

Deputy PM opens \$10m maritime research facility at AMC

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education Julia Gillard today opened the new \$10m Cavitation Research Laboratory at the Australian Maritime College.

The new world-class hydrodynamic facility is unique to the region and will make a major contribution to the development of naval defence platforms and the commercial high-speed vessel industry.

Developed with the assistance of the Defence Science Technology Organisation (DSTO) the lab represents a major step forward in Australia's research capacity.

In opening the facility, Ms Gillard said Australia now had access to a world class facility that strengthened its expertise in hydrodynamic research for the Navy as well as for the commercial maritime sector.

AMC Principal Professor Malek Pourzanjani said the opening was significant for AMC.

"This laboratory marks a major step forward for AMC in terms of research and teaching capabilities on national and international fronts. It is the embodiment of AMC's commitment to experimental facilities and the advancement of knowledge within our field," Prof. Pourzanjani said.

"Within this building there stands eight years of endeavour - the culmination of incredible vision and hard work by a very dedicated team of staff and students led by Associate Professor Paul Brandner."

University of Tasmania Vice Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said the opening marked another milestone in the AMC-UTAS relationship.

"This development is an example of the important work taking place within a highly valued institute of the University and it really highlights the benefits of the arrangement between UTAS and AMC," Prof Le Grew said.

The Cavitation Research Laboratory has been initiated through longstanding partnerships between AMC, UTAS and DSTO.

It will be used for teaching and research in AMC's undergraduate and postgraduate programs as well as providing high quality research for academic and industry partners both here and overseas.

Cavitation can be strictly defined as the change of phase, from liquid to vapour, that occurs when the static pressure in a liquid on or about a body is reduced below the vapour pressure. It is similar to boiling but the driving mechanism is pressure rather than heat.

Diversity of projects at AMC include the hydrodynamics of surfboard fins, waterjet propulsion of high-speed ferries, the experimental investigation of new submarine hull shapes, and the investigation of unsteady submarine propeller performance.

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