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## NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MARITIME COLLEGE

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# Media Release

## Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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# AMC Search training makes a splash in international waters

AMC Search has partnered with industry clients in Indonesia and Japan to deliver tailored on-the-job maritime training and develop the skills of instructors and operational staff.

A group of 30 Indonesian students were trained in vessel traffic services (VTS) operation at a new facility in Jakarta; while 40 employees from Japanese ferry company Sado Kisen completed a high-speed vessel safety course at Naoetsu port.

AMC Search is the commercial arm of the Australian Maritime College, a specialist institute of the University of Tasmania. Deputy CEO Cathy Wilson said that there was growing demand for VTS operators due to significant expansion in the sector in Indonesia.

“VTS operators are responsible for coordinating the movement of all vessels in the harbour area, ensuring a safe passage without risk of colliding with other vessels or shore installations. The intensity and responsibility of their job is comparable to that of an air traffic controller,” she said.

“Indonesia is currently building and commissioning a network of 50 VTS facilities across the archipelago. Each of these facilities will operate 24 hours a day and require an extensive workforce of internationally-certified, English speaking VTS operators, supervisors, managers and technicians.”

As a first step, AMC Search has provided training to several cohorts of VTS operators over the past few years while Indonesia works on developing its training capacity. A well-equipped centre has been established in Jakarta and AMC Search has provided instructors to conduct training within that environment.

“At this stage training is limited to local port services operators, but it is expected that the Indonesian competent authority will soon achieve accreditation and the centre will be able to train at international standard,” Mrs Wilson said.

“Further capacity building and technical support will be needed to realise this capability, and we are well placed to be a technical partner in the development of the Indonesian VTS training capacity.”

Meanwhile, Japanese ferry company Sado Kisen contracted AMC Search to deliver training to its staff following the arrival of the 85-metre Incat built high-speed ferry Akane.

Key crew members travelled to Australia to complete a high-speed navigation course using AMC’s ship simulator, followed by a high-speed safety and systems course in Hobart. Captains Mike Jackson and Andrew Mapson then went to Japan to deliver the remainder of the training to the ferry’s 40-strong crew on site in Naoetsu.

Mrs Wilson said the in-country training went extremely well and discussions are underway for further training in September/October 2015.

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