

TOP STORY

INPEX awards Ichthys LNG plant FEED contract

INPEX CORPORATION, as operator of the Ichthys Project on behalf of joint venture participants - INPEX (76%) and Total E&P (24%) - has awarded the contract for the Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) of its liquefied natural gas plant at Blaydin Point in Darwin, Australia.

The successful contractor for the Onshore FEED contract is the JKC Joint Venture comprising JGC Corporation, KBR and Chiyoda Corporation.

INPEX President Naoki Kuroda said awarding the Onshore FEED contract marked a key milestone in progressing the world-class Ichthys Project.

"INPEX is proud to have selected the JKC Joint Venture to carry out the Onshore FEED work as the companies collectively comprise some of the most experienced and capable LNG plant engineering and design firms in the world," Mr Kuroda said.

The Onshore FEED services are to be performed by the JKC Joint Venture during 2009.

FEED is the project development phase in which plans for the proposed LNG processing plant are defined, designed and evaluated in more detail by a contracted engineering company. Development of the Ichthys Project will require capital expenditure of more than US\$20 billion and will be a significant contributor to the Australian and regional economies.

The Ichthys Project is expected to initially produce more than 8 million tonnes of LNG per annum, approximately 1.6 million tonnes of LPG per

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WELCOME

National and international papers have regular doom and gloom stories emblazoned across the front page. In the Territory it seems there is still not enough negativity to keep a croc out of the lime-light.

Perhaps that is a statement in itself. We cannot possibly expect the Territory to escape the realities of the world scene at present but, apart from the disappointing stories associated with some areas of the mining industry, we are fortunate to be able to match them with some very positive stories which should hold us in reasonable stead for the foreseeable future.

Thus, in deliberately putting negativity to one side, let's look at some positives:

- INPEX announces FEED (Front End Engineering and Design) – it's not outright commitment but a positive step nonetheless.
- SIHIP (Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Project) - \$657m project will commence this year
- Defence – Some tenders have already been advertised in relation to approx \$245m infrastructure projects (notwithstanding the constant \$1B+ Defence puts into the NT economy annually).
- ERA reports "In this economic climate, uranium seemed to have fared well and we've benefited from that". (2008 result 191% increase on 2007)
- Minemakers confirm Australia's largest rock phosphate resource and further exploration will continue in 2009.
- NT Government commits to fast tracking capital works program
- Darwin's \$800m Waterfront project continues
- CococoPhillips hopeful of winning debate over bringing Sunrise gas ashore as opposed to Shell's desire to construct offshore facility. Announcement due mid year. (Major confidence boost if decision goes in our favour).

The jury is out on how tourism will fare this coming year but even the movement associated with the above will generate considerable accommodation activity. Whether it extends to tourism ventures remains to be seen.

KEVIN PETERS

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PROJECT GATEWAY

Next time you log into ICN's Project Gateway, you will notice that there is an all new fresh look for Project Gateway



Project Gateway was developed by the Industry Capability Network and has been designed as a tool to ensure maximum exposure of upcoming project opportunities, whilst also allowing it to be an essential communication highway between project proponents and the public.

Proponents will be able to utilise Project Gateway as their primary source of information distribution for upcoming procurement and contracting opportunities over the life of a project through a customised portal website link.

If used to the full potential, Project Gateway will present all relevant procurement and contracting opportunities to the public to allow national suppliers and sub-contractors to register their interest.

All registered companies details are then captured and collected in the ICN database for future opportunities.

NTICN's role is to manage the project workpackages on Gateway, review the registrations received and provide a list of capable companies for consideration to procurement personnel.

If you haven't already registered your company on our National Major project portal visit: www.projectgateway.com.au

MAJOR PROJECT

BOC Helium Project

Things are taking shape at the BOC Helium Plant site. The main building which will house the plant has its steel work standing and the roof is going on.

The concrete pour for the main site is almost complete and plant components are starting to arrive in Darwin.

