

Australian Industry

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SUCCESS STORY NUMBER D06: EXPERTS VISIT AUSTRALIA FOLLOWING DEFENCE INDUSTRY STUDY MISSION – *Leading European companies team with Australian Technology Support Centre to bring latest heavy engineering technology to industry*

In September and October 2005, an event targeting the defence shipbuilding sector, *Technology Improvements for Productivity in Heavy and Offshore Engineering and Shipbuilding*, was held in all mainland state capitals as well as Hobart, Tasmania. The Technology Demonstrations were supported by members of the Defence Industry ISP and hosted by ADI Garden Island Sydney, Tenix Defence Marine Division Williamstown, Australian Submarine Corporation Adelaide, Challenger Fremantle and Hobart Institutes of TAFE as well as QMI in Brisbane.

The WTIA bought leading production system, plate and materials handling and mechanisation experts from Pemamek Oy Ltd and IMG from Europe, and teamed them with local robotics and automation expert John Cameron from OzWeld Technology Support Centre The Lincoln Electric Company.

The overseas experts, Kimmo Ruotto (PEMA) and Rainer Gaede (IMG) had been met by delegates on the WTIA Industry Study Mission to European shipyards (see WTIA Success Story Number D04), and arrangements were made for them to bring their technologies especially to Australian industry.

Over 220 delegates from shipbuilders and fabricators for the building and construction, off-shore infrastructure, pressure equipment, mining and heavy machinery industries as well as repair and maintenance companies attended.

They learnt first-hand of the productivity

improvements that can be achieved by integration of design and production in manufacturing and the streamlining and automation of materials handling.



Welding Robot at work using IMG technology. Micro Panel Line, Aker MTW GmbH Germany

Benefits accrue from the reduction of marking-out time and errors, reduction of assembly time, improvement of dimensional accuracy of components, assemblies and finished products and reduction of distortion and rework.

Delegates commented that the events were both “informative and professional” and introduced some very interesting concepts for consideration for their own operations.

Advanced concepts such as these had been demonstrated time and again in the shipyards and companies visited by delegates on the three Industry Study Missions to Europe this year, and are essential knowledge for Australian companies which aim to be competitive in overseas markets.

A number of key Australian companies are currently communicating with PEMA and IMG with a view to taking up the technologies.

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