

## MEDIA RELEASE

# SKILLED WORKFORCE JOURNEY BEGINS WITH OPV SCHOLARSHIPS

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Australia's newest shipbuilding team, building the \$3.5 billion Offshore Patrol Vessels, has set its sights on training the next generation of shipbuilders, awarding scholarships to engineering and trade students in South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory.

OPV prime contractor Luerssen Australia and shipbuilders ASC and Civmec have awarded 12 scholarships, each with a value of \$10,000, to help cover education costs. In addition, three of the scholarship recipients have also been awarded internship placements.

The Shipbuilding Education and Apprenticeship (SEA) program will help build the skills needed for Australia's multibillion-dollar naval shipbuilding industry, which is forecast to employ a further 5,000 people in coming years.

Chairman of Luerssen Australia, Tim Wagner, said the SEA program was part of "our commitment to helping Australia build a world class workforce that will be essential for the Government's \$89 billion naval shipbuilding program".

Construction of the Luerssen-designed vessels, which will be 85m in length and equipped with a forward gun turret and helicopter, began last month. The first two will be built by ASC in Osborne, South Australia and the remaining 10 by Civmec at Henderson, Western Australia.

The scholarship program is being administered by the Defence Teaming Centre (DTC) and addresses the naval shipbuilding workforce challenge, which will require more than 5,000 skilled employees to build the OPVs, Hunter Class Frigates from 2020 and Future Submarines from 2022.

ASC Chief Executive Officer Stuart Whiley said: "ASC is proud to partner with Luerssen and Civmec to launch these scholarships, which will deliver the high-calibre future engineers and tradespeople Australia will require to deliver continuous naval shipbuilding for decades to come."

Civmec Executive Chairman James Fitzgerald said: "We are thrilled to partner with Luerssen Australia, ASC and DTC to support young Australians in establishing the skills and expertise required to meet the demands of a continuous naval shipbuilding program, and it is with pleasure we welcome Kayla Roemer-Hanisch back to the business. The recipient of the Civmec internship, Kayla undertook work experience with us this year, and we look forward to providing her with further hands-on experience to enable her to forge a career in the Australian shipbuilding industry."

Participants will include those with masters, bachelors and Cert III qualifications, which shows that regardless of what you are studying, there is an opportunity for a long-term career in naval shipbuilding.

Defence Teaming Centre CEO Margot Forster said: "The DTC has been very pleased to work alongside its industry partners to deliver this initiative. Successful applicants have diverse education backgrounds from vocational all the way through to doctorate students. This shows that there are so many ways that you can get involved in the naval shipbuilding industry in Australia."

Details of the scholarship recipients are as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Placement</b>
Garrick Foy	Charles Darwin University	Bachelor/Masters Mechanical Engineering	
Alec Rusanoff	Flinders University	Bachelor of Engineering Maritime Honours	
Andrew Penny	Uni SA	Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) Honours	
Daniel Bigirimana	Flinders University	Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical) Honours	
Jackson Preus	TAFE SA	Diploma of Engineering - Advanced Trade	
Kane O'Brien	Uni SA	Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical & Mechanical)	
Casey O'Connor	Edith Cowan University	Bachelor of Engineering (Ocean Engineering) Honours	ASC
Kayla Roemer-Hanisch	South Metropolitan TAFE	Certificate III Engineering Technical	Civmec
James Walker	University of Western Australia	Certificate III Engineering Technical	Luerssen
Andrew Youssef	University of Western Australia	PhD: Mechanical Engineering	
Luke Bermingham	University of Western Australia	Bachelor of Science and Master of Professional Engineering	
Luke Buhlmann	Edith Cowan University	Bachelor of Science and Master of Professional Engineering	

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