



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPLEMENTATION OF AN UNDER KEEL CLEARANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN THE TORRES STRAIT

One of the recommendations of *The Delivery of Coastal Pilotage Services in the Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait, Review Panel Report, October 2008* was that a single under keel clearance management (UKCM) system for use in Torres Strait be selected through an open tender process.

AMSA released a public Request for Tender in July 2009 and has now completed the evaluation of tenders. The tender process was highly competitive, with quality tenders submitted by reputable Australian and overseas organisations.

OMC International Pty Ltd (OMC) has been selected as the preferred supplier for the provision of the UKCM system. OMC is a Melbourne-based UKCM service provider, considered to be one of the world's leading suppliers of such systems.

AMSA's objectives for introducing a UKCM system are to deliver enhanced safety and efficiency of navigation by:

- validating the existing safety margin for deep draught vessels transiting the region; and
- evaluating the appropriateness of the current draught regime.

This will further benefit the Australian community and industry and help protect the sensitive marine environment of the Torres Strait. This is the first time a UKCM system is being implemented in a complex coastal environment in Australia. It will be used by pilotage providers and coastal pilots to enhance the safety and efficiency of transiting deep draught vessels through the region.

Upon execution of a contract, AMSA will commence implementing the system, with the aim of having it operational by late 2010.

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