OIL AND GAS
Since the 1965 drilling of the first offshore well in Bass Strait to the modern coal seam gas boom in Queensland, Australia’s oil and gas industry has delivered enormous benefits in the form of export earnings, domestic economic activity, employment and investment. It has also created and sustained a globally respected, innovative technology, services and manufacturing sector.

Australia’s oil and gas service and supply companies have been at the forefront of the industry’s efforts to deal with remoteness, inherent technical challenges and risks, and mounting environmental and social pressures.

Australian companies have developed expertise across drilling technologies, geophysics software, pipeline construction materials and methods, engineering and design, and geotechnical engineering and assessment, to advanced safety training, rehabilitation and facility management.

This industry capability statement provides an overview of Australian capability in the oil and gas sector, including examples of some of the many Australian companies with specialist expertise.

Talk to your local Austrade representative for more tailored advice and information about connecting and partnering with the Australian oil and gas industry.
According to Australia’s Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics (BREE), total energy production in Australia increased by 5 per cent to 17 460 petajoules in 2011-12. This year-on-year increase was underpinned by an 8 per cent rise in natural gas production, which was forecast to increase in output by a further 17 per cent in FY2012-13.

Australian domestic gas production increased by 3.5 per cent to a record 1102PJ in 2012-13, while petroleum production rose by 6 per cent to 512 million barrels of oil equivalent (MMboe).

New and existing developments in several regions around Australia have already created thousands of jobs in the local oil and gas industry, and this is likely to continue over the next few decades. Australia also has substantial shale gas reserves, such as in the Perth, Canning, Cooper and Maryborough basins, which offer potential for development in coming years.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

In Western Australia, the North West Shelf’s modern gas boom effectively started with first-phase development of facilities in 1980. First domestic gas deliveries began in 1984. The North West Shelf Project is today Australia’s largest oil and gas resource development, with further growth expected. Some 92 per cent of the gas reserves feeding Australia’s multi-billion-dollar liquefied natural gas (LNG) sector are located off the Western Australian coast in the Bonaparte, Browse, Carnarvon and Perthen Basins.

Since 1989, when the first LNG cargoes were shipped from the North West Shelf, Australia has produced more than 350 million tonnes of LNG. Production from the region accounts for one per cent of Australia’s gross domestic product per year and contributes more than A$5 billion a year of state and federal taxes and royalties.

**BASS STRAIT, VICTORIA**

In 1965 Esso/BHP joint venture drilling discovered the Barracouta gas field in Bass Strait. Two years later, Kingfish, the first offshore oil field, was found. It is still the largest oil field discovered in Australia. Billions of dollars worth of infrastructure has been built to develop, produce and process the crude oil and gas from these and other major discoveries in Bass Strait, off Victoria’s Gippsland coast. The energy produced has been used to power industry, fuel vehicles and manufacture products in Australia and overseas.

Today there are 23 offshore platforms and installations in Bass Strait, including the new Marlin B platform and Kipper subsea wells, which feed a network of 600km of underwater pipelines. More than four billion barrels of crude oil and around eight trillion cubic feet of gas have been produced and the fields are predicted to supply energy for decades to come.
LNG production from the North West Shelf grew about 10 per cent a year to 2012, but with projects currently under construction this rate could climb to 20 per cent per year from 2020. Some projections indicate Australia’s share of global LNG supply is set to grow from about 8 per cent to more than 25 per cent.

This success has been achieved by overcoming many technical and other challenges.

More than 80 per cent of Australia’s gas resources exist in deep, remote, offshore areas. Developing the full potential of these remote resources has relied – and continues to rely – on advances in exploration, infrastructure and project development, transportation and maintenance.

Western Australia has also become an important global centre for offshore LNG industry research, technological innovation, education and vital training, through a variety of collaborative ventures and projects.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

The Cooper Basin in central Australia has been a focal point for oil and gas exploration and development in South Australia since the first hydrocarbon discovery there in 1963. The formation of Geosurveys of Australia and Santos in March 1954 were important for local petroleum exploration locally and brought a revised approach to exploration thinking. By the early 1980s the Moomba gas processing facilities were regarded as a “Vital National Installation”.

**QUEENSLAND**

Eastern Australia has very large reserves of coal seam gas (CSG) in high-permeability reservoirs that can deliver gas to the wellbores faster than coal reservoirs elsewhere.

