

MEDIA RELEASE

FINCANTIERI AUSTRALIA SIGNS MOU TO ADVANCE WELDING SOLUTIONS IN AUSTRALIAN SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY

Canberra, 2 March 2018– **Fincantieri**, one of the world’s largest shipbuilding groups and a participant in the selection process for the Federal Government’s SEA 5000 Future Frigates program, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Welding Technology Institute of Australia (WTIA)**, to explore cooperation in the design and development of new welding solutions and techniques for shipbuilding in Australia.

The agreement will also involve **CETENA**, a subsidiary company of Fincantieri, which undertakes research and consultancy programs in the naval and maritime fields, and **Istituto Italiano della Saldatura (IIS)**, the national institute of welding in Italy.

According to the agreement, the four organisations will work together to design, develop and implement new and innovative welding production techniques and processes that will provide improved welding solutions to the commercial and naval shipbuilding industries in Australia.

The partnership will see cooperation across training, qualification, and the certification of welders in Australia. It will also see the joint development of new welding and testing procedures, a welding technology and knowledge transfer from Fincantieri’s Italian shipyards, and ongoing industry integration and cooperation.

The **Director of Fincantieri Australia, Sean Costello** said that the MOU demonstrated that Fincantieri is serious about delivering on its promise to transfer knowledge and technology from its 20 shipyards across four continents to Australia.

“Fincantieri has an industry plan to develop a continuous naval shipbuilding industry that will enable Australia to design and build new vessels. This MOU with the Welding Technology Institute of Australia, CETENA and Istituto Italiano della Saldatura, not only demonstrates cooperation between Australian and Italian industries, but shows that we are deeply focused on using our global experience and strength to help grow the skills and capabilities of the workforce, by bringing best practice in welding solutions and techniques to Australia.”

“As part of this agreement, we will work together to ensure the cooperation between the Italian and Australian commercial and naval shipbuilding industries, develop joint training and certifications for local welders, as well as develop joint welding and testing procedures.”

The **Chief Executive Officer of the Welding Technology Institute of Australia, Geoff Crittenden** said: “The WTIA is committed to ensuring that all new defence equipment is built by Australian welders and that defence contractors have no reason or excuse for importing skilled labour to deliver these

projects. The signing of this MoU will help ensure that Australian welders, suppliers and contractors have access to new technology and techniques”.

The **President** and **CEO** of **CETENA**, **Sandro Scarrone** said: “We are thrilled to be a part of this important agreement. It provides an opportunity to exchange experience and knowledge, and enables the partners to grow and to work together to find common areas of interest. CETENA, as a research and engineering consulting centre is very proud to collaborate with these important institutions and we look forward to commencing a mutually beneficial relationship.”

The Sales and Marketing Director of **Istituto Italiano della Saldatura**, **Giancarlo Canale** said: “We strongly believe in this agreement and we are proud be entering into a collaboration with these important global partners. Our highly motivated technicians and engineers will share their know-how and expertise in welding and related technologies and we believe they will make a positive impact.”

ENDS

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BACKGROUND

Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups and number one by diversification and innovation. It is leader in cruise ship design and construction and a reference player in all high-tech shipbuilding industry's sectors, from naval to offshore vessels, from high-complexity special vessels and ferries to mega-yachts, ship repairs and conversions, systems and components production and after-sales services. Headquartered in Trieste (Italy), the Group has built more than 7,000 vessels in over 230 years of maritime history. With more than 19,400 employees, of whom more than 8,200 in Italy, 20 shipyards in 4 continents, today Fincantieri is the leading Western shipbuilder. It has among its clients the major cruise operators, the Italian and the U.S. Navy, in addition to several foreign navies, and it is partner of some of the main European defense companies within supranational programmes.

www.fincantieri.com

The **Welding Technology Institute of Australia (WTIA)** represents the welding profession in Australia. Our members are made up of individual welding professionals and companies of all sizes. WTIA's mission is to represent the interests of members and safeguard the public by ensuring the integrity of in-service welds, and to promote the use of best practice technology and quality systems.

www.wtia.com.au

CETENA S.p.A. is a company within the FINCANTIERI Group dedicated to research and consultancy in the naval and maritime field. Since the foundation in 1962, CETENA has been involved in national and international research activities and has carried out research and consultancy and technical assistance for shipyards, shipowners, navies and universities, with a wide range activities on board, development of specific products, laboratory tests, transfer of technology and training activities in maritime field for civil and naval sectors. CETENA is based in Genova, with offices in Trieste, Muggiano, Castellammare, Palermo and Workshop in Riva Trigoso, near Genova.

www.Cetena.it

Istituto Italiano della Saldatura (IIS) since 1948 aims at "promoting and encouraging in every field the development of welding and allied technologies, contributing to its knowledge and diffusion". IIS is the owner of three limited companies IIS CERT, IIS PROGRESS and IIS SERVICE. The IIS Group provides different services, from engineering to inspection & testing, from certification to laboratory test, from training and education to research and development for new technologies, through its multidisciplinary and versatile structure and a headcount of 230 people. The IIS Group operates in different areas of expertise, offering comprehensive services in many industries, such as oil & gas, civil and industrial infrastructures, power generation, transportation, chemical, electromechanical and manufacturing, in Italy and abroad.