

DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 005



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A detailed illustration of a cable ship, showing its complex rigging and equipment for cable and umbilical installation.

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

Term contracts secured for Normand Atlantic and Normand Borg

Solstad Offshore ASA has entered into a contract with Statoil for the **Normand Atlantic** from February 2003 until 31st August 2003.

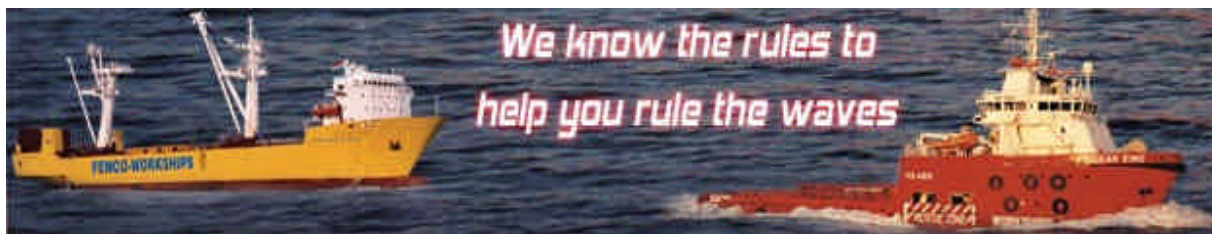


The company has also entered into a contract with Petrobras related to chartering of the **Normand Borg** for three months in the Brazilian sector. The commencement for this contract is February 2003.

The total value of the contracts is approximately NOK 35 million.

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K.P. van der Mandelelaan 34 - 3062 MB Rotterdam - The Netherlands

Telephone : (31) 10 - 453 03 77

Fax : (31) 10 - 453 05 24

E-mail : post@workships.nl

Telex : 24390 wosh nl

MODEC to sponsor TLP conference

MODEC will sponsor IBC's Advances in Deepwater TLPs Conference. The conference will be held at the Houstonian Hotel, January 27th & 28th 2003. This two day conference will address how the drive towards deeper waters has led operators and contractors in the GoM region to invest in developing the technology to enable TLPs in water-depths of up to 10,000ft.

Full conference details can be found online at: www.ibcenergy.com

'Menselijke fout oorzaak aanvaring'

De aanvaring van de Turkse tanker **Vicky** met het wrak van de Noorse vrachtaarder **Tricolor** is vrijwel zeker het gevolg van een menselijke fout. Bij het ongeluk in Het Kanaal is ternauwernood een milieuramp voorkomen. De tanker was geladen met zeventigduizend ton dieselolie.



De romp van de Vicky vertoont lekken, maar de situatie is volgens de Belgische autoriteiten niet dramatisch. De tanker ligt bij de Belgische kust voor anker. De Britse kustwacht in Dover denkt dat alleen een menselijke fout de oorzaak kan zijn van het ongeluk op nieuwjaarsdag. Zo wordt onderzocht of de stuurman heeft gedronken en of

er op het moment van het ongeluk wel iemand op de brug aanwezig was.

De met drieduizend nieuwe auto's beladen Tricolor zonk op 14 december na een aanvaring in dichte mist. Twee dagen later voer al een ander schip, de op de Nederlandse Antillen geregistreerde Nicola, op het wrak. Daarna hebben de autoriteiten alles gedaan om de Tricolor te markeren en het scheepvaartverkeer in de drukstbevoeren zeeroute ter wereld tijdig te waarschuwen.

Alle schepen worden door de kustwachten van Frankrijk en Groot-Brittannië continu op de hoogte gesteld van de locatie van het wrak. Er zijn vijf verlichte boeien aangebracht rond de Tricolor, waarvan een met radar is uitgerust. Ook vaart voor alle zekerheid nog een speciaal patrouilleschip rond het wrak.

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Britse vakbondswoordvoerders zeiden gisteