



THE HON. JOE TRIPODI MP
MINISTER FOR FINANCE
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINISTER FOR REGULATORY REFORM
MINISTER FOR PORTS AND WATERWAYS

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Keeping watch over Sydney Harbour

September 15, 2008

Sydney Ports Corporation is trialling state-of-the-art technology to keep track of shipping movements on Sydney Harbour.

“We are currently evaluating prospective technologies that can be used to establish a new Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) for Sydney and Botany Bay,” Ports and Waterways Minister Joe Tripodi said.

“A VTS is designed to improve the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and to protect the environment.”

Mr Tripodi said Sydney is one of Australia’s first ports to introduce this technology.

“VTS can be compared to a version of ‘air traffic control’, where all activity, including ship movements, is monitored and timely contribution to evasive action can be communicated to ships,” he said.

“The current technology is now over ten years old and not comparable to technology being used in other major ports around the world.”

Registrations of Interest for organisations wanting to provide this technology were called earlier this year, with tenders to close in December.

The three companies in the running, all international organisations with first-class credentials, will participate in the radar trial and use this as an opportunity to demonstrate the capability of their systems.

“The radar trial will include setting up a *Terma* radar, from Denmark, on top of a shipping container. The trial will be conducted over a three week period in a fenced off area within Sydney Harbour National Park, with no disruption to any of the activities in the park,” Mr Tripodi said.

“The NSW Government is committed to ensuring that we are keeping the port environments protected and investing in new technology is one way of doing this,” he said.

Media Contact: Kate Sullivan (02) 9228 5451 or 0438 719 440