

Australia's new research vessel heads out to sea

CSIRO's new research vessel, the RV *Investigator*, is currently completing its maiden voyage, a one-week sea trial out of Singapore harbour – where the ship was built – to test its propulsion, steering, plumbing, electricity supply and other engineering functions.



Credit: CSIRO

Following construction, a slow but powerful hydraulic system 'skidded' the 6000 ton ship sideways across the wharf onto a barge. With the aid of a tug, the barge with *Investigator* aboard, was moved into a dry dock. Eventually the dry dock gates were opened to allow the tug-assisted ship to float onto open water.

The maiden voyage is a milestone in the project that began in May 2009, when the Australian Government allocated \$120 million for a new ocean-going research vessel to replace Australia's current marine National Facility RV, the *Southern Surveyor*.

The RV *Investigator* has been designed, built and commissioned by CSIRO through CSIRO's Future Research Vessel Project, an initiative of the Australian Government under the Super Science Initiative and financed from the RV *Investigator* Education Investment Fund.

The construction of the ship, by the Sembawang Shipyard-TeekayBuild Team, commenced in January 2012.

It is expected to arrive at CSIRO's marine research base in Hobart next month, where the fit-out of scientific equipment and facilities will take place before the *Investigator* embarks on further sea trials.

To view a short, time-lapse video of the *Investigator*'s skidding, [click here](#).

Source: CSIRO

From **ECOS** online <http://www.ecosmagazine.com/?paper=EC13290>