CSG projects in Queensland are now playing a major role in Australia’s energy sector and Queensland has been a pioneer in using coal seam gas to produce LNG. More than A$200 billion of new investment is proposed in LNG and CSG developments in Western Australia and Queensland alone.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

As part of the Ichthys project in the Browse Basin off Western Australia, Darwin will be the location for an onshore LNG processing plant. Gas from the Ichthys field will be transported from the offshore central processing facility (CPF) to the facility via an 885km subsea pipeline.
Innovation

A number of industry trends have opened up development opportunities for Australian designers and engineers, manufacturers and technology companies. Australian oil and gas companies are pioneering innovations in floating LNG, major developments in coal-seam gas, advanced subsea geotechnics in extreme marine environments and implementing large-scale geosequestration projects.

Floating production systems

Floating production systems are of increasing importance to offshore oil and gas development, particularly in giving access to resources that would otherwise remain untapped because of distance from land.

Australia is likely to be the first country where floating LNG facilities are deployed and with a workforce capable of operating the next-generation vessels. The operations and maintenance phases of these projects have contributed to an emerging Australian floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) and floating LNG (FLNG) sector that is building exportable skills, expertise and technologies.

Specialised engineering capabilities

As well as floating LNG production, other areas of innovation include improving construction productivity, safety enhancements, computational geosciences and subsea production. Oil and gas projects are becoming increasingly complex as the need increases to search for new resources in more hostile environments. Similarly, cost and other pressures require the development of different technologies which affect engineering design requirements.

Australia has proven capacity and capability in process and chemical engineering, mechanical and piping engineering, electronic and instrument engineering, electrical and power engineering, IT and telecommunications, civil and infrastructure engineering, onshore, offshore and subsea structural engineering, and project management.

Australian companies have developed advanced tieback, flow assurance and foundation modelling technologies and design solutions, while local suppliers are recognised as offering world-class marine vessels and innovation.

Safety, remote operations and environmental controls

Australian companies are recognised as leaders in innovation around safety, remote operations and environmental controls – knowledge that is increasingly in demand around the world.

According to the Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA), injury rates in the domestic industry have declined despite a significant increase in industry activity and hours worked over recent years.

Australian firms with experience in security, safety systems and compliance have responded to increasingly stringent safety and environmental requirements on offshore projects. Chevron, ExxonMobil, Conoco Philips and Shell all cite safety as the number one priority for their business, while 2012 Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) environment award winners Santos GLNG and Woodside Energy were recognised for their work in the field of environmental management.
Santos implemented an online water portal that showed results from more than 100 monitoring locations at which the Santos GLNG Project monitors surface and groundwater. Users of the Santos GLNG Water Portal accessed information, updated quarterly, on surface and subsurface water quality test results for aquifers, and could view water bore levels. Santos’ award recognised the water portal’s contribution to openness, accountability and environmental excellence.

Woodside’s partnerships with the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and the Western Australian Museum (WAM), which improved the scientists’, industry’s and the broader community’s understandings of biodiversity and ecological function in Western Australia’s tropical marine communities, also won APPEA recognition.

Since 1993, Woodside (on behalf of its Browse joint venture partners) collaborated with AIMS on more than 40 scientific expeditions to the offshore atolls of the Kimberley. From 1998, Woodside and the WAM partnered in ground-breaking research on the marine biodiversity of the Dampier Archipelago and the waters off the Kimberley region for the Browse and Pluto projects, aimed at minimising the environmental footprint of hydrocarbon exploration and production.
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Australian centres of excellence and clusters of suppliers, researchers and tier one industry players are working together to provide an environment for innovation and commercialisation of new solutions and technologies. The Australian Government, industry and universities are fostering oil and gas industry Centres of Excellence in Australia, particularly in Perth as a hub for deep offshore and FLNG operations and maintenance.

Sustainability

In 2011, industry and the science community came together in Queensland to launch the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA), a groundbreaking research alliance to support sustainable development of the coal seam gas industry.

Founded by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and Australia Pacific LNG (a CSG to LNG joint venture between Origin and ConocoPhillips), GISERA’s research focus over five years is in five key social and environmental areas:

- groundwater and surface water, biodiversity, land management, the marine environment and socio-economic impacts.
- The A$14 million venture is initially aimed at Queensland’s CSG-LNG industry but has potential to be expanded to cover gas sector developments in other parts of Australia.

LNG processing

CSIRO is also leading industry research into new ways to liquefy or transform natural gas so it is easier to use and transport. New generation gas-to-liquid processes are being targeted, with potentially significant implications for global use of the fuel.

