

## INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXPO TO SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT ON SKILLS CRISIS

Organiser of this month's Pacific International Maritime Exposition will shine the spotlight on the current skills crisis affecting the commercial maritime and naval defence sectors.

Like many key Australian industries, these sectors are suffering from a major skills shortage, which long term, will affect the viability and future sustainability of these industries.

Maritime Australia Limited, organiser of the Pacific2012 International Maritime Exposition, is providing an opportunity for young people, teachers and careers advisors to explore pathways into the exciting job opportunities that exist within the commercial maritime and naval defence sectors.

"Acquiring and retaining knowledge and capability is now one of the biggest challenges facing industry and defence," says Maritime Australia Limited CEO Ian Honnery. "The Careers and Skills Forum at Pacific2012 will provide information about job opportunities and practical assistance on how to develop a career path for the future."

Pacific2012 will be a unique opportunity for teachers, students and career professionals to meet key industry employers, learn more about the skills and training pathways available, and see the latest technologies from some of the world's leading commercial maritime and naval defence industry companies.

"This is a chance for industry to communicate to the next generation of workers about where they should train, what skills they should train in and how to get a start in their chosen field," Mr Honnery says.

The commercial maritime and naval defence industries provide a vast array of job opportunities from naval architecture to maritime security, ship manufacturing, ports and harbour operations and electronic engineering.

The Careers and Skill Forum will be held on Friday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the final day of the Pacific2012 International Maritime Exposition, and has already attracted a record number of attendees.

The forum is part of a national program of Careers and Skills events co-ordinated on a not-for-profit basis by Aerospace Maritime and Defence Foundation of Australia Limited, with support from Maritime Australia Limited, to promote the development of Australia's maritime, aviation and aerospace industries.

The biennial Pacific2012 International Maritime Exposition will be staged across four days, from January 31<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre at Darling Harbour.

For more information on the Careers and Skills Forum go to [www.careersandskills.com.au](http://www.careersandskills.com.au)

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