As stated in the last news letter BOC has short listed the final companies bidding for the contract to assemble the plant. This announcement is expected in the 1st quarter 2009.

BOC has stated to the NTICN the local content involved with the plant engineering, procurement, construction is currently running at 15-20%. BOC is pleased with this figure considering the imported technical expertise & capital expenditure of the project.

ConocoPhillips Darwin LNG

Darwin LNG starts the year surrounded by a lot of talk of Train 2 and currently the project has not been confirmed. The project that is in the pipe line is the 2010 shut down which will be something Darwin companies will welcome.

Besides continuing to assist DLNG with operational vendor requests discussions are taking place re NTICN participation in any future projects.

ENI Blacktip project

Christmas break is over, the wet has arrived and the BlackTip project pushes on. The Monadelphous assembly yard at Hudson creek has taken delivery of some larger components such as steel frames which are part of the pipe racks for the onshore plant, cooling towers and other various sized pressure vessel have been arriving as well.

A large shipment of prefabricated pipe has also arrived which is currently being used in the completion of modules before being barging to site.

With the site being so remote, access is now very limited. As was expected during the wet season all freight movement to site would be by barge. Monadelphous has successfully completing three movements during this time which is keeping construction at the Wadeye site progressing.

SIHIP

The 3 Alliance Partners have been busy visiting various locations throughout the Northern Territory identifying the scope

MAJOR PROJECT

of works and skills they will require to complete the Work Packages allocated in the first stages.

NTICN have continued to work with the Alliance Partners to establish processes that will endeavor to identify NT Capabilities available in the various regions. It is in your best interest to make sure the information we hold is current including the various remote locations you have previously worked in this will assist us to identify ALL of your capabilities

INPEX

The 'FEED' (Front End Engineering & Design) announcement for the on-shore component has been made. What does this mean to us in the real world? It means the JKC joint venture group of companies (comprising JGC, KBR & Chiyoda) will further develop the work they have started with 'pre-FEED' in establishing engineering methods, logistics, design, capabilities and costings.

'FEED' takes the "mud map", the concept and works out how to make it all happen. The design of plant, components, lay out, who has the capability to supply the parts, design and build the components, who will assemble the components, build the modules, how much can be done in the Northern Territory, Australia or in other parts of the world. JKC need answers to all these questions and many more. This helps them put the huge puzzle together and will in turn give INPEX an idea of the projects final cost.

JKC is working through NTICN directly to conduct their vendor searches on Australian industry. We are expecting these enquiries to start off steady and pick up pace as JKC goes full steam ahead through the 'FEED' procedures.

It is looking very likely that JKC may have some representative visit Darwin mid year to check out local industry capability. Some good advice for those wishing to be involved in the Ichthys project is to have your OH&S & QA policies prepared and current.

Minemakers

Minemakers have released their December report and confirmation of Australia's largest rock phosphate resource of some 461Mt with initial production planned for the first half of 2010.

MAJOR PROJECT

Planned work for March Quarter 2009 is as follows:

- DSO RC and Diamond drilling tests both on Arruwurra and Main Zone Deposits.
- DSO resource modelling and mining studies.
- Metallurgical test work on DSO and also future beneficiation route determination.
- Marketing.
- Engineering and Feasibility Studies.
- Notice of Intent submission and applications for Mineral Leases.
- Mining Staff Recruitment.
- Initiation of Tender Process.

Some drilling delays are expected due to the inability to get Drill Rigs from Mt Isa to site due to the extensive rains and road closures experienced over the past few weeks. Minemakers expect to recommence drilling late January weather permitting.

On January 9, 2009 Minemakers and Australian Transport and Energy Corridor Ltd signed a MOU covering a financial study of the economics of a 250km open access rail link from the Wonarah Phosphate Project to near Tennant Creek. The rail link would be expected to lower Minemakers operating costs and allow higher output than the 3Mtpa limit by road transport to the rail siding.