Working with Australia’s biggest gas producers, CSIRO research projects are aimed at developing, testing and demonstrating new catalysts to improve the efficiency of natural gas processing:

- making the conversion of natural gas to synthetic fuels and chemicals more economically feasible by developing processes that reduce plant size and cost
- improving gas separation technologies for oxygen, hydrocarbons and carbon dioxide for process efficiency improvements and greenhouse gas mitigation
- developing a concentrated hydrogen supply from gas-to-liquids processes for fuel cell and hydrogen economy applications
- researching plastics production from biologically-derived materials such as eucalyptus oil.

The work is also targeting new purification steps to produce cleaner LNG, potentially lowering processing costs.

CSIRO gas processing and conversion research facilities and laboratories are regarded as being unique in the South East Asia region. The organisation has also built Australia’s first synthetic fuels research facility. While automated, the plant is seen as an ideal training ground for the gas processing industry.
Pipeline technology
As well as developing and adopting leading-practice floating LNG (FLNG) and floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) approaches to developing offshore gas resources as Browse Basin projects come online from 2017, the Australian oil and gas sector is also responding to the global trend toward facilities for deep water and offshore oil and gas developments.

Building a pipeline system to link an offshore oil and gas field to the mainland represents a huge capital investment. Today the cost per kilometre of current pipeline projects, including Gorgon (water depth: 1350m/length: 65-140km), Scarborough (900m/280km), Pluto (830m/180km) and Browse (600m/up to 400km) is estimated to exceed A$4.5 million per kilometre.

With over 2000km of pipelines under design in Australia, capital expenditure could exceed A$10 billion.

Pipeline research
The need to maintain the structural integrity of offshore pipelines to safeguard continuous supply of products across hundreds of kilometres of seabed – and also to ensure the economic viability of these vital transportation arteries – has led to the development of cutting-edge R&D and technical solutions now being applied around the world.

These solutions for Australia’s offshore pipelines are considered essential for achieving ‘platform free fields’ (a CSIRO Wealth from Oceans Flagship initiative [csiro.au/en/Organisation-Structure/Flagships/Wealth-from-Oceans-Flagship.aspx]), where subsea technologies replace traditional oil and gas platforms in the production of gas from resources up to 300km offshore, at depths exceeding 1km.

Six Australian universities (The University of Western Australia, Curtin University of Technology, The University of Queensland, Monash University, The University of Sydney and Flinders University) and CSIRO’s Wealth from Ocean Flagship came together in 2008 to establish the Subsea Pipelines Collaboration Cluster.

Based in Western Australia, its aim has been to provide engineering solutions for safe and economic design and operation of subsea pipelines in Australia’s offshore frontiers. The work has already resulted in significant advances in the understanding of subsea pipeline technology. Key achievements include establishing new numerical models and software for analysing the stability of offshore pipelines, novel methodologies for economic and safe pipeline design, and the commissioning of world-class experimental and pipeline testing facilities. These have spawned specialist testing and consultancy services for the offshore pipeline industry.

Results from the cluster’s research have been incorporated into new generation subsea natural gas projects such as the Gorgon project in north-west Western Australia.
The sophisticated equipment and pipeline testing methods developed by the cluster have underpinned designs for other new pipelines in Australia, while the same technologies have also been used on projects elsewhere in the world, such as BP’s PSVM field off Angola, West Nile Delta offshore Egypt and Shah Deniz in the Caspian Sea.

The cluster’s research outcomes are contributing to future research priorities in CSIRO, the universities involved, and with industry partners in the areas of pipeline design and installation in Australian calcareous soil conditions and in deep-water, geohazard risk assessment, and the use of automated underwater vehicles.

Leading energy company Chevron established its Perth Global Technology Centre in 2007, choosing the location for its proximity to talented regional technology experts and opportunities to pursue research and development alliances with universities and industry partners.

The Centre provides research and development services and integrated technology solutions in areas such as process safety, environmental stewardship, LNG processing, subsea engineering, technical geophysics, exploration, reservoir management, enhanced oil recovery and deepwater operations. It has developed new seismic processing technologies that enable oil and gas reservoirs to be found at greater depths and in more geologically complex situations.

