

# Construction starts on new marine research vessel

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Construction of Australia's new \$120 million Marine National Facility research vessel, Investigator has started in Singapore.

The Executive Director of the Future Research Vessel Project at CSIRO, Toni Moate, who is attending the steel cutting ceremony in Singapore, said the 93.6 metre research vessel will be capable of conducting marine research from our coastal waters, to the [Antarctic ice edge](#) and to the tropical waters to the north.

The contract to design, build and commission the vessel was awarded to Teekay Holdings Australia, which partnered with the Sembawang Shipyard in Singapore because of its track record and strong commitment to new technologies and innovation.

"The equipment on board our new world-class vessel will for the first time allow [Australian scientists](#) to carry out advanced atmospheric research on board the Marine National Facility," she said.

"It will also be capable of mapping the seafloor six kilometres below the surface, conducting deep water coring to 24 metres and it will have the latest [satellite communications](#) technology."

Investigator will be operated by CSIRO and will be available to all Australian [marine scientists](#). It replaces the existing Marine National Facility ship, Southern Surveyor, which is 40 years old.

In 2009 the Australian Government committed AU\$120 million to the purchase of a new [research vessel](#) for the Marine National Facility. The project is an initiative of the Australian Government being conducted as part of the Super Science Initiative and financed from the Education Investment Fund.

Provided by CSIRO

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