

OMC hails under-keel clearance role in Iron King refloat

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OMC International has revealed the role its under-keel clearance (UKC) technology played in the refloating of the capesize bulker *Iron King* at Port Hedland last week.

The Port Hedland Port Authority (PHPA) had sought OMC technical support while using eight tugs to assist the refloat on the following high tide with the help of OMC's DUKC VTS tool.

"Our preliminary under-keel clearance calculations indicated that the vessel needed to be refloated in a very short time frame," OMC executive director Terry O'Brien said.

"We only had about two hours to work with.


"However, PHPA acted quickly and was able to refloat and deballast the vessel and, using our latest technology, navigate her safely through to the end of the channel.

"This ensured the port was quickly unblocked and meant avoiding massive costs to the shipping industry.

"Using the DUKC VTS, the marine pilots on the vessel had access to live up-to-the-minute UKC information and feedback throughout the three-hour transit to anchorage.

"This technology was designed to aid decision-making during transit and to manage unforeseen circumstances."

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