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www.engineersaustralia.org.au Vol 81 No 7, July 2009 \$6.50 inc. GST

New gas pipeline close to realisation

A major new energy initiative for the region is a proposed natural gas pipeline from southern Queensland to the Hunter. Called the Queensland Hunter Gas Pipeline (QHGP) it would take gas 850km from Wallumbilla near Roma to Newcastle. It would pass near the towns of Boomi, Moree, Narrabri, Quirindi, Murrurundi, Muswellbrook, Singleton and Maitland, with a terminus near Newcastle. QHGP general manager Bob Otjen said

the 0.5m diameter line would bring about 85PJ/a into the market and, with compression, could be expanded to 150PJ/a. He said it would provide extra capacity for electricity generation, direct use by commercial and industrial users and potentially to domestic consumers through the current gas reticulation system. The pipeline has been approved by both the Queensland and NSW governments and there are no federal impediments to its construction. Landown-

ers have been consulted and the route for the 30m-wide easement has been chosen.

“Once we have financial closure regarding our main customers we will then award the contracts for engineering design, materials and construction,” he said.

“The pipe and valves have a lead time of up to a year and, once enough pipe is on hand, the construction would take about a year. “We are expecting we could provide first gas in 2012,” he said. ■

From minehunters to superyachts

Newcastle has a history as a shipbuilding centre, having been home to the former State Dockyard and private shipbuilder Carrington slipways. More recently the city was home to the Australian Government’s minehunter project, which was successfully completed several years ago under contract by Thales Australia (formerly ADI).

The former minehunter site in the port-side suburb of Carrington is now home to Azzura Marine, which builds and services superyachts (both sail and motor yachts).

Azzura Marine’s refit division recently completed the extensive refit of Ilonka, a 45m motor yacht. Over 100 specialists

worked on the ten month project, which was completed ahead of schedule.

The shipyard also recently completed work on a 35m expedition charter yacht and is currently negotiating a number of international contracts while conducting repair work and interior fitout projects on a several vessels.

The facility retains all the facilities which were used to produce the fiberglass hulled minehunters, including the country’s largest 900t capacity superyacht synchrolift slipway, immediate deep water access, generous hardstand area and large undercover refit shed.

In addition to refit and repair, Azzura Marine also constructs custom motor and

sail yachts up to 74m under the Azzura Yachts brand. The company is also working on several innovative design projects for motor yachts ranging in length from 42m to 70m.

Based on Azzura Marine’s internationally recognised reputation for constructing high quality custom motor and sail yachts, its experience in high tech construction and the impressive features of its Newcastle-based shipyard, the group was recently selected as the build partner to the expanded range of UK-based Performance Yachts. By this agreement, the PY-115 and flagship PY-125 will be constructed at Azzura Marine’s superyacht precinct in Newcastle. ■



The 45m motor yacht Ilonka was recently refitted at Azzura Marine’s superyacht facility in Newcastle.

PHOTO: FRANCOLINI/AZZURA MARINE