

Press Release

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***Luerssen: PACIFIC 17* shows Australia means business when it comes to naval shipbuilding**

A leading international shipbuilder has said that *PACIFIC 17* in Sydney – one of the largest naval and marine exhibitions in the Asia-Pacific-Indo region – shows Australia means business when it comes to developing a globally competitive sovereign shipbuilding capability.

Luerssen chief executive Peter Luerssen – who will attend the peak industry function in Sydney – said that the Federal Government’s \$90 billion naval shipbuilding plan meant Australia was about to embark on the single biggest naval shipbuilding and industrial development effort in its modern history.

“Ten years ago, this type of event would not have been on our radar but, today in Australia, we see an increasingly sophisticated naval shipbuilding and technology industry complemented by a clear plan from Government about what they want to achieve with it.

“The potential for Australia is huge so it is no surprise to see Navy Chiefs and Naval leaders from around the world get together with established industry players and new markets entrants to discuss the possibilities on offer.”

The chief executive of the 140-year-old German ship designer and builder said that, in discussions with industry and government interlocutors, he would seek to reaffirm Luerssen’s commitment to establishing a minor warship export base in Western Australia to target the growing market in Asia Pacific.

“I am particularly looking forward to meeting with small and medium-sized enterprises during my visit to PACIFIC 2017. Many of these SMEs, who will be exhibiting at PACIFIC 2017, have attended Luerssen’s industry briefings held around Australia to discuss the opportunities arising from the SEA 1180 offshore patrol vessel program,” Mr Luerssen said.

Australian suppliers are central to the company’s expansion plans, Mr Luerssen said, as he highlighted the vast potential to create a world-class vibrant sovereign shipbuilding industry.

“PACIFIC 2017 is timely and a tremendous opportunity to showcase Australia’s strong capability in naval shipbuilding. As we have said many times, Australia stands on the cusp of developing a new generation of highly-skilled marine designers and tradespeople – and Luerksen looks forward to contributing to this wonderful opportunity,” Mr Luerksen said.

“Australian industry will be fundamental to the success of our export plans and our commitment to deliver a first-class program under the Government’s offshore patrol vessel scheme.”

“With our partners, ASC and Civmec/Forgas, we believe the continuous shipbuilding plan will be the catalyst for a multi-billion-dollar shipbuilding export program. PACIFIC 2017 is a demonstration of this potential and I look forward to speaking with many of these key stakeholders during the three day conference.”

About Luerksen

Since 1875, the Northern German group of companies, Luerksen, has been renowned worldwide for the highest product quality as well as innovative technologies in naval shipbuilding. The family-owned company, based in Bremen, specialises in the design and manufacture of naval and coastguard vessels and megayachts. Luerksen’s portfolio also includes extensive through life support services, including repairs, refits, maintenance and training. With six highly specialised Shipyards in Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, Luerksen will continue to rely on its proven shipbuilding tradition and the passion of its employees.

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