A combination of state-of-the-art imaging, analysis and computing technologies has enabled Chevron to locate and economically develop reservoirs in hitherto inaccessible locations such as the sub-salt Tahiti field in the deep-water Gulf of Mexico – a 500 MMboeg field 6km below the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

A groundbreaking solution, using advanced technologies in riser materials, design, and manufacturing, was developed to meet operating constraints in the Agbami field in Nigeria, a deep-water field in 1524m of water. Significant flow assurance and temperature and pressure challenges had to be overcome to enable the project to deliver crude oil from the subsea wells to the host facility successfully and safely.

Subsea research

Industry and government-funded research in Western Australia is making a global difference in other areas of oil and gas exploration.

Work at the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems (COFS) is equipping both geoscientists and offshore engineers with a better understanding of the challenges posed by differing subsea conditions.

The centre, which has become the largest international subsea research organisation of its kind, was originally established to investigate the unique composition of seabeds on the North West Shelf and address the shallow water challenges then faced by the subsea industry. Its sophisticated modelling and applied research has improved the way offshore infrastructure is designed and has influenced the design of subsea pipelines around the world.

The specific findings from the centre support new design approaches which have been written into international standards such as the widely used SAFEBUCK Guideline.
A collaboration between the centre, the Minerals and Energy Research Institute of Western Australia and six oil and gas industry partners led to the improvement of pipeline hazard modelling software which can identify the impact of submarine landslides on subsea pipelines, allowing better assessment and mitigation of risk.

The centre also developed new techniques to investigate and characterise unusual geological conditions found on the seabed in deep water. The tools have been widely adopted by industry in Australia and overseas.

COFS centrifuge and soil characterisation facilities and an ‘O-tube simulator’ in the School of Civil and Resource Engineering at the University of Western Australia continue to advance seabed science in support of industry.

The centre is the only one of its kind in Australia and the only testing and modelling facility in the southern hemisphere to have both a beam and drum centrifuge.

Able to reproduce the behaviour of complex seabed sediments, UWA’s centrifuge facilities support industry with geotechnical design for structures such as pipelines, anchors, foundations and jacket foundations. The facility supports leading research into offshore foundation systems, including the mechanics of seabed sediments, geo-hazards and seabed mobility, and pipeline and deep water offshore engineering.

Unique in the world, the giant O-tube simulator creates cyclonic conditions in a controlled experimental environment, demonstrating how seabed sediment and pipelines interact during storms.

The facility supports industry to improve pipeline designs – promoting safety, reducing risks such as pollution, and optimising infrastructure investment.

The study, which tackled the complex issue of how the impact of human activities on Australia’s marine and coastal environment is managed to reap social and economic benefits, while maintaining environmental integrity, delivered the world’s first practical, objective way to support planners in imagining, evaluating and choosing between different development scenarios and management options.

Results of the NWSJEMS have been documented in a series of technical reports and the work has produced a new generation of management strategy evaluation models.

Modelling advances have also strongly influenced the development of a range of other ecosystem models currently being applied throughout Australia, the Antarctic, the west coast of the USA, and Mexico, while the web-based Data Trawler developed by NWSJEMS is now the standard tool for online identification and retrieval of marine data held by CSIRO.
The development of skilled labour and advanced skills in areas such as engineering and geoscience is critical to efforts to improve productivity, not just in Australia but other key resource-developing areas around the world.

The Subsea Pipeline Collaboration Cluster has trained more than 40 offshore engineers and researchers for the benefit of the offshore oil and gas industry through its PhD and postdoctoral programs.

Technological breakthroughs such as FLNG are part of a much broader set of solutions.

Western Australia’s Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems (COFS) is another focused on skilling the next generation of engineers through the training of PhD students. It says many of its graduates have remained in the state to contribute to the local engineering expertise that is building the next generation of offshore resource projects.

The newly created Woodside Professorship in Computational Geoscience at The University of Western Australia is part of a five-year program to establish the state as a world centre of excellence in geoscience. Through an alliance between UWA and Woodside, it will work to develop new computational geoscience research aimed at improving understanding of North West Shelf energy resources.

Computational geoscience, and seismic imaging in particular, allows exploration companies to make three-dimensional models of the earth’s structure to aid discovery targeting. Models can also be used to assess geological suitability for carbon geosequestration projects, and quantify natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides.

‘Substantial productivity improvement in LNG will make a tangible improvement to the economy… The biggest drivers to improve productivity are to reduce the time needed to build a new LNG plant, and to reduce the costs of doing so.’

