

MEDIA RELEASE

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 27 JULY 2011

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Hands across the sea as AMC drives new multihull vessels project

A number of groundbreaking collaborative projects are outlined in the latest issue of *Research to Reality*, launched today.

UTAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Paddy Nixon said the publication illustrated the international nature of research.

"The Australian Maritime College and Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science teams featured in this issue are prime examples of our international focus," he said.

"On our campuses you will find many other examples of researchers who are working with national and international partners, drawn from both the private sector and other leading tertiary institutions."

The AMC's project involves the Tasmanian shipbuilder Incat and two other partners based in the Netherlands; the ACROSS team is immersed in two explosives-related projects that bring together 13 state and national entities.

A third project featured in *Research to Reality*, which seeks to pioneer the commercial breeding of southern bluefin tuna, involves the University's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, the SA-based producer Clean Seas Tuna, and seven national and nine international partners.

Research at the AMC into the development of a new generation of Incat multihull vessels is about to begin in earnest. Prof Neil Bose and his team are soon to be joined by three PhD students, the first starting next week.

The aim is to design a new propulsion system for a range of medium-speed catamarans. Incat's current high-speed vessels feature four

water jets, two per hull, but that propulsion system is much less effective at medium speed.

The alternative is also problematic, explains Prof Neil Bose. “Incat’s ships are not designed for propellers. They would have to sit two metres or so below the keel and a metre out the sides of the ship.”

Research to Reality, Edition 8, will be launched tonight at a Research Week event organised by UTAS and the Launceston Chamber of Commerce.

Information Released by:

**Communications and Media Office, University of Tasmania
0429 336 328 (Peter Cochrane)
Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au**