



*Photo: Flinders Ports*

## Flinders Ports has new pilot boat named for proud history



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South Australia welcomed the first of two new pilot boats in 20 years on May 1, as Flinders Ports launched the Alert in Port Adelaide.

The second pilot boat is scheduled to arrive in October this year.

Flinders Ports general manager of marine operations Captain Carl Kavina said the company had marked the significance of a new boat after so many years, by choosing a name that resonated with stakeholders.

The first vessel that navigator and New South Wales colony founder Matthew Flinders served on was the HMS Alert.

"The naming of the Alert is a fitting tribute to Matthew Flinders and we are delighted that Fiona Salmon, one of Matthew Flinders' descendants [has christened] the Alert for us," Capt Kavina said.

Costing \$2.5m, the Alert has a top speed of 27 knots and maximum draft of 1.5 metres.

Boat builder Hart Marine constructed the pilot boat to the national standard for commercial vessels with a 2C classification.

The craft measures 16 metres long, with an overall beam of 5.43 metres.

"We anticipate a number of flow-on benefits for our shipping customers, because these new boats have a range of features that improve operational efficiency and most significantly – safety standards," Capt Kavina said.

The vessel also claims features like a self-righting mechanism and forward-looking infra-red (FLIR) which will help crew work in the dark.