

# Australian Industry

# WINS!

WTIA National Diffusion Networks  
Project (NDNP) funded by the  
Federal and State and Territory  
Governments and industry



**AusIndustry**

**SUCCESS STORY NUMBER D02:** WTIA WORKS WITH THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY TO REVIEW WELDING TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR USE – *Allocation of the Navy's Air Warfare Destroyer contract puts the spotlight on welding technology in South Australia.*

## Defence Project for SA

The recent announcement by the Federal Government that ASC Shipbuilder Pty Ltd has been chosen as the preferred shipbuilder for the Navy's Air Warfare Destroyers has focussed the spotlight onto South Australia. The contract is one of Australia's largest and most complex Defence projects worth up to \$6 billion. Current planning will see the three ships delivered to the Navy from 2013 to 2017.

Senator Hill said\* the construction of the Air Warfare Destroyers will be one of the most significant shipbuilding projects undertaken in Australia to date, and will provide enormous opportunities for Australian industry. More than 1,000 direct jobs will be created in South Australia as part of the build contract, and since up to 70% of the module construction will be sub-contracted to other shipyards around Australia, 1,000 additional jobs are expected to be created throughout the country.

## Welding Technology

Clearly a project of this size demands world's best practice in all aspects, including welding technology.

As a Member of the WTIA's National Diffusion Networks Project (NDNP) Defence Industry Sectoral Project (ISP), ASC has ready access to the latest technologies and production techniques from around the world as well as on-the-spot support from WTIA's SA Technology Manager, Greg Terrell.

The NDNP is supported through the Department of Trade and Economic Development which is the South Australian Government's key agency for economic and industry development policy.

## Quality Welding

As part of the NDNP benefits, a Product and Process Review (PPR) was conducted by WTIA for ASC with the objectives to:

- Determine ASC's conformance to national and international standards relating to marine vessel design, welding, fabrication, in-service inspection and maintenance.
- Assess ASC's operations against current industry best practice in workshop fabrication,

risk directed asset management, in-service inspection and non-destructive testing.

- Identify areas where product or process improvements can be made to systems, procedures and practices in order to improve the efficiency, safety and competitiveness of ASC's operations.
- Identify world's most appropriate technologies to be explored in the 2005 Shipbuilding Study Mission.

Of course, quality workmanship will be needed on the new project, and the demand for top personnel, both at the Welder and Welding Coordinator level, will be a great boost to employment, training and career expectations in the state. The PPR outcomes gave top class results.

## Overseas Study Mission

Access to, and evaluation of, technology and industry best practice will be critical elements in the success of ASC's new project and Glen Sloan from ASC attended a recent WTIA Industry Study Mission to visit six of the top shipyards in Europe.

The mission, 3-18 June 2005, took members of the Defence ISP to IHC Holland shipyard in The Netherlands and in Germany to the Jos Meyer Shipyard, Papenburg, Blohm+Voss, Hamburg and Akerostsee Shipyard in Rostock. Delegates also met with staff at the massive Odense Steel Shipyard, Denmark and the Masa Yards in Turku, Finland.

The delegates also participated in the International Institute of Welding (IIW) Shipbuilding Working Group meeting with experts from throughout Europe and met in the UK with leading technologists from TWI.



Outcomes include a number of European companies presenting Technology Demonstration Forums around Australia during September and October this year. Overall, Glen found this to be an excellent opportunity for first-hand technology assessment.

\* DoD Media Release 31 May 2005

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