Alpine's new ship loaders bound for Rio Tinto operations in Dampier.



Weipa stacker being lifted for transportation.

WEIPA STACKER

July 2004 saw the despatch of a product stacker for Comalco in Weipa, Queensland. The structure was manufactured locally and assembled at the CUF by P&H MinePro and Krupp Australia. The companies used both the main fabrication hall and the adjacent service areas. The work undertaken at the CUF involved a mix of structural, mechanical and electrical work, which was all completed in a timely manner to meet the transportation schedule.

JOHN BROOKES PLATFORM

Ausclad Group of Companies (AGC) utilised the CUF's fabrication hall to complete assembly of the \$5 million topside for the offshore John Brookes platform, on behalf of Apache Energy and joint venture partner Santos. The 11 metre high, 19 metre wide and 31 metre long topside will be loaded out at the 15,000 tonne wharf facility for shipment to the North West Shelf.



Apache Energy's John Brookes platform takes shape inside the CUF.



A mining truck is loaded for export.

MINING TRUCKS FOR EXPORT

The CUF was also recently home for Henry Walker Eltin (HWE) for the final assembly and testing of 17 coal trucks destined for the Indonesia's Bengalon coalmine. With a worldwide shortage of earthmoving equipment, HWE, with the assistance of Royal Equipment, identified and sourced redundant truck frames from the Pilbara's Mt Newman iron ore mine to meet demand.

Components and new engines were sourced from the around the globe and the trucks rebuilt to meet the latest specifications. The \$35 million project is due for completion in January 2005, with at least three shipping consignments to be loaded at the CUF for export to Indonesia from October 2004.

HUGE POTENTIAL AHEAD FOR WESTCOASTER

New Westcoaster Pty Ltd has a reputation for industry leading designs and adapting them to meet the needs of its local, national and international clients.

So it's not surprising that Australia's famous crocodile hunter, Steve Irwin, turned to Westcoaster when he required a 70ft purpose built expedition vessel.

Complete with a Hiab crane for lifting crocodile cages, a large swim platform for carrying shark cages, and twin keels for sitting on the bottom of tidal creeks and rivers, the vessel is one of six custom designed craft currently under construction at Westcoaster's 8700m² Australian Marine Complex facility.

Westcoaster chief executive Brian Hayes said the final design is based on Westcoaster's Maxi-Beam commercial hull design.

"The hull design is being built as a high-speed lobster day boat, live-aboard charter boat and long-line fishing vessel," said Mr Hayes.

Employing more than 55 workers and permanent subcontractors, the company manufactures a diverse range of pleasure, charter and commercial fishing vessels on site. Other craft currently under construction include a 62ft and a 67ft charter/pleasure cruiser.

Mr Hayes said the decision to move to the Australian Marine Complex in 1996 was based on "strength in numbers".

"While we were one of the first to locate in Possner Way, we knew other shipbuilders and suppliers were coming in to the area," he said.

"That provides an overall advantage. It is the simple things, like having local suppliers and deliveries coming in to all the shipyards.



Crikey! It's a purpose built expedition boat for Steve Irwin.

Today many of the State's premier manufacturers and suppliers are concentrated in the area, providing good service and back up."

Since the company began in 1995 Westcoaster has built a reputation as a supplier of high quality fibreglass and aluminium commercial charter and lobster vessels. It is also Australia's market leader in tuna longline fishing vessels.

"We are now targeting off-shore marine fisheries, the live-aboard dive charter boat market, the military and luxury pleasure craft market segments," Mr Hayes said.

"We have recently exported a tuna long line vessel to French Polynesia and a further two vessels are under construction for the New Caledonia market. Both of these countries offer huge potential for the future."

Westcoaster has also recently confirmed an order for seven 78ft vessels, for delivery in 2005 and 2006.

For more information see www.westcoaster.com.au

TAFE TARGETS TECHNOLOGY PRECINCT

Continued from page 1. TAFE has appointed a project director to evaluate the issues surrounding a transition from the current Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training (ACEPT) facility based at Subiaco to a location within the Technology Precinct. The project has strong industry support through the ACEPT Industry Board, chaired by Mr Keith Spence, chief operating officer, Woodside Energy Ltd.

The Australian Marine Complex was chosen as the preferred site for the training centre with the expectation that the complex will develop into a regional service centre for the oil and gas industry, supporting Indian Ocean rim countries. The facility was a key recommendation of last year's Burrup Skills Taskforce Report.

Challenger TAFE Defence and Resource Industries Division director John Scott said that with over \$40 billion worth of major projects either planned or committed in WA, there was huge demand for qualified engineering personnel at both trade and para-professional levels.

"Challenger TAFE is developing a stronger focus on the defence and resources sectors, so as to provide skilled workers to service the booming State economy," Mr Scott said.

The new facility has received support from the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association. APPEA director Don Sanders said APPEA members could be assured the training offered at the facility would be relevant, innovative and delivered to nationally accredited competency based standards.

"The need for competent, highly skilled and knowledgeable workers is fundamental to the success of the oil and gas industry, and the opportunities for young people wishing to enter an industry with a very bright future will be greatly enhanced through ACEPT."

Students studying in such disciplines as civil/structural engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, electronic engineering, and instrumentation and control will eventually be able to access the majority of their learning materials online. They will only need to physically attend the TAFE College to undertake intensive practical laboratory sessions.

Challenger TAFE-ACEPT project director Nigel Haywood said the focus on online delivery would carry over to oil and gas training.

"The oil and gas workforce is global and highly mobile," Mr Haywood said. "We need to anticipate this, and provide learning materials that are tailored for individual needs, and available on an anywhere, anytime basis."

The State government is committing approximately \$400,000 to the development of a range of learning resources for the oil and gas industry that will include on-line resources.

For further information about Challenger TAFE please visit www.challengertafe.wa.edu.au.

CHECK YOUR BUSINESS LISTING ONLINE

Businesses located within the Australian Marine Complex are listed with contact details in the Local Business Directory Online on the website at www.australianmarinecomplex.com.au. You can enter the directory via the News and Media or Overview sections of the website. If you would like to update or add your company's details please contact David Tasker on 9388 0944 or dtasker@pprwa.com.au.



Department of Industry and Resources
Government of Western Australia

