

**PRESS RELEASE: 6 November 2008**

***Competitive Manufacturing along with Strategically driven Lean is how one Tasmanian Company has tackled the skills shortage and improved their Business***

More than 40 **Incat Tasmania** workers and team leaders have benefited from a 14 week training program designed to improve manufacturing processes and skills.

**Premier and Minister for Education and Skills, David Bartlett**, stated that central to the State's economic plans must be the improvement of education and skills of all Tasmanians.

"That is why we are developing The Tasmanian Skills Strategy.

"It is a strategy that will for the first time provide a detailed analysis of where our efforts as a state can be maximised.

"The training program that has been undertaken here at Incat shows how **an investment in skills training can benefit employees and employers**, as well as the State," Mr Bartlett said.

**Skills Tasmania provided \$55,000 funding** to Incat and their training partner, CTPM Australasia under the Competitive Manufacturing Skills Program, which has been developed collaboratively by Skills Tasmania and the Department of Economic Development.

"The Competitive Manufacturing Skills Program is a great example of Tasmania **tackling the skills shortage** head-on.

"This was the first project of its kind to be funded through the initiative.

"It is **designed to increase the quality and efficiency of manufacturing processes** within Tasmanian businesses," Mr Bartlett said.

"It's vital that Tasmanian manufacturing maintains its edge in an increasingly competitive world market.

"Incat's program exposed employees and supervisors to the world's best practice in efficient and cost effective manufacturing systems through **on-the-job awareness and training**.

"Over 40 employees completed units in **Certificate III or IV Competitive Manufacturing** and managers led the way by participating themselves."

**Incat Tasmania Production Manager, David Lipscombe**, said the program had provided real, tangible skills that linked closely to employees' day to day work.

"The careful targeting of units to suit our requirements has given the people involved a personal return for their effort.

"People have really stepped up as a result," Mr Lipscombe said.

**CTPM President and Managing Director, Ross Kennedy**, said that the project had delivered **significant and measurable benefits to Incat**, especially in terms of elimination of inefficient and wasteful processes.

The Premier said the Government would continue to invest heavily in skill development and training initiatives.

**“A record investment of \$1.06 billion** will be injected into the Tasmanian education and skills sector from the 2008-09 State Budget.

“A total \$7.2 million has been allocated to the Skilling Tasmania initiative, which will be partnered up with Commonwealth and industry contributions to deliver \$18 million for additional training places over the next four years.

“This will continue the State Government’s drive to improve the skill level of all Tasmanians and tackle the skills shortage,” Mr Bartlett said.

## **FAST FACTS**

- Improving the skills of all Tasmanians is crucial for the State’s future economic prosperity. That is why the Government is developing The Tasmanian Skills Strategy.
- Productivity can be significantly improved by investing in skill development.
- The Competitive Manufacturing Skills Program (under which the Incat project was funded) is a great example of Tasmania tackling the skills shortage head on.
- A record investment of over \$1 billion dollars was committed to the Tasmanian education and skill sector in the 2008-09 State Budget.
- Incat is the builder of the world’s benchmark in high speed ships with fast Wave Piercing Catamarans in commercial and military service around the globe, carrying passengers, vehicles and freight, and providing high speed marine transportation solutions for a wide range of applications.
- Competitive Manufacturing has certainly made a difference to the improvement activity at Incat, providing additional focus for team members and highlighting the returns.

