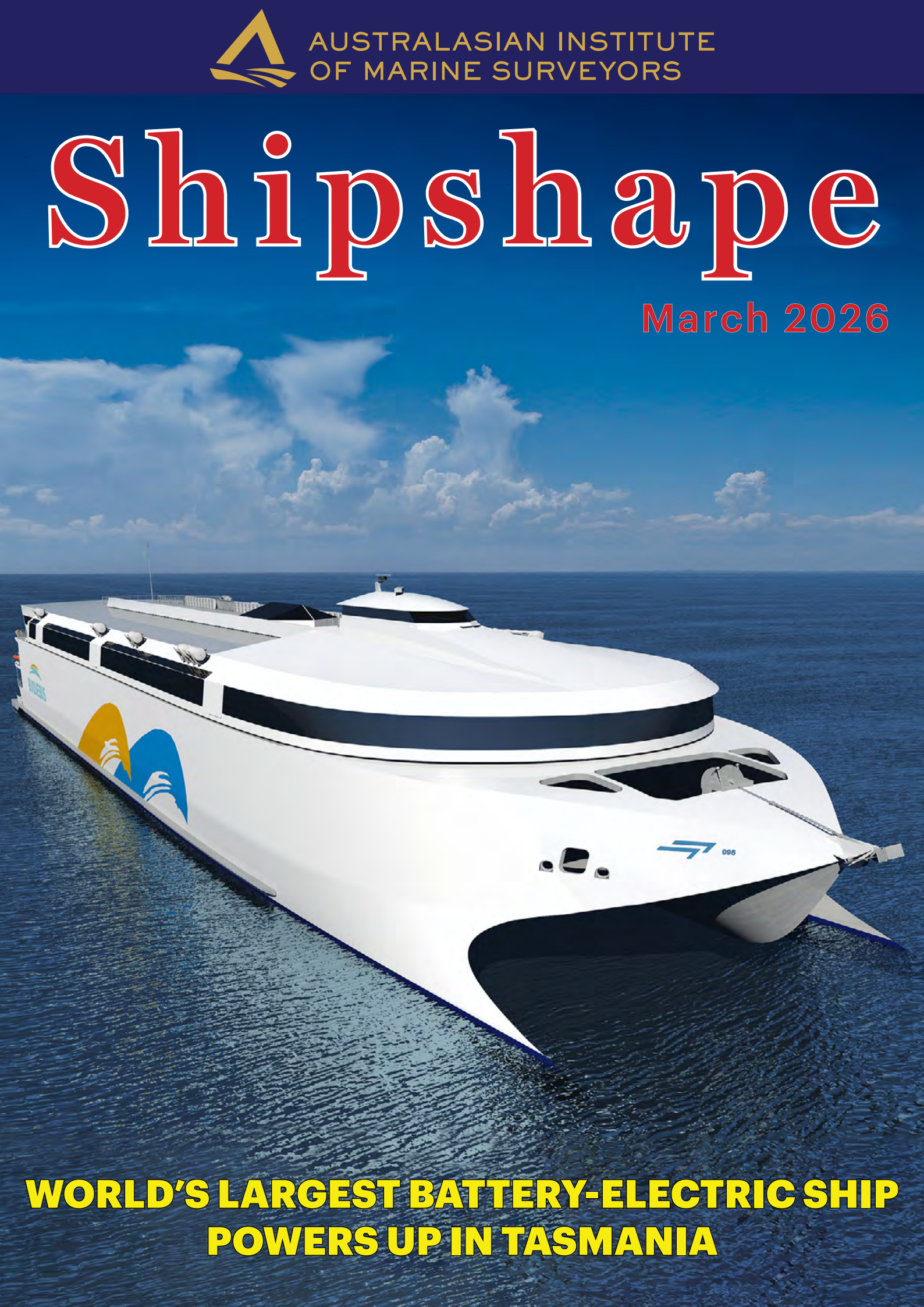
AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE
OF MARINE SURVEYORS

Shipshape

March 2026



WORLD'S LARGEST BATTERY-ELECTRIC SHIP POWERS UP IN TASMANIA

History made as world's largest battery-electric ship powers up

INCAT Tasmania has achieved a world first and defining moment in maritime history – on 14 December 2025, the largest battery-electric ship ever constructed was powered up and successfully completed its first e-motor trial in Hobart, Tasmania.

