

Dr Terry's year of honours



The IBJ Awards Personality of the Year is Dr Terry O'Brien OAM, a recognised world expert on accurately calculating how close to the seabed a vessel can safely sail without touching the bottom. Category sponsor, the Port of Antwerp, were represented on stage at the awards ceremony by Chief Commercial Officer, Luc Arnouts, who handed over the trophy.

Dr O'Brien founded Melbourne based OMC International which can trace its history to the day when the then British Phosphate Commissioners contracted him to work on solutions for mooring phosphate ships in Nauru's particularly deep port.

His expertise grew out of his doctoral thesis on cable structures and related research on ship motions, which was ongoing throughout his 22-year academic career at Melbourne University.

In 1987 he left academia to work full-time on the further development of his ship motion model. By 1992 he had, with the support of the Ports Corporation of Queensland, developed his model sufficiently for its installation in Queensland's Hay Point coal terminal. His Dynamic Under Keel Clearance (DUKC) system was fully implemented in 1993.

This pioneering technology allows a more precise prediction of Under Keel Clearance in depth restricted approach channels to ports. In this vertical dimension, 1cm of increased draft can mean 130 extra tonnes of cargo load, which means safer and more efficient shipping. The system is still unique and in the last two years OMC has expanded worldwide.

In September, following the announcement in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honour's List, Dr O'Brien winner was formally presented at Government House in Australia with his Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the maritime transport industry.



JUDGES

Karel Peters	Senior Business Manager Bulk Cargo and Shipping, Port of Rotterdam, Netherlands	Julian Walker	Operations Director, Euroports, Luxembourg
R. Raghunath	Senior Executive Vice President, Noble Chartering, Hong Kong	Mike Giari	Executive Director, Port of Redwood City, San Francisco Bay, United States of America
Claudia Roller	Chief Executive Officer, Port of Hamburg Marketing, Germany	Jan Agten	Commercial Manager, Ovet B.V., Netherlands
Warwick Norman	Chief Executive Officer, Rightship, Australia	Charles Maltby	Director Global Handymax Business, Pacific Basin Shipping, Hong Kong
John Ramage	Managing Director (UK) International Registries Inc, Marshall Islands \ USA	Captain Jitendra Misra	Managing Director, Emarat Maritime, United Arab Emirates
Gert-Jan Vandenakker	Head of Ocean Transportation, Cargill International S.A., Switzerland	Giles Large	Editor IBJ, United Kingdom
Ejner Bonderup	President, Lauritzen Bulkers, Denmark	Anna Aresti	Executive Secretary, Multiport Ship Agencies Network, UK \ Netherlands
		John Carr	Industrial Chemicals Group and former Port of London Authority, United Kingdom