Vista Gold - Mt Todd

Vista Gold Australia is continuing with feasibility studies at the old mine site with positive and encouraging results, subject to study results Vista Gold hopes to start production 2010 / 2011.

A large Lime Silo has arrived and is currently being modified by local industry. Mine Management contacted NTICN to source local contractors to assist with Silo foundations and base installation. Additional inquiries for further work and materials have been received with local business's put forward.



PROJECT GATEWAY

Go to: www.projectgateway.com.au
To register your interest for
NATIONAL PROJECTS

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annum and 100,000 barrels of condensate per day.

The Blaydin Point site has the capacity to support two initial LNG trains with an opportunity for additional LNG trains to accommodate future expansion. The first shipment of LNG is scheduled to be loaded in late 2014/early 2015.

A peak construction workforce of more than 2000 people will be required in Darwin over five years. A full-time workforce of about 300 people will be needed to operate and maintain the onshore facilities over the 40-year life of the Project. INPEX is working closely with the Northern Territory Government and Northern Territory Industry Capability Network (NTICN) to ensure local industry participation in supplying goods and services.

“Despite the current global financial environment, INPEX remains firmly committed to advancing the Ichthys Project. We are grateful for the strong support from government and the public which the Project has received,” Mr Kuroda said.

A separate FEED contract for the Ichthys Project’s offshore facilities will be awarded in due course.



Airnorth upgrades services to Timor-Leste

8 January 2009

Michael Bridge, Chief Executive Officer of Airnorth, today announced that air services between Darwin and Dili, Timor-Leste will be upgraded from 12 January 2009.

‘The addition of the 76 seat Embraer E170 jet to our fleet in 2007 and the cessation of Bali services has provided the opportunity for Airnorth to upgrade its services in the region. In recognition of the importance of regular air services to Timor-Leste, we have given priority to increasing the capacity on the Darwin-Dili route. Last December regular weekly jet services were introduced and this is now being expanded to five jet flights a week.’

For more information contact: Marie-Claire Cull, Marketing Manager
Phone 0422 221 048
marie-claire.cull@regionallink.com.au



ExpLORE Philippines Mining Mission & Ozmine Indonesia

Austrade invites Australian mining companies to participate in OZMINE Indonesia and the ExpLORE Philippines Mining Mission, both providing important springboards for successful market entry and expansion strategies.

The mission to the Philippines will be organised around 3 clusters (depending on each company’s particular focus):

Cluster 1 – mine planning and software systems, Cluster 2 – mobile equipment and earthmoving, Cluster 3 – mineral processing, HR and rehabilitation. Australian mining technology and services companies in any or all of these clusters are welcome to join.

After highly successful events in 2007 & 2008, OZMINE Indonesia will run again in 2009. Organised by Austrade Jakarta, this exhibition showcases the capabilities of Australian companies serving the mining industry. Participants will meet with local agents & distributors and with senior executives from the Indonesian mining sector.

Location: Manila and Jakarta
Mission Dates: ExpLORE Philippines Mining Mission will run from 18-20 February 2009
OZMINE Indonesia will run from 24-25 February 2009

Application Deadline: Wednesday February 4 2009

www.austrade.gov.au/miningmissions2009



MEET THE DECISION MAKERS AT THE BIGGEST OIL & GAS EXHIBITION IN AUSTRALIA

AOG is the premier oil and gas industry exhibition in Australia. It's staged in the stunning city of Perth - Western Australia - every two years and has run for over a quarter of a century. In February 2009, it will be the largest oil and gas expo ever held in the Southern Hemisphere.

Typical visitors to the AOG Exhibition include key decision makers from companies concerned with oil and gas production, exploration, engineering, construction, diving and underwater, rig and platform equipment, as well as contractors for drilling, pipelines and seismic work.