McKinsey Institute, 2012
Woodside Energy continues to set records

Case study: offshore installation

Woodside Energy, Australia’s largest independent oil and gas company, produces some 900,000 barrels of oil equivalent each day and has been operating its landmark Australian project, the North West Shelf (NWS), for almost three decades. It remains one of the world’s premier liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities.

The North Rankin Redevelopment Project (NRB), an essential extension of the NWS business, is an example of Woodside’s project development capabilities. A major undertaking on a global scale and one of the most complex developments Woodside had ever undertaken, the A$5 billion project is aimed at recovering low pressure gas from the North Rankin and Perseus gas fields.

Successful use of the float-over method at NRB enabled Woodside to set a new installation record with 24,000-tonne topsides placed on the jacket in open water. The record related to weight and height of the topsides.

Woodside completed piling of the NRB jacket early in 2012, followed by installation of production and pedestrian bridges connecting North Rankin A and North Rankin B platforms. After installation of the topsides, hook-up and commissioning activities commenced.

The 260 metre-long Heerema H-851 barge, the largest oil and gas industry transport barge in the world, was used to transport and install the topsides on the platform’s substructure. The topsides were positioned 100 metres from the North Rankin A production facility and were installed using the float-over method.

Safely delivering this result required the NRB team to overcome some significant challenges, using detailed analysis, disciplined planning, extensive risk analysis, rigorous attention to detail and a commitment to teamwork.
Case study: consulting

Advanced Geomechanics has established a world-leading oil and gas industry consultancy on Australia’s unsteady calcareous seabeds.

Major geotechnical challenges found in developments on the North West Shelf of Australia in the 1980s and 1990s highlighted unexpected ground conditions affecting the first two large manned platforms at North Rankin and Goodwyn.

The local and global industry soon recognised the engineering challenges posed by the calcareous sediments around Australia, especially combined with extreme cyclonic weather. A Centre of Excellence at the University of Western Australia has since become the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems. Central to its development was Professor Mark Randolph, supported by Professors Martin Fahey and John Carter.

Professors Randolph, Fahey and Carter joined other geotechnical experts at Advanced Geomechanics, established in 1994 and now a globally recognised leader in the design of foundations and anchors in calcareous seabeds. AG has a team of more than 50 geoscientists, most with multiple qualifications in specialist areas and unparalleled experience in the field. The specialist team has worked on hundreds of projects around the world.

Technical Director Carl Erbrich says AG has continually responded to industry needs. ‘Since inception we have acquired the brightest talents to meet the demands of industry and this approach has been, and still is, central to AG’s success.’

Recent consulting work includes projects throughout South-East Asia, the Gulf of Mexico, the North Sea, and the Middle East.
ACEPT trains a new generation of skilled operators

Case study: training

The resources sector has created huge demand for skilled process operators in Australia and internationally.

Challenger Institute’s Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training (ACEPT) provides nationally accredited qualifications for the Australian oil and gas, mineral and chemical processing industries. It is regarded as one of the leading chemical, hydrocarbons and oil refining process operations training centres in the Asia-Pacific region. ACEPT’s training facility is in the Australian Marine Complex, near Perth in Western Australia.

Developed through collaboration between industry and state and federal governments, and led by an industry management board comprising representatives from leading companies, ACEPT was founded to respond to industry growth and the resulting need for greater numbers of highly skilled workers.

With state-of-the-art equipment and facilities delivered through A$21 million of government funding and highly experienced training staff embracing industry-responsive training concepts, ACEPT works closely with resource industry company specialists to ensure the centre is a leader in training delivery. Its services span government-funded and fee-for-service programs tailored to client needs.

Its advanced training facilities include a fully operational closed-loop process train that separates nitrogen from air for use in the separation process, separates oil from water, stores the individual chemicals, and recombines the chemicals for the next training program. Other facilities include process controllers supplied by Honeywell, a full-scale simulation of the process train developed by Honeywell, and a Yokogawa simulation of a distillation tower, instrument air, furnaces and heat exchangers.
Clough offers a century of expertise

Case study: engineering, construction and asset support services

Clough, established in Western Australia in 1919, diversified its services into civil and heavy engineering contracting in the 1950s and entered the oil and gas sector in the 1960s.

It provides engineering, construction and asset support services to some of the world’s most challenging energy and resource projects in Australia and Papua New Guinea, where significant growth is predicted in the LNG export market over the next decade.

