



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **OMC's world-leading DUKC® technology taught at university**

Case study examples of OMC International's Dynamic Under Keel Clearance (DUKC®) technology will be taught at Melbourne's Swinburne University of Technology next week in a move that could see DUKC® eventually become a standard education tool for future port engineers, says a Swinburne engineering professor.

Professor Alexander Babanin, from Swinburne's Faculty of Engineering and Industrial Sciences, said this postgraduate port engineering unit, first run last year with the support of Ports Australia, would now be taught every year.

"We have had very positive student feedback, particularly to the DUKC® case studies," Professor Babanin said. "We believe that this Swinburne course, with input from the maritime industry, is a first for Australia."

The intensive week-long 'Port Access and Navigation' postgraduate study unit, to be held from September 20-24, was developed by Swinburne in association with Ports Australia and will again be taught by Swinburne academics and industry experts, including OMC Founder and DUKC® innovator Dr Terry O'Brien OAM.

Dr O'Brien, who will be formally presented at Government House this Thursday (September 16) with his Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the maritime transport industry, is a recognised world expert on accurately calculating (to the cm) how close to the seabed a vessel can safely sail without touching the bottom.

"Swinburne is very fortunate to have Dr O'Brien address our students," Professor Babanin said. "His company's software navigation technology, which reduces the risk of ship groundings, is set to become a standard education tool for future port engineers."

Port engineers from around Australia and current Swinburne postgraduate students, many from overseas, have enrolled for this course.

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The course convenor, Swinburne's Dr Alessandro Toffoli, said Ports Australia had recommended OMC as an industry partner. "OMC's DUKC® is a most advanced technology," Dr Toffoli said.

OMC's UK-based European manager and senior engineer Laurence Benn will fly in to deliver some course content. Fremantle-based Captain Eric Atkinson, who is Vice-President of the International Harbour Masters Association and is believed to be Australia's longest serving Harbour Master, will also address students.

This unit will include some DUKC® case studies and industry applications so that students can learn about the limitations of traditional static UKC management and be introduced to the DUKC® paradigm shift in UKC management. Swinburne has also organised for students to tour the Port of Melbourne which uses DUKC® software navigation technology to help ensure the safety of large vessels entering Port Phillip Heads – one of the most challenging waters for ship navigation to be found anywhere on earth.

Professor Babanin said the Faculty planned to offer a Graduate Certificate in Port Engineering when it introduced a fourth port engineering subject. 'Port Access and Navigation', which is one of the three units on offer, is also now a subject in the Civil Engineering postgraduate Masters program.

Dr O'Brien said he was delighted to be associated with Swinburne Institute of Technology. "It is great affirmation for OMC that a leading tertiary institute such as Swinburne recognises the benefits of our world-leading technology and has chosen DUKC® as course content," he said. "Many of these engineering students will eventually move on to work in ports around the world and will help shape the future of our maritime industry."

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