- Make the most of your opportunity to
- Create new business in oil and gas
 - Keep up with the latest products and projects
 - See the best from over 300 service and supply companies
 - Connect with people in your industry in an informal environment

- Perth Convention Exhibition Centre
- Tuesday 17th February 2009
 - Wednesday 18th February 2009
 - Thursday 19th February 2009

<http://www.aogexpo.com.au>

**TCA training courses —
For a complete listing visit www.tcant.com.au**

Manual Handling Awareness 3 February 2009	\$120pp : Members \$150pp : Non Members	8.00am-12 noon	Venue : Accrete - 24 Mendis Road, Hudson Creek
Emergency Warden & Extinguisher Training 2 March 2009	\$200pp : Members \$250pp : Non Members	8.00am-1.00pm	Venue : Accrete - 24 Mendis Road, Hudson Creek
Confined Space Entry-Reaccreditation 3 March 2009	\$300pp : Members \$350pp : Non Members	8.00am-4.30pm both days	Venue : Accrete - 24 Mendis Road, Hudson Creek

For further information please contact TCA’s Project Manager on 08 8922 9666

ConocoPhillips spuds first Browse well

Thursday, 29 January 2009
Source: www.petroleumnews.net

THE ConocoPhillips-led Browse Basin joint venture has started drilling the first well in a multi-well drilling program targeting multi-trillion cubic feet natural gas prospects.

Partner Karoon Gas said the well, Poseidon-1 in WA-315-P, was spudded on Monday and is currently drilling ahead at 1055m. Poseidon-1 lies about 480 kilometres north of Broome and is targeting potential hydrocarbons in the middle and upper Jurassic sandstones.

The well is being drilled with the Sedco-703 rig and has a planned total depth of 4800m. The Sedco-703 rig – which has been contracted for 200-225 days – is also expected to drill wells in WA-315-P and WA-398-P.

The JV's Browse Basin acreage is adjacent to the giant Torosa, Brecknock, and Caliance gas and condensate fields currently being appraised by a Woodside Petroleum JV.

The fields have a proven P50 resource of 21 trillion cubic feet of gas and 300 million barrels of condensate.

The Browse acreage is also near the Ichthys gas and condensate field, which is estimated to contain 12tcf of gas and 600 MM bbl of condensate.

Karoon has said exploration success could lead to an Australian liquefied natural gas project that would be well placed to meet Asian demand for security, speed and reliability of supply.

ConocoPhillips is operator of the three permits and has a 51% interest in WA-314-P and WA-315-P, and a 60% interest in WA-398-P. Karoon has a 49% interest in WA-314-P and WA-315-P, and a 40% interest in WA-398-P.

January Showcase

Company: Pioneer Road Services
Contact: Mic Bellis
Location: Marjorie Street, Berrimah
Tel: 08 8932 2700
Fax: 08 8932 2608
Email: sales@prs.com.au



Description:

Pioneer Road Services was the principal contractor, responsible for the manufacturing and placement of asphalt, as well as ancillary operations such as profiling, surveying, linemarking, grooving and lighting for the Darwin International Airport Runway Resheeting project.

The Darwin International Asphalt Overlay project presented Pioneer Road Services' the opportunity to enter a submission for the Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) Earth Awards for excellence in civil construction.



Pioneer won category 3 (\$5-20 Mil) at the NT awards, which then qualified them to compete for the National Awards at which, unfortunately, they were pipped at the post.

The Project was also submitted (by the airport owner NT Airports) as an entrant into the NT Engineering Excellence Awards held late last year. At this event NT Airports were recognised with a commendation.



Project requirements:

The 3.2 kilometre runway is 60 metres wide and covers approximately 220,000 square metres. Pioneer was required to:

1. Remove all existing HIPAR pavement material from the runway surface by cold profiling.
2. Meet the technical requirements for asphalt manufacture and placement, air-field ground lighting, line marking and grooving.
3. Adhere to (or exceed) the predefined works program.
4. Prevent unauthorised incursions into the operating runway during construction.
5. Ensure construction proceeds concurrently with all Defence and civil aircraft operations.



