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MEDIA RELEASE – IMMEDIATE USE

Celebrating 20 Years of Safety in the Northern Territory

This month, IFAP's North Australian Safety Centre celebrates 20 years of its participation and contribution to safety in the Northern Territory.

The history of the centre is shrouded in its relationship with Defence Forces in offshore survival training and with industry in its occupational health and safety programs and its alliances to provide emergency response training in hazardous work places.

The North Australian Safety Centre was established in 1989 as a not-for-profit, member-based organisation providing Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) to BHP and associated contractors involved in offshore exploration and oil production operations in the Timor Sea.

Recognised as the longest established purpose-built centre for sea survival, health and safety, fire fighting, confined space and height skills the centre's programs are facilitated by the best of those with experience in the Northern Territory.

The Centre is located on a 15-acre site in Berrimah. Its purpose-built indoor HUET training facility enables year round training and features a large below ground pool and a crane tracked module based on the Puma helicopter for realistic simulated helicopter ditching scenarios.

In response to offshore customer demand, the North Australian Safety Centre developed a live fire training ground. Now called the Bruce Perkins Memorial Fire Training Ground, named after one of the NT's pioneering industry figures, this facility provides specialised fire fighting training which caters for practical exercises ranging from the use of fire blankets and fire extinguishers to fire team hose drills, the use of self-contained breathing apparatus and confined spaces rescue training

In 2006, the Centre changed hands and is now operated under the nationally recognised IFAP banner as IFAP Darwin – North Australian Safety Centre becoming IFAP's first interstate facility. IFAP Darwin then became the first training organisation in the Northern Territory offering OPITO approved HUET training courses for the offshore oil and gas industry.

This merger enabled IFAP to offer its range of leading safety training and consulting services to industry in the Northern Territory and surrounding areas, including South East Asia.

Hartley Hollingsworth, Operations Manager – North Australian Safety Centre, says, “We are delighted to be working closely with industry, government and associated organisations to assist with the continuous improvement of health and safety in the Northern Territory. Our longevity and reputation has ensured we have established ourselves securely to meet our target to achieve a one-stop, world class emergency response and safety training centre to meet industry needs.

IFAP’s courses are constantly updated to ensure they meet industry standards on an international level and we are proud to be able to offer two facilities with OPITO accredited training courses.”

The rebranding of the Centre has also enabled industry to benefit from IFAP’s position as Australia’s leading provider of HUET and Oil and Gas Industry training courses, allowing strong industry knowledge and experience to be drawn from its state-of-the-art facility already operating in Fremantle, Western Australia.

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