

Australia's Deputy Prime Minister visits OMC at NAV18 Symposium

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Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack has learnt first-hand how OMC International's world-leading and award-winning DUKC® e-Nav technology is helping ships around the world carry more cargo, more safely, more often.

Mr McCormack dropped by OMC's information booth as a part of a brief visit to meet shipping delegates and exhibitors at the recent three-day navigation safety symposium, hosted by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) on the Gold Coast in Queensland.

Senior Engineers Chris Hens and Laurence Benn welcomed the Deputy Prime Minister and highlighted the significant safety and economic benefits of DUKC® technology, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with an impeccable 25-year record of safe sailings around the globe.

On hand to accompany the Deputy Prime Minister was AMSA's Deputy CEO Gary Prosser.

Chris Hens also gave a presentation at the symposium about AMSA's Under Keel Clearance Management (UKCM) system (which is a customised web-based DUKC® Series 5 system) and deep-draft trials. These were held from April 2016 to February this year in Torres Strait, which is a vital shipping route for the Asia-Pacific region.

Measured transits of **12.3m**, **12.4m** and **12.5m** were conducted on Rio Tinto bulk ships carrying bauxite from Weipa to Gladstone. These trials show that ships can safely sail deeper than **12.2m**, which is the maximum draft currently allowed by AMSA for ship transits through Torres Strait.

A key outcome of the trial is that this UKCM system, developed by OMC, can accurately predict UKC in a very complex region.

This trial also showed that if ships transited on average at **12.5m**, this would enable Rio Tinto to ship the same volume but on **10 less ships** with significant productivity gain (> \$10 million) and environmental gain through the Great Barrier Reef would be significant.

Meanwhile, AMSA and Maersk are close to reaching an agreement to proceed with **two 12.5m draft transits** on board Maersk container ships through Torres Strait. This is likely to commence from June.

On 16 November 2015, OMC's maritime technology wins the prestigious 2015 International Bulk Journal (IBJ) Safety in Bulk Handling (Marine) Award, announced at a dinner in Antwerp.