In 2013 Clough teamed with a Korean oil and gas manpower and logistics firm, Coens Energy, to form Clough Coens Commissioning and Completions, an incorporated joint venture providing highly specialised commissioning and completions services to onshore and offshore oil and gas facilities, including drilling rigs and fabricated process equipment manufactured in Korea and China.

Clough Coens’ project management and execution service enables oil and gas facilities to be commissioned in the fabrication yard, with hook-up and commissioning services then performed in the final location.

The joint venture opened up access to an international talent pool of more than 6,000 technical and trades commissioning personnel, enabling Clough Coens to rapidly mobilise teams of specialised commissioning personnel onto projects.

Coens’ strong relationships with key Asian fabrication yards and major oil and gas operators also afford leverage, with the group having supplied manpower services to the three largest oil and gas fabrication yards in the world.
Wilson Transformer Company –
a tradition of reliability and innovation

Case study: equipment manufacturing

Victorian-based manufacturer Wilson Transformer Company (WTC) has specialised in transformer engineering and manufacturing since it was founded in 1933. Now run by the founder’s son, Robert Wilson, WTC supplies its products to customers in Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the UK, New Zealand and numerous other countries. Exports represent more than 10 per cent of WTC’s annual sales.

‘We have earned an enviable international reputation for quality, reliability and service. We are continually enhancing our products to achieve superior lifetime performance and competitiveness,’ Robert Wilson says.

By working collaboratively with its customers and applying its decades of experience and know-how in engineering, manufacturing and logistics, WTC is able to innovate and propose original transformer and substation solutions.

‘We are flexible in our approach,’ Wilson says. ‘We can provide total solutions designed for today’s business environment, which increasingly requires supply chain management, predictive management and condition-based maintenance’.

WTC operates specialised manufacturing operations at two locations in Australia, producing a comprehensive range of power and distribution transformers, up to 250 MVA, to standard and custom designs. The company also manufactures internationally via joint ventures with EWT Wilson Transformer Sdn Bhd, Malaysia and United Transformer Electric Company (Utec), Saudi Arabia, making high-quality distribution transformers and compact substations.

Dynamic Ratings, a WTC subsidiary, produces the DRMCC (Dynamic Rating, Monitoring, Control and Communications) System, an integrated microprocessor-based monitoring and control system for power transformers.

A joint venture laboratory was also formed in 2001 with US-based TJH2b Analytical Services Inc, world leaders in oil analysis and diagnostic technology.
Matrix Composites rises to the challenge

Case study: equipment manufacturing

When a major international equipment supplier sought to keep equipment identical between their new and old drill-ships to negate the need for a large investment in spare risers, Australia’s Matrix Composites & Engineering had the solution.

Matrix’s client ordered a number of rigs capable of drilling in 12,000 feet of water. With a large existing fleet of rigs rated to 10,000ft and more than 100,000ft of existing riser, the company wanted as much equipment as possible to be interchangeable between the new and older drill-ships.

The existing rigs had 60.5” rotary tables, each with buoyancy with a maximum diameter of 54”. These needed greater uplift to deploy 12,000ft of riser and the company was told it would need 58” buoyancy. While the new rigs would have a 75” rotary table and could deploy the larger diameter, it could not be used on the older rigs.

Matrix optimised the design of the riser buoyancy to obtain the largest possible uplift required for 12,000ft.

The A$36 million of riser buoyancy modules supplied for the new-build 12,000ft drill-ships used premium ultra-light syntactic foam systems so Matrix could manufacture a product that gave the uplift of the larger diameter buoyancy while staying within the 54” OD parameter.

The solution also allowed the Korean shipyard to use the same derrick and tensioner system as the 10,000ft rigs, thereby containing the overall cost of the project.

Established in 1999, but with operations dating back to 1980, Matrix Composites & Engineering has gained a global reputation for subsea buoyancy systems and advanced engineered products for well construction, subsea umbilicals, risers and flowlines (SURF) and cryogenic insulation systems for LNG applications.
GPT drills down to the deep data

Case study: software

Genesis Petroleum Technologies (GPT), an Australian company based in Perth, has been providing data analysis services to Petrobras through its Brazilian agent for the last seven years.

Successful application of this knowledge management software in the deepwater Campos Basin led to its use in the Brazilian sub-salt fields, whose wells are among the most complex developments in today’s oil and gas industry.

‘Sub-salt’ refers to an area located off the Brazilian coast where the reservoir was created prior to a layer of salt forming up to 2000 metres thick. The distance between the surface of the sea and the oil reservoirs under the salt layer can be up to 7000 metres.

