

Record iron ore tonnage from Port Hedland

In a joint effort with Pilbara Ports Authority (PPA), OMC International's real-time DUKC® e-Navigation technology helped enable the largest ever iron ore shipment to leave Port Hedland (*illustrated*) at a record sailing draft of 19.95 metres, Executive Director Dr Terry O'Brien AM said on 7 March.

Dr O'Brien said: *'Under DUKC® advice a record 270,006 tonnes of iron ore left Port Hedland – the world's largest bulk export port – on the Fortescue Metals Group loaded ship HL Tubarao on 1 March.'*

'Our technology, which has been operating at Port Hedland for more than 20 years, safely allowed an increased draft of 0.70m over the traditionally conservative static rule, which meant an extra 12,000 tonnes of iron ore could be loaded.'

DUKC® technology, which is supported around the clock from OMCI's Melbourne headquarters, has also assisted in enabling PPA to ship record iron ore bulk cargoes from Port Hedland in previous years. The largest ever single shipment of 270,006 tonnes of iron ore referred to exceeds the previous record set by the ship *CSB Years* in April 2015 which loaded a total cargo of 264,858 tonnes under DUKC® advice. It also beats the previous maximum sailing draft of 19.67 metres set by *Abigail N* in February 2015.

Dr O'Brien concluded by saying: *'OMC is proud of this very productive working relationship with PPA and our joint efforts to find innovative working solutions to safely deliver economic and efficiency benefits when favourable conditions allow deeper drafts and/or extended tidal windows at Port Hedland.'*