NTICN January stats

Month of January 2009*

Number of enquiries processed: 304
Total estimated value: \$18,126,000
Number of NT** companies nominated: 671
Number of new companies registered: 29

Notes:
*Figures only for 1 – 29 January 2009 inclusive
**Companies that are registered and operating within the Northern Territory

If your company has recently been involved in an exciting or innovative project, or if you simply have increased your company's capability in order to broaden your contracting opportunities, we'd like to know about it.

Send us some photos along with a short description, and your company can be 'showcased' to the NTICN newsletter database of approximately 3,500 companies across the NT. The newsletter is also sent to existing, planned and proposed major project proponents, and procurement personnel across the NT Government. The newsletter is also accessible online at www.nticn.com.au.

Send your Industry Capability Showcase story and photo/s to:
Charmaine Barrett, email: charmaine.barrett@nticn.com.au

Note: Showcase selection is at the discretion of the NTICN. Contributing company will be contacted and confirmed prior to publication.

NEW RESULTS SET CENTRAL AUSTRALIA ON COURSE AS POTENTIAL GLOBAL SUPPLIER OF HELIUM GAS

Thursday, 29 January 2009
Media Release—Central Petroleum Limited

New geoscientific data released today has set Central Australia on a potential path of emerging as Australia's foremost supplier of the high-in-demand and premium priced inert gas, Helium, to global markets.

The findings – announced today by ASX-listed multi-energy explorer, Central Petroleum Limited (ASX code "CTP"-Central) – could see production of commercial volumes of Helium from two or more areas south of Alice Springs transported for export to Darwin where a new Helium extraction plant is already currently under construction as part of that city's expanding LNG hub.

The BOC (now Linde Group) has announced plans to extract low concentrations of Helium from the dregs of gas processed in the Darwin LNG hub.

In a major announcement of its Helium prospects in the Red Centre, Central Petroleum said today the calibre of the data was such that the Company and its joint venture partner, He Nuclear Limited, now anticipated to drill test during 2009 up to two target areas located within key sub-salt petroleum plays in the Amadeus Basin, the Mt Kitty Prospect and the Magee Prospect.

The drilling plans followed a review of new seismic survey information over the areas acquired in 2008 by Central Petroleum and a reinterpretation of known well data from the Basin.

Central Petroleum Limited has previously announced discovery of Coal Seam Methane gas (CSM) in the same tenements.

Garrett gives green light to McArthur River expansion

Thursday, 22 January 2009
Source: www.miningnews.net

SWISS mining giant Xstrata's proposal to expand the open pit at its McArthur River mine in the Northern Territory has been given a conditional tick of approval by Australia's Environment Minister Peter Garrett.

In a statement today, Garrett said he intends to approve, with conditions, the proposal to expand the open pit, including rechannelling a 5.5-kilometre stretch of its namesake, McArthur River, to make way for the new pit.

"Following a thorough assessment of the information provided to the former minister on this proposal and all other relevant information, I am proposing to approve, subject to strengthened conditions, the expansion of the open pit to the east," Garrett said.

"My decision is limited to protecting matters of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act, in this case the freshwater sawfish and a number of migratory birds.

"I will ensure that they will be protected by any decision I make and any conditions I apply."

Mining came to a halt at McArthur River on December 17 after the Federal Court upheld an appeal and found approvals for the mine expansion were invalid.

The mine was approved by the former Environment Minister Ian Campbell in 2006, but since then has been subject to a long-running legal dispute.

Local Aboriginal landholders in the region have fought against the mine's open pit development.

Last week, Xstrata said it would deplete ore stockpiles at the operation by January 26 and called on Garrett to make a quick decision over the proposed expansion of the mine.

Today, Garrett said traditional landowners, McArthur River Mining and federal ministers had 10 days to provide comment on his proposed decision.

"These consultations will run concurrently to avoid delaying my approval

decision," he said.

"I will consider any submissions they provide to me before I make my final decision.

"As I have stated previously, I am moving on this matter as quickly as possible but at the same time, I need to make sure that the process, and any decision I make, is robust and legally sound."

The 10 business day period will end on February 6.

Troubled Compass falls into hands of administrators

Thursday, 29 January 2009
Source: www.miningnews.net

AFTER being in a trading halt for much of the past week, struggling copper miner Compass Resources has gone into voluntary administration this morning.

The company has struggled with cost blowouts and operational delays at its Browns oxide project, in the Northern Territory, which was commissioned in September 2008.

Last Thursday, Compass entered a trading halt pending the announcement on a review of its financial position.

On Tuesday, it revealed it had cash on hand of \$A9 million but had reviewed current metal prices, delays at the project, cash usage, debt and Chinese joint venture partner Hunan Nonferrous Metals Corporation's ongoing funding of the project.

Compass emerged from the trading halt and advised that it would proceed with a capital raising.

However, yesterday the company again requested a trading halt after it received formal notification from Hunan of a dispute over the JV agreement.

Compass said it would seek legal advice and consider its position, but this morning announced it has appointed Steven John Sherman, Darren Gordon Weaver and Martin Bruce Jones of Ferrier Hodgson as joint and several administrators of the company.

In December, Compass received its first cash flow when it completed its first 250-tonne shipment of copper cathode.

Earlier this month the company said commissioning of the cobalt-nickel circuit was taking "considerably longer" than anticipated, causing limited production in the short-term.

COMMITTED, PLANNED & PROPOSED MAJOR PROJECTS*

COMMITTED				
Project	Proponent	Project type	Start	Value (AU\$M)
Blacktip Gas Project	Eni	Gas	2007	500
Bonaparte gas pipeline	Australian Pipeline trust	Natural Gas Pipeline	2007	200
Brewer Estate Power Station and transmission lines to Alice	Power Water Corporation	Power Station	2008	50
Darwin Waterfront Redevelop.	NTG / Darwin Cove Consortium	Hotels, Apartments, public spaces	2005	800
Helium Plant	BOC	Helium Plant	2008	38
Laterite Plant	ERA	Laterite treatment plant	2008	27.6
Pit expansion	ERA, Ranger	Uranium	2007	TBA
Methanol producing FPSO PL	Coogee Resources	Methanol GTL	2008	TBA
Radiometric sorting project	ERA Ranger	Uranium grading	2007	13
Weddell Power Station	Power Water Corporation	Power Station	2007	126.6
SIHIP	Territory Housing	New and upgraded remote housing	2008	647
RAAF Darwin	Department of Defence	Base Redevelopment Stage 2	2008	49.8
Robertson Barracks	Department of Defence	Redevel. & Hardened Network Army	2008	72
RAAF Tindal	Department of Defence	Base Redevelopment Stage 5	2008	58.7
RAAF Tindal	Department of Defence	AEWC System	2008	64.2
PLANNED				
Harts Range	Olympia Resources	Garnet Sands	2008	15
Ichthys	INPEX	LNG Plant, Darwin	2009	25B
Nolan's Bore	Arafura Resources	Rare Earths	2009	TBA
LEAP accommodation	Department of Defence	New accommodation at NT Defence locations	TBA	210
Wonarah Phosphate Project	Minemakers	Phosphate	2009	107
PROPOSED / POTENTIAL				
Abadi	Inpex	Gas	TBA	TBA
Darwin LNG Train 2	ConocoPhillips	LNG	TBA	TBA
Mt Fitch	Compass Resources	Uranium	TBA	TBA
Sunrise Gas Project	Woodside	Natural Gas / LNG	TBA	TBA
Tassie Shoals	MEO	Methanol / LNG	TBA	TBA

Due to the nature of projects this information is subject to change. Please confirm currency with NTICN. Information sourced from: NTG Construction Snapshot; NTG Potential Mining Projects in the NT