Originally developed by the CSIRO, Genesis is a system and software package that allows easy and comprehensive analysis of drilling and completions operational data.

Genesis helps in the development life-cycle in the continuous improvement of planning well operations process. It offers companies a systematic way to analyse and benchmark results and use historical data, comprehensive data preparation and statistical analysis in order to plan time and cost for future wells.

Currently Petrobras uses several Genesis products to plan new well campaigns in a five-year timeframe and to plan and follow up detailed operations for each well. During this entire cycle of Front-End Loading stages, Genesis products help Petrobras understand operational performance and benchmarking and follow several KPIs to keep management and operational teams informed.
The following table provides some examples of companies and their capabilities.

Contact your local Australian Trade Commission representative for assistance with connecting with the Australian businesses that best suit your requirements.

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<th>IT/Communications</th>
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<th>Electrical/Power</th>
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### Further Information

The following table lists some examples of companies and their capabilities.

Contact your local Australian Trade Commission representative for assistance with connecting with the Australian businesses that best suit your requirements.

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INTRODUCTION

INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

INDUSTRY STRENGTHS

COMPANIES AND CAPABILITIES

FURTHER INFORMATION

The following are some of the government and industry bodies involved in the Australian oil and gas industry.

Contact your local Austrade representative about connecting and partnering with the Australian oil and gas industry.

austrade.gov.au

GOVERNMENT BODIES

The Department of Industry is responsible for policy and programs in support of Australia’s manufacturing, services, resources, and energy sectors.

innovation.gov.au

Geoscience Australia is Australia’s national geoscience agency and exists to apply geoscience to Australia’s most important challenges.

ga.gov.au

The Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics is an economic research unit within the Australian Government Department of Industry.

bree.gov.au

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority is a Commonwealth Statutory Agency regulating the health and safety, structural integrity and environmental management of offshore petroleum facilities.

nopsema.gov.au

STATE GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

New South Wales - NSW Trade & Investment

business.nsw.gov.au

Northern Territory - Invest NT

investnt.com.au

Queensland - Trade & Investment Queensland

export.qld.gov.au

South Australia - Invest in South Australia

dmitre.sa.gov.au/invest_in_south_australia

Tasmania - Invest Tasmania

development.tas.gov.au/invest/home

Western Australia - Department of State Development

dsda.wa.gov.au

Victoria - Invest Victoria

invest.vic.gov.au

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

The Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association (APPEA) is the national body representing Australia’s oil and gas exploration and production industry.

appea.com.au

Subsea Energy Australia (SEA) is a not-for-profit industry association aimed at championing Australian subsea industry capabilities to the wider regional & global markets.

subseaeuenergyaustralia.com

The Petroleum Club of WA is an industry network and educational resource for the oil and gas sector.

petroleumclub.org.au

The Australian Marine Complex (AMC) is a world-class centre for excellence for manufacturing, fabrication, assembly, maintenance and technology servicing the marine, defence, oil and gas, and resource industries.

australianmarinecomplex.com.au

Industry Capability Network (ICN) is a business network that introduces Australian and New Zealand companies to projects large and small.

icn.org.au

Oil & Gas Australia magazine provides coverage of developments in the Australian petroleum sector. It is recognised by leading global petroleum companies, industry and government bodies as a reference tool on oil and gas activity in the southern hemisphere.


Engineers Australia works to develop, promote and support professional development of engineers, including engineers in the oil and gas sector.

engineersaustralia.org.au

The Society of Petroleum Engineers aims to collect, disseminate, and exchange technical knowledge concerning the exploration, development and production of oil and gas resources, and related technologies for the public benefit, and to provide opportunities for professionals to enhance their technical and professional competence.

spe.org
The Australian Trade Commission – Austrade – is the Australian Government’s trade, investment and education promotion agency.

Through a global network of offices, Austrade assists Australian companies to grow their international business, attracts productive foreign direct investment into Australia and promotes Australia’s education sector internationally.

Austrade helps companies around the world to source Australian goods and services. We can help you reduce the time, risk and cost involved in sourcing suppliers by:

- helping you identify and contact Australian suppliers
- providing insight on Australian capabilities
- alerting you to the latest products and services out of Australia to help you grow your business.

Austrade partners the strengths of Australian businesses with the needs of international markets. We can open the door to a world of opportunities for your business.

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