



**16 September 2008**

**OMC wins Weipa contract**

OMC International has signed a three-year contract with Ports Corporation Queensland (PCQ) to supply its world-leading Dynamic Under Keel Clearance (DUKC<sup>®</sup>) system at the Rio Tinto Alcan bulk export Port of Weipa in North Queensland.

Dr Terry O'Brien, OMC Founder, DUKC<sup>®</sup> developer and former University of Melbourne academic, expects the DUKC<sup>®</sup> system to be operational in the Port of Weipa by 1 October 2008.

The DUKC<sup>®</sup> is a unique maritime engineering system designed to calculate waves, tides, currents and vessel dynamics in real time to produce the safest and most efficient transit of large ships in and out of ports and through shallow, restricted waterways.

The purpose of the Weipa System is to enhance the safety and improve the efficiency of Rio Tinto's large export ships transporting bauxite from the Weipa deposits to the alumina refineries at the Port of Gladstone and to China, Japan and Korea (which are not constrained by the 12.2m Torres Strait draft limit).

Dr O'Brien predicts that annually there will be the equivalent of five or six less ships leaving the Port of Weipa to deliver the same tonnage of bauxite to the Gladstone refinery. "It is expected that the DUKC<sup>®</sup> technology will deliver significant savings by providing ships with greater certainty of how much cargo they can safely carry," he said.

In addition to providing increased drafts for ships leaving Weipa, the DUKC<sup>®</sup> system will also provide larger sailing windows and greater port efficiency.

Additional environmental benefits will include reduction in carbon emissions from fewer overall sailings for the same tonnage and reduced risk of ship grounding.

Since Melbourne-based maritime engineering group OMC first installed its world-leading DUKC<sup>®</sup> system in Queensland's Hay Point in 1993, there have been more than 40,000 safe sailings in ports around the world.

An estimated 70% of Australia's coal and iron ore exports sail on ships with their maximum safe drafts and sailing times determined by DUKC<sup>®</sup> systems.

OMC's world-leading DUKC<sup>®</sup> system, with a proven 15-year track record, is now in 19 ports worldwide – 11 in Australia (3 are in Queensland ports), 3 in New Zealand

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and 5 in Europe. On average, 10 large vessels transit under DUKC<sup>®</sup> advice in draft-controlled situations every day.

This new Weipa contract follows separate agreements signed by OMC in the past 12 months with the Federal Waterways Administration in Germany for four ports (including Bremerhaven), with the Administração Do Porto De Lisboa in Portugal and with the Port Kembla Port Corporation in NSW.

OMC has been very busy in Queensland in recent months, both renewing a five-year contract with PCQ to continue using DUKC<sup>®</sup> technology in the coal port of Hay Point and a three-year contract with the Port of Brisbane Corporation in the Port of Brisbane.

The DUKC<sup>®</sup> system is supported 24/7 by an experienced staff of engineers, naval architects and software engineering/IT personnel, employed full-time on the development, implementation and support of DUKC<sup>®</sup> systems.

Recent developments have been to take the DUKC<sup>®</sup> on board ships using the DUKC<sup>®</sup> Portable Pilot Unit (PPU) and to integrate DUKC<sup>®</sup> into VTS Systems with DUKC<sup>®</sup> VTS, both of which allow monitoring of UKC in real time during a transit as well as providing a decision support tool for unexpected events such as engine breakdown. Both these world leading innovations are currently being trialled in Torres Strait.

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