

# PPA and OMC honoured in Harbour Master awards



*Captain Kevin Richardson and Captain Yoss Leclerc with Dr Terry O'Brien AM (centre) representing OMC International*



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PILBARA Ports Authority and OMC received top honours at the recent inaugural International Harbour Masters Association awards in London.

The awards were held at the International Maritime Organization headquarters and featured a broad cross-section of industry.

PPA in cooperation with OMC International received the award for 'Safe, Efficient and Secure Port' for Under-Keel Clearance Management at Port Hedland.

The award was for a contribution to port efficiency taking account of safety and security.

According to IHMA, the "scope and relevance of the port or project, its sustainability, applicability, innovation and measurable impact on day to day operations were considered by the judges".

“The maintenance of a safe under-keel clearance (UKC) is a prime concern of harbour masters and this port’s close cooperation with an industry partner has provided a consistent and scientific approach to under-keel clearance dynamically and in real-time,” the judges wrote.

“Furthermore, this company’s product has increased the available sailing drafts and windows over the static UKC requirements, enabling more time for vessels to sail and increasing the separation distance between vessels in convoy.”

Other award winners were:

- The ‘Outstanding Individual Achievement in the Profession of Harbour Master’ Award to Captain Andreas Mai, Harbour Master, Port of Bremerhaven and Bremen
- The ‘Port Operations Photograph of the Year’ Award to the Harbour Master’s Office of the Port of Rotterdam for its photo of a hybrid patrol vessel.