Embargo 20 February

Territory Government teams up with industry to get Territory businesses INPEX ready

More than 300 business, industry, union and Territory Government representatives will come together at Darwin Convention Centre today to discuss how Territory businesses can take advantage of new opportunities joined to the INPEX Ichthys LNG Project.

The Industry Opportunities Forum is a collaborative effort of the Territory Government and industry including INPEX, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Master Builders Association, Manufacturing Council, Civil Contractors Federation of NT and Industry Capability Network – NT.

“The Northern Territory Government and industry want to enable Territory businesses to compete for a share of business from the Ichthys Project,” Minister for Business and Employment, Rob Knight said.

“Major projects like Ichthys will provide new challenges and opportunities on a scale not seen in the business landscape of the Territory before, and I’m confident with hard work, together with support from the government, Territory business will take advantage of the massive economic boost around the corner.”

Minister Knight announced at the forum the Territory Government in collaboration with industry will hold a series of workshops for business to ensure local businesses and their workforce are aware of the skills needed for when INPEX starts work.

“The Territory Government and local industry are keen to make sure businesses have the skills they need to maximise the economic benefits the INPEX Ichthys Project will bring – we need to act now to ensure our businesses and our workforce are ready to take advantage of the prosperity future major projects will bring to the Territory economy.”

“The Territory Government has teamed up with industry bodies to run a series of mostly free seminars and workshops for businesses to get the skills they need to tender for INPEX and other major project contracts, and ensure their workers have the qualifications needed to bid for work.”

INPEX Darwin General Manager Sean Kildare said the Project’s Industry Participation Plan (IPP) commits the company to sourcing goods and services from local business when bids are technically and commercially competitive.

“Our Supplier Relationship Program promotes Full, Fair and Reasonable access to opportunities for Territory and Australian companies to supply goods and services to the Ichthys Project,” Mr Kildare said.

“INPEX and its contractors will continue to work with the Territory government to set out the business and employment opportunities for the people of Darwin and the Territory as a whole.”

“In order to succeed in the competitive oil and gas industry in Australia, business and workers need to have the appropriate qualifications and capability. Through these seminars Territory businesses will gain the necessary advice they need about appropriate standards and the tendering process in order to determine their approach to bidding for work with INPEX contractors.”
During the peak of construction the Project will employ more than 2000 people and have an ongoing workforce of around 300 people.

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Presentations at the Opportunities Forum made by:
- The Chief Minister, Paul Henderson
- Minister for Business and Employment, Rob Knight
- Sean Kildare, General Manager Darwin - INPEX
- Phillip Bullock, Chair - Skills Australia
- Kevin Peters, General Manager - Industry Capability Network NT.

Topics addressed at the Opportunities Forum included:
- The Northern Territory’s economic development and major project opportunities
- Update on the INPEX Ichthys project
- Approaching prequalification
- Promoting and developing NT Business capabilities
- The Marine Supply Base
- Workforce projection and planning.

Ongoing events/support services to be presented in collaboration with Industry including:
- Workforce development – including skilled migration
- Indigenous recruitment, training and retention
- Financial information for tendering
- Project management and control
- Quality assurance
- Health safety and environment
- Business engagement with Japanese companies
- Joint venture and consortium tendering.

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