

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Autonomous Marine Systems Fundamentals for Marine Surveyors**

**World First Autonomous Systems Training for Marine Surveyors developed in partnership between Australian Maritime College Search (AMC Search), Trusted Autonomous Systems (TAS), Queensland AI Hub and Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS).**

Release Date/Embargo Until 24 March 2021

With the support of Queensland Government to each entity; Trusted Autonomous Systems and the Queensland AI Hub are funding delivery of a world first pilot course 'Autonomous Marine Systems Fundamentals for Marine Surveyors' to be delivered by the Australian Maritime College Search (AMC Search) at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) in Townsville 29 and 30 March.

The course aims to introduce participants to autonomous and unmanned vessel technology, key terminology, operating concepts and system capabilities, limitations and risks. The participants are existing qualified accredited Marine Surveyors and other professionals, including representatives of Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Port of Townsville and Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ), who will benefit from increasing their knowledge and understanding of Autonomous Marine Systems. The course will enable the primarily QLD-based participants to more effectively undertake survey and other assurance and accreditation activities relating to autonomous and unmanned vessel technology. By upskilling ten accredited marine surveyors and professionals, this pilot course will address a gap in the current assurance and accreditation framework for autonomous marine systems.

This pilot course will make it more efficient and effective for Queensland businesses to build, test and certify their autonomous marine systems. It is a key opportunity to utilise the AIMS maritime facility and to borrow on the AI expertise of TAS and AMC Search. These learnings may then lead to additional opportunities to accelerate autonomous maritime systems development in Queensland, part of our commitment to the Smart Drone State.

TAS CEO Professor Jason Scholz stated "This represents significant progress in translating emerging Robotics, Autonomous and AI systems into operational use for the maritime domain. It also demonstrates Queensland's leadership and commitment to this area".

Welcoming the globally unique initiative, Queensland AI Hub CEO Dr Sue Keay said it is essential to provide up-to-date skills to our existing work forces.

“Queensland AI Hub is committed to driving AI-enabled social, economic and workplace positive transformation across all sectors, with a strong focus on people development and industry upskilling. AI driven technologies like Autonomous Marine Systems are transforming the way we work, but we have to address the skill gaps that emerge when these technologies take off. This initiative will expand the Marine Surveyor tool kit, giving surveyors confidence in the assessment of autonomous and unmanned vessels.” Dr Keay said.

AIMS Technology Development Engineering Team Leader Melanie Olsen said AIMS was committed to integrating autonomous marine monitoring technology into its routine operations to strengthen Australia’s understanding of our rapidly changing environment. “We are on the cusp of an autonomous technology revolution in marine monitoring,” she said. “It’s vital our regulators and marine surveyors understand marine autonomous systems to ensure a safe and effective operational roll-out of this next-generation technology.”

For an opportunity to learn more about marine and other autonomous systems join us in Townsville and the Accelerating Trusted Autonomous Systems Symposium 2021, more information at <https://tasdcrc.com.au/symposium2021/>

Trusted Autonomous Systems receive funding from the Australian Government through the Next Generation Technologies Fund (NGTF) and the Queensland Government Advance Queensland Initiative.

## Contacts for Enquiries

Trusted Autonomous Systems (TAS)  
Paul Jones | Security & Communications [paul.jones@tasdcrc.com.au](mailto:paul.jones@tasdcrc.com.au)

Queensland AI Hub  
Sarah-Jayne McCreath | Communications and Events Manager [sarah-jayne@qldaihub.com](mailto:sarah-jayne@qldaihub.com)

Australian Institute of Marine Science  
Danielle Koopman | Communication Manager [d.koopman@aims.gov.au](mailto:d.koopman@aims.gov.au)

Australian Maritime College Search  
Chris White | Manager for Defence & Autonomous Systems [christopher.white@amc.edu.au](mailto:christopher.white@amc.edu.au)

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