



Master of Marine Engineering launch

ASC Wharf, 20 November 2006

Speech by Mr Greg Tunny, Managing Director

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to ASC this morning for the launch of Australia's first Master of Marine Engineering degree.

Behind me you can see HMAS *Waller*, one of Australia's six Collins Class submarines.

The Collins Class submarines are unique. They were constructed in this very facility in what was one of the most complex engineering projects ever undertaken in this country.

This complexity presents us with unique challenges, not least of which is having our staff equipped with the skills, knowledge and experience required to keep the submarines at their maximum capability, and to design and implement capability upgrades.

This is why the Master of Marine Engineering is so important to us.

ASC is committed to lifelong learning and providing our people with the necessary training and development opportunities that allow them to grow and develop their skills.

I acknowledge Defence Materiel Organisation and, in particular their Skilling of Australia's Defence Industry program, which is providing the valuable funding for ASC to run the Master of Marine Engineering through the University of Adelaide.

DMO's vision for skilling Australia's defence industry shows foresight and a fundamental understanding that high-end skills are of increasing demand throughout the country.

I am delighted that the Director of DMO's SADI program, Robyn Wall, could join us today from Canberra and I thank DMO for its commitment to this program.

Australia's first Master of Marine Engineering fills an education gap for our engineers by accelerating up-skilling and supporting our specialists through education and meaningful work.

While the degree currently supports our submarine business, it will shortly evolve to support our role as the shipbuilder for the Air Warfare Destroyer Program.



The introduction of the Masters provides valuable access for Australia's naval defence community, and the wider marine engineering community, to a set of comprehensive courses comparable to international degrees offered by prestigious universities.

In the short term, ASC will benefit from a larger pool of qualified individuals offering improved design and engineering outcomes, enhanced maintenance capability, an increased ability to support capability upgrades, and better conceptual system development and integration.

However, in time this Masters will strengthen Australia's indigenous naval engineering capability; an objective that cannot be overstated.

We look forward to working closely with the University of Adelaide to ensure the Master of Marine Engineering evolves as the needs of Australia's defence industry evolve.

I congratulate our first cohort of students in the program. For the second half of the year they have had to combine sizeable work and study commitments, and they have performed exceptionally well.

Our students represent the diverse range of engineering disciplines within ASC and demonstrate that the company is not standing still but building, very strongly, for the future.

Thank you.