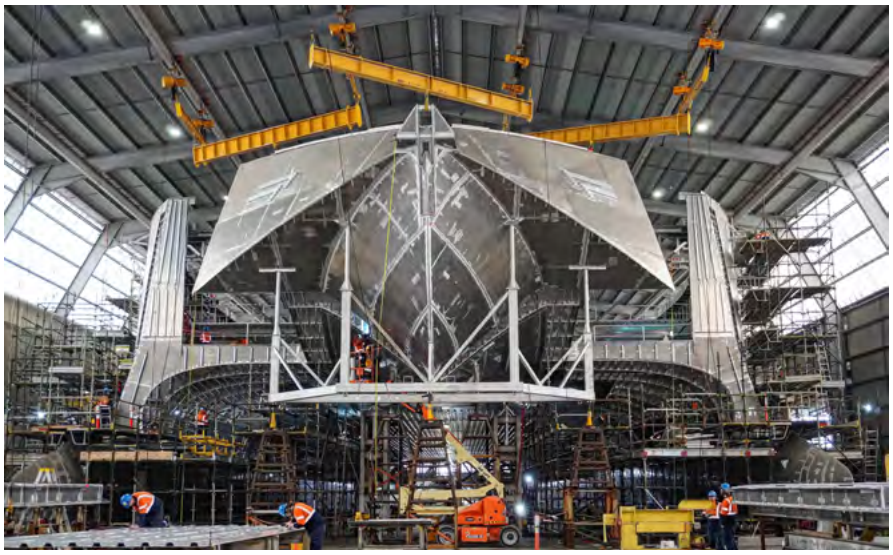
The powering of Hull 096 – the world's largest battery-electric ship and the largest electric vehicle of any type on the planet – marks a watershed moment as the 130-metre vessel, capable of carrying 2,100 passengers and more than 220 vehicles, activated the largest battery-electric propulsion system ever installed on a ship for the very first time.

In front of invited dignitaries, including Australian Trade Minister Don Farrell, Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff, and Her Excellency Barbara Baker, Governor of Tasmania, Incat Chairman Robert Clifford powered up the water jets and delivered an impressive demonstration of the vessel's propulsion capability.

The achievement is the first time a ship of this size, weight and passenger-vehicle capacity has operated solely on battery power anywhere in the world. Designed and built in Hobart, the vessel represents a major leap forward in advanced manufacturing and confirms Tasmania's position at the forefront of the global transition to sustainable shipbuilding.

Powered by more than 250 tonnes of batteries, the vessel's energy storage system delivers over 40 megawatt-hours of installed capacity: four times larger than any previous maritime battery installation in the world.

The Incat ferry under construction in Hobart ...



... featuring the catamaran design ...

... with wave-piercing hulls.

Incat Chairman Robert Clifford powered up the ferry in December, watched by invited dignitaries.

Mr Clifford said the moment was historic, not only historic for Incat but also for the global maritime industry.

"This is the first time a ship of this size, anywhere in the world, has been trialled under 100 per cent battery-electric propulsion," he said. "It's a remarkable achievement by our workforce and a turning point for shipbuilding.

"Tasmania has been at the forefront of international aluminium shipbuilding for decades and today's milestone shows we are now leading the world in the next era – sustainable, high-performance vessels at scale."

Mr Clifford said the vessel demonstrates what Australian innovation is capable of delivering.

"We are proving that advanced manufacturing in Australia is not only alive but setting global benchmarks. This ship will stand as a flagship for what's possible when industry, design and clean-energy technology come together."

He added that the test was the first in a series of trials for the ground-breaking ferry before it departs for South America in coming months.

The ship achieved further significant milestones in January and February.

In mid-January, the vessel underwent harbour trials in the River Derwent, allowing crews to test propulsion, manoeuvrability, control systems and onboard operational performance in real-world conditions.

"These trials represent the first time a ship of this size and passenger-vehicle capacity has operated solely on battery power anywhere in the world, marking a major step forward for large-scale electric shipping," Mr Clifford said. "Moving Hull 096 under its own battery-electric power is a world first at this scale and confirms that electric propulsion is viable for large commercial vessels."

In February, a significant safety milestone was completed, with successful deployment of the vessel's marine evacuation system (MES), supplied by fellow Tasmanian company Liferaft Systems Australia.

The deployment included three 22-metre inflatable evacuation slides, each connected to a 128-person open reversible liferaft, alongside an additional linked liferaft. Once fully equipped, the world's largest battery-electric ferry will feature six MES units and 13 linked liferafts, providing total liferaft capacity of 2,432 people.

Further information: Incat Tasmania at: https://incat.com.au/history-made-as-worlds-largest-battery-electric-ship-powers-up/

Note: This article is based on media releases issued by Incat Tasmania in December, January and February.

The vessel underwent successful harbour trials in January ...

... and deployment of a passenger evacuation system in February.