Darwin ship lift project enters request for proposal phase

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The Northern Territory is one step closer to developing a significant new marine maintenance industry at East Arm following the shortlisting of five proponents.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said 13 expressions of interest had been received to develop a ship lift facility following 42 registrations of interest and 23 briefings by the department.

An advisory committee was established which included representatives from Defence and Border Force, as well as commercial and legal advisors and department officials.

The advisory committee provided observations to an evaluation committee which included senior Northern Territory Government officials supported by a marine engineering expert who provided technical advice.

Five shortlisted proponents have been invited to proceed to the detailed request for proposal phase:

- BSE Maritime with Civmec, GHD and Initiative Capital;
- Darwin Marine Centre comprising Capella Capital and Lendlease;
- East Arm Marine Consortium comprising Thales, McConnell Dowell, Sitzler and Jacobs;
- Pearl Marine Engineering with KBR, SMEC, Bhagwan Marine and Macquarie Capital; and
- UGL with Norship Marine.

“This ship lift project will catalyse the creation of a new major industry dedicated to marine services which has the potential to drive the development of prime industrial land at East Arm to support the defence, oil and gas, coastal barding and logistics sectors,” he said.

“At full capacity, our marine industries are projected to support up to 4500 full time jobs and inject around $3.5 billion into the Territory economy.

“The Northern Territory Government is prepared to invest up to $100 million to the project costs and has commenced consultation with Defence, Border Force and industry to secure local marine maintenance commitments that would underpin the ship lift.
“The Government intends to enter into project agreements with and announce a successful preferred proponent for the project in July.”

Mr Giles said a ship lift would have the capacity to raise large sea vessels from water on to dry land for repairs and maintenance works.

“The facility will be designed to accommodate boats more than 90 metres in length, including the new fleet of patrol vessels currently being procured by the Defence Force,” he said.

“A ship lift facility in Darwin would allow locally based Defence and Border Force vessels to be serviced here instead of being transported to Singapore or interstate for repairs and maintenance works.

“It is this sort of infrastructure that will drive local industry, keep work in the hands of Territorians and establish Darwin as the prime location for marine maintenance and servicing facilities in Northern Australia.

“Foreign Investment Review Board officials have been briefed on the project and the Northern Territory Government will continue to keep them informed throughout the process.

“It’s all part of the Country Liberals’ plan to create opportunities to deliver more jobs, better services and improve our unique way of life here in the Territory.”

Media Contact: Scott Whitby 0438 531 583