



ANSWERING THE SOS CALL

Australian firm SOS Marine is demonstrating two internationally patented designs for marine rescue at Pacific 2012.

"The safety of naval personnel is the organisation's most important priority," said SOS Marine's Director, Ross Spencer. Taking this principle as priority, SOS Marine has developed solutions aimed at this need.

The SOS danbuoy was designed for a 'man overboard' situation, and is an instantly deployable, automatically inflating portable rescue device. Employing the same mechanism as an inflatable lifejacket, the package is deployed by throwing it into the water. The danbuoy inflates after a few seconds, allowing for visibility up to 1700 metres, and providing the person with support loops, a light, and a drogue.

"Once the person has been located, we have to get them out, considering they might be injured or incapacitated," Spencer said.

The SOS Marine Sea Scoopa is another internationally patented device, designed to assist rescuers with retrieving fatigued or injured victims from the water. The device, weighing only 17 kilograms, is attached to the boat's side, and contains a manually deployable net which is used to scoop the victim into a waiting stretcher, all while the vessel remains in motion.

The Sea Scoopa has been assessed by the Royal Australian Navy, which completed 46 rescues in one day, all by personnel unfamiliar with the device. The Sea Scoopa is also currently in use by the Australian mining industry.

Skill Forum to be held today.

Like many key Australian industries these sectors are suffering from a major skills shortage, and as part of the Pacific 2012 gathering, Maritime Australia Ltd will be exposing young people, teachers and careers advisors to opportunities within the commercial maritime and naval defence sectors.

"Acquiring and retaining knowledge and capability is now one of the biggest challenges facing industry and defence," says Maritime Australia Ltd CEO Ian Honnery. "The Careers and Skills Forum at Pacific 2012 will provide information about job opportunities and practical assistance on how to develop a career path for the future."

The forum is part of

a national program of careers and skills events coordinated on a not-for-profit basis by Aerospace Maritime and Defence Foundation of Australia Limited, with support from Maritime Australia Ltd, to promote the development of Australia's maritime, aviation and aerospace industries.

UK EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS STRONGER GOVT-INDUSTRY COLLABORATION ON SUBS – BABCOCK

Australia will need stronger collaboration between government and industry as the country embarks on an ambitious shipbuilding program over the coming

decades, Babcock Marine and Technology Division CEO Archie Bethel told an audience of defence industry leaders in Sydney this week.

In a dinner hosted by retired GEN Peter Cosgrove, Chairman of the Defence SA Advisory Board, Bethel addressed Babcock's recent experiences working with the UK, in particular on the building of the new Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers. He said the UK had developed an effective "strategic approach" based on alliances between industry partners and between industry and government focused on the common goal of platform availability.

Bethel said Australia would be well served by a similar approach as it invests an estimated

\$250 billion over the next 30-40 years on maritime capabilities including the Air Warfare Destroyers, Landing Helicopter Decks, Offshore Combatant Vessels and future submarines and frigates.

JAMES FISHER LOOKS TO FUTURE SUBS

Best known for submarine rescue operations, sub-sea engineering firm James Fisher Defence have also used Pacific 2012 to show the breadth of their operations.

The company also provides a range of Swimmer Delivery Vehicles to enhance covert insertion capability for maritime Special Forces operations. The vehicles have been designed with an