

PACIFIC 2017

3 - 5 OCTOBER
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXPOSITION
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 19 APRIL 2017

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR \$40,000 INNOVATION AWARDS

Organisers of the 2017 Pacific International Maritime Exposition are calling for nominations for the latest round of Industry Innovation Awards, worth over \$40,000.

The **Maritime Australia Industry Innovation Awards** recognise and reward those Australian companies and individuals who are at the forefront of both naval and commercial maritime innovation. They will be presented in Sydney at Pacific 2017 October. Entries open on 19 April.

The shortlisted Innovation Award contenders will enjoy the attention of senior naval and industry leaders and international media attending Pacific 2017.

Six awards will be presented in total for the following categories:

- Defence Industry National Innovation Award
- Civil Industry National Innovation Award
- Defence Industry SME Innovation Grant
- Civil Industry SME Innovation Grant
- Young Innovator Scholarship for Defence Industry Innovation
- Young Innovator Scholarship for Civil Industry Innovation.

Eligible SMEs stand to win a \$10,000 Innovation Grant while Young Innovators stand to win a \$10,000 innovation scholarship. The winners of the National defence and civil innovation awards will be presented with trophies. These awards have been developed by the National not-for-profit foundation, Industry Defence and Security Australia Limited (IDSAL), which organises the biennial Pacific International Maritime Exposition at the new Sydney International Convention Centre (ICC) in Darling Harbour on 3-5 October. Maritime Australia is a division of IDSAL.

The Maritime Australia Industry Innovation Awards were first presented in 2013. Since then Australian companies and innovators have been presented with SME Innovation Grants and Young Innovator Scholarships worth more than \$200,000 at the Pacific International Maritime Exposition and its sister events, the Land Forces Exposition and the Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition.

“With the Commonwealth government looking to invest nearly \$90 billion over the next generation in Australia’s submarine and surface fleets, there has never been a better time for innovative companies in Australia’s maritime and defence sectors to show what they can do. The awards resonate with our altruistic mission to promote the development of Australia’s maritime industries,” says CEO Ian Honnery.

“We want to recognise the skills and expertise that exist within Australia and reward and encourage the highly innovative work which is being undertaken by Australian companies and individuals.”

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The awards are open to Australian companies or the Australian subsidiaries of overseas parent companies, and the innovation could be anything from a new product or service to a new approach to business.

Entries will be judged on their understanding of the user needs and the originality of the innovation.

Nominations for the Maritime Australia Industry Innovation Awards will close on 1 August with a short list of candidates drawn up by 21 August.

The Chairman of Industry Defence and Security Australia Limited will present the Innovation Awards during the 2017 Pacific International Maritime Exposition. To find out further information about the eligibility criteria or to submit an entry for the Maritime Industry Innovation Awards go to:

<http://www.pacific2017.com.au/innovation-awards/index.asp>

The 2017 Pacific International Maritime Exposition will be held at the new Sydney International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour from 3-5 October 2017 and is supported by the Australian Department of Defence, in particular the Royal Australian Navy, and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

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