



MEDIA RELEASE

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World leading Melbourne technology on show in Europe

Melbourne-based company OMC International will showcase its leading-edge DUKC[®] technology today (Thursday, October 16) in Portugal as part of a Euro 20million international research project to further boost shipping safety around the world.

More than 150 international shipping industry representatives, including government and regulatory authorities, harbour masters and pilots, are expected to watch today's official live demonstration of the POADDS (Port Operations and Approach Decision Support System) unit on board a vessel in the Port of Lisbon.

OMC's Dynamic Under Keel Clearance software (DUKC[®]) has been incorporated into the most recent version of the POADDS, which is a key part of the European Union's four-year Maritime Navigation and Information Services (MarNIS) research project, now nearing completion.

The MarNIS concept, which aims for implementation across EU Member States by 2012-2020, integrates vessel traffic management, search and rescue and environmental protection under one (virtual or physical) roof.

OMC is the only non-European company invited to join this groundbreaking research project involving over 40 partners. OMC is one of the five main partners developing the next generation Portable Pilot Unit (PPU).

Dr Terry O'Brien, OMC founder, DUKC[®] developer and former Melbourne University academic, said OMC was invited to join the MarNIS project because of its proven DUKC[®] technology which has been successfully operating in major ports for 15 years, including Lisbon since 2007.

The DUKC[®] 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.

"It is the only system in the world that has proven capacity to do the vertical component of navigation in restricted waterways," Dr O'Brien said.

He will demonstrate the DUKC[®] software integrated as part of the POADDS unit operating in real time on board a vessel in Lisbon today, in front of a large group of industry delegates.

"This is an exciting time for not only our company but also the entire shipping world," he said. "This is the first time many of these delegates will see this new technology that can drastically improve the safety and efficiency of ships transiting shallow waterways around the world.

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“We expect representatives from other European ports and waterways will be observing the Lisbon demonstration with a view to commissioning our DUKC[®] system.”

OMC’s world-leading DUKC[®] system, with a proven 15-year track record, is now in 19 ports worldwide – 11 in Australia, three in New Zealand and five in Europe. It has assisted more than 40,000 vessel movements worldwide since its first installation at Hay Point, Queensland in 1993.

OMC has been very busy strengthening its international presence, including an agreement signed with the Federal Waterways Administration in Germany to install DUKC[®] for the Weser River covering four ports (including Bremerhaven) which is expected to become operational in mid-December.

Earlier this month, OMC opened a new office in the UK at Howbery Park, headquarters of HR Wallingford, a leading European hydraulics research institute.

“This is a very exciting time for us because the opening of our UK office reflects our growing workload in Europe,” Dr O’Brien said. “We also expect our workload to continue expanding after Thursday when more industry delegates can see what a huge difference our DUKC[®] technology makes around the world to shipping safety and efficiency.”

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