

Media Release

NEW WORLD CLASS VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICES (VTS) SYSTEM FOR SYDNEY PORTS

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Sydney Ports Corporation has signed a contract for the delivery of a world's best practice vessel surveillance system for both Port Botany and Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour).

CEO of Sydney Ports, Grant Gilfillan, said today that leading Global Technology firm SOFRELOG would supply the new Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) System, which will be based at Port Botany and be operational by May 2011.

"This is an investment of over \$12 million in the latest technology to improve surveillance and tracking of all vessels including over 4,500 International ship movements a year," Mr Gilfillan said.

"This new, internationally-compliant system is a key project for Sydney Ports and a critical undertaking for Sydney Harbour and Port Botany.

"We will move from the current partly visual system to one in which we use world-best technology to enhance our surveillance, tracking and management of vessels to help improve the safety and efficiency of commercial vessel traffic movements and to better protect the marine environment by reducing risks of accidents.

"It will be designed to have a far greater ability to more accurately track all vessels using the latest technology and will combine information derived from multiple sensors including radar, CCTV, VHF and AIS technology, displayed and recorded in a flexible and integrated traffic image."

Mr Rémi Julien, CEO of SOFRELOG, said the company was honoured to be selected by Sydney Ports Corporation for the delivery of the new VTS system.

"Sydney is one of the most significant and beautiful ports in the world and this new project will further our global credentials," Mr Julien said.

"In addition it's also important to be involved in a project with such strong involvement from local industry leaders, partnering with three Australian companies in C4i, Daronmont and Wave 1 to deliver the project."

Sydney Ports Harbour Master Steven Young said that the project would replace the current system, which has been superseded by more modern technology.

“Our new VTS system will give us far greater ability to organise and manage traffic safely. It will also complement and support the future projected growth of trade at the expanded Port Botany,” Captain Young said.

Mr Gilfillan said that SOFRELOG had been selected from a shortlist of tenderers following a trial of new systems in September 2008.

“While this company has the world-class technology and software we need, much of the work on the new system will be carried out by local contractors Wave1, Daronmont and C4i,” Mr Gilfillan said.

Mr Gilfillan said that until the new VTS became fully operational, Sydney Ports would continue to operate the current system from the Harbour Control Tower in Sydney Harbour.

“Sydney Ports is a leader in delivering world-best port technology and our new VTS system will rank with the world’s best,” Mr Gilfillan said.

“This important initiative will complement the major infrastructure investments Sydney Ports is undertaking such as the \$1 billion Port Botany Container Terminal Expansion which will double the handling capacity at the port to meet the projected long-term trade growth for NSW.

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