

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS research to drive forward a new generation of Incat vessels

A UTAS research team is to play a key role in the development of the next generation of Incat multihull vessels.

The Hobart-based shipbuilder is renowned internationally as a pioneer of wave-piercing technology, with its high-speed vessels operating in more than 20 countries. Now, as detailed in the latest issue of the university's *Research to Reality* magazine, a new fleet is on the drawing board, one in which the need for speed will be of secondary importance to improved fuel efficiency.

However, exactly how these medium-speed catamarans will be propelled is yet to be determined. 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. As the Australian Maritime College's Professor Neil Bose explains, "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."

With \$260,200 in funding from the Australian Research Council Linkage projects scheme and additional funding from Incat and a Dutch manufacturer, the AMC and School of Engineering researchers, and their research partners, will attempt to drive forward a new Incat prototype.

The Incat project is one of several groundbreaking collaborative projects featured in *Research to Reality*. Others include:

- A bomb detector and post-blast analyser, both developed by the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science, with multiple national and state partner organisations.
- Research led by the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies to pioneer commercial breeding of southern bluefin tuna.

"If we are to hold our own in an increasingly globally competitive field, then we need to build on existing collaborations with the private sector in this State, around Australia and overseas, and cement new ones," said Professor Paddy Nixon, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Funding for four new ARC Linkage projects involving UTAS researchers – including one with Prof Bose as lead chief investigator – were announced by the Federal Innovation Minister, Kim Carr, this week.

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