
NORTHERN TERRITORY COMPANIES TAKE IT TO THE WORLD STAGE

Three companies based in the Northern Territory have returned from one of the world's most prestigious oil and gas events with stories to tell.

Fingers Specialised Metal Fabrication, Hydraulink NT with associated KM Engineering (HKME) and Combined Communication Solutions took part in the 2013 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston, USA, which attracted more than 100,000 attendees and 2,700 exhibitors.

The three companies were identified by INPEX in consultation with the Northern Territory Industry Capability Network (ICN) for the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia (AMCHAM) trade mission to OTC.

INPEX, the operator of the Ichthys LNG Project, was a major sponsor of the trade mission and part-funded the participation by Northern Territory industry.

Fingers Specialised Metal Fabrication Managing Director Mark Taylor said the networking opportunities were invaluable.

"The trip was a great way to meet the big players in the global oil and gas industry, but also for building relationships with some of the companies we're already working with on the Ichthys LNG Project," he said.

"There were 34 other Australian resource companies forming the AMCHAM delegation alone."

"Even the plane flights proved great for talking shop."

Stuart Kenny, General Manager Northern Australia of Austal Service which recently acquired HKME, said the conference was extraordinary.

"It provided a fantastic linkage to established, international supply chains," he said.

"And it gave us great insight into the skills and capacity required as our business grows to meet demand from the oil and gas sector."

ICN helps Australian businesses access opportunities in industry, government and major projects.

The Ichthys LNG Project has contracted the Northern Territory ICN to assist local companies develop and identify business opportunities related to the Project.

INPEX General Manager External Affairs and Joint Venture Bill Townsend said the company was committed to supporting local businesses.

"We are not only committed to identifying prospects for Territory businesses to compete for work on the Ichthys LNG Project, but also to assisting local industry to access the global oil and gas market," he said.

"The trade mission was a way for these local companies to gain exposure to international industry opportunities – something they may never have experienced otherwise."

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Media enquiries: Kate McNamara 0418 277 911.

About INPEX

INPEX CORPORATION is a worldwide oil and gas exploration and production company currently involved in more than 70 projects across 29 countries. INPEX is ranked in the top 100 global energy companies and is listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Part of the Australian business community since 1986, we are active in a number of projects in Australia and the Timor Sea, including the large-scale Ichthys LNG Project, Prelude FLNG project, Van Gogh, Ravensworth and Kitan oil projects, as well as the Bayu-Undan condensate development and associated Darwin LNG.

About the Ichthys LNG Project

The Ichthys LNG Project is a Joint Venture between INPEX group companies (the Operator), major partner TOTAL group companies and the Australian subsidiaries of Tokyo Gas, Osaka Gas, Chubu Electric Power and Toho Gas. Gas from the Ichthys Field, in the Browse Basin offshore Western Australia, will undergo preliminary processing offshore to remove water and raw liquids, including condensate. The gas will then be exported to the onshore processing facilities in Darwin via an 889km subsea pipeline. The Ichthys LNG Project is expected to produce 8.4 million tonnes of LNG and 1.6 million tonnes of LPG per annum, along with approximately 100,000 barrels of condensate per day at peak. Detailed Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) of the Ichthys LNG Project is ongoing and production is scheduled to commence by the end of 2016.