

# Australian Industry **OZWELD**

# WINS!

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



**AusIndustry**

**SUCCESS STORY NUMBER D03:** ADI WATERCRAFT ACCEPTED ONE MONTH EARLY – *Independent surveillance by WTIA Welding Engineers ensures project is successfully completed ahead of time*

## Defence watercraft project

In July 2002, ADI was awarded the contract to design and construct six amphibious watercraft, to operate in conjunction with the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) amphibious transport ships, HMAS Kanimbla and HMAS Manoora.



ADI is one of Australia's leading defence, engineering and systems contractors and an active member of the WTIA's Defence Industry Sectoral Project, with facilities in both NSW and Victoria where the WTIA's NDNP is supported by both State Governments. With sales of over AUD\$700 million and employing around 2,500 people, ADI has proven prime contracting, systems integration skills and through-life support capabilities.

Developed by ADI engineers, the watercraft has been designed to significantly improve the time it takes the Navy's amphibious ships to unload a battalion size group of soldiers, equipment and stores.

The watercraft comprises an aluminium hull with bow and stern doors, water jet propulsion and self-contained crew accommodation. It is capable of independent operations or as part of the overall system to transfer a battalion between ship and shore. It is capable of carrying the range of Australian army vehicles from Land Rovers to Leopard tanks.

The watercraft was designed for modular construction, with fabrication being undertaken at several locations. Consolidation of the modules and outfit of the vessel was performed by ADI's workforce at its Newcastle facility.

## WTIA's role

WTIA was invited by the Defence Materiel Organisation, also a Member of the National Diffusion Networks Project, to independently advise on the suitability of Tasmanian shipbuilder North West Bay Ships (NWBS) as sub-contractor for the construction of the aluminium hull for the watercraft.

The first stop was the Hobart office of Det Nortske Veritas (DNV), where the capability and experience of NWBS for building ships to satisfy the requirements for DNV classification was confirmed.

The team then visited NWBS' shipyard, which includes a purpose-built shipbuilding hall capable of accommodating two multi-hull vessels to 70 meters LOA, with 20 meters of clear space under overhead gantry cranes. NWBS employs approximately 100 fabricator/welders, and has in house engineering, electrical and fit-out capabilities.

A number of recommendations by WTIA were agreed and implemented, and North West Bay Ships went on to successfully fabricate the hull for the project.

## Outcome

All six watercraft constructed by ADI Limited in Newcastle received final system acceptance from the Commonwealth of Australia in November 2005, one month ahead of schedule.

The ADI designed LPA amphibious watercraft will deliver substantial amphibious capability improvement to the Australian Defence Force.

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