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TASMANIA



NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MARITIME COLLEGE

Media Advisory

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Confirmation of submarine deal a boost to Australian research

One of Australia's leading defence researchers, **Associate Professor Jonathan Binns**, is Director of a nationally relevant Centre, in which more than 70% of its researchers are focused on next generation submarines.

He says the formalization of an Australian deal with French company DCNS for a fleet of new submarines is very welcome and will provide the certainty for Australia to capitalize on its research capacity in the field.

- Professor Binns heads the ARC Research Training Centre (RTC) for Naval Design and Manufacturing, which connects researchers based in universities, government and industry with students tackling problems for defence.
- Nine of the thirteen RTC researchers — based at the Australian Maritime College, Flinders University, and the University of Wollongong — are directly connected to tackling problems that could restrict the efficient design, construction and sustainment of this next generation of submarines.
- Research underway includes a focus on reducing vibrations and noise, minimising the build-up of organic matter on vehicle sensors, using robots to efficiently inspect fuel tanks, and reducing the corrosion that degrades submarine parts.

"Submarines are extremely complex to design, engineer and build: 1600 subcontractors are required to achieve the task. This compares to 550 to build a Boeing 777 and 600 to build a frigate. Being fully submerged in the ocean environment makes even simple tasks complex, with every element of the submarine demanding extreme accuracy," said Associate Professor Binns.

Associate Professor Binns is available for comment on +61 429 427 931

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BACKGROUND

The \$3.8 million Research Training Centre for Naval Design and Manufacturing is funded via \$2.4 million in federal money and more than \$1.4 million in industry cash and in-kind contributions

administered under the Australian Research Council's Industrial Transformation Training Centres scheme.

It is a collaboration between the Australian Maritime College at the University of Tasmania, the University of Wollongong and Flinders University with industry partners ASC Pty Ltd, Babcock Pty Ltd, Defence Science and Technology Group, Defence Materials Technology Centre, Thales Australia Ltd, PMB Defence Engineering Pty Ltd, Serco Defence and Austal.

More information: www.rtcndm.com.au