



Offshore Report Enterprise Agreement Negotiations. Monday, 18 May 2009

AIMPE has initiated Bargaining Periods with two offshore industry employers.....

- Farstad Shipping (Indian Pacific) Pty Ltd, &
- Offshore Marine Services Pty Ltd

We have purposely eschewed bargaining with all the industry employers as a single group in order to avoid being accused of pattern bargaining. If an accusation of pattern bargaining could be proven then the rights of members to take protected industrial action would be unavailable.

Farstad.

Michael Bakhaazi and I have had several meetings with Farstad management with the most recent being in Melbourne on 07 May; Institute members who work for Farstad attended this meeting. During these negotiations Farstad were stuck on an offer reflecting that made by Australian Mines & Metals Association (AMMA) some weeks before. This offer by AMMA has been widely circulated and is available for download on our web site, www.aimpe.asn.au

At the conclusion of the 7th May meeting AIMPE sought from Farstad its formal offer in settlement of these negotiations; this was received late on Friday 08 May and soon thereafter it was emailed to all Farstad vessels and Farstad members. We asked members employed by Farstad to indicate by return, their views on the offer. There has been an overwhelming rejection of the pay offer with mixed reactions to the other items; members were very keen to press their claim for retrospective payment to 01 Jan 2009.

AIMPE will now serve Farstad with a log-of-claims reflecting the views of Farstad members, and seek Farstad's response. It may prove to be that AIMPE's decision to avoid pattern bargaining thus permitting members to exercise *all* their rights under the WorkChoices legislation plays a crucial role in the outcome of these negotiations.

Offshore Marine Services.

A number of meetings have been held with OMS management with plans to hold another either this week or next, where members will be invited to participate. While the OMS negotiations are entirely separate and independent of any other negotiations there is little reason for optimism that OMS will move away from the AMMA position. We will of course partake in the next meeting with every intention of achieving an outcome and we will require OMS's written offer at the conclusion of the meeting to take to members for consideration.

Other Operators.

AIMPE's methodology of conducting separate, independent negotiations will ensure that members have all their rights under the law retained including the right to engage in protected industrial action in pursuit of their claims. The down side of ensuring members rights are protected by bargaining individually and separately with each employer means the process will take longer, only time will tell how the negotiations with other employers will unfold. It is probable that we will initiate bargaining periods with all the operators over the next few weeks so that we have established the first step in the procedure according to the law. Whichever way we choose to take these negotiations it will always be with the best interests of members at the forefront of any decision.

Members are welcome to contact either Michael Bakhaazi or Phillip Olsen if they have any questions or suggestions.

We thank you for your patience and look forward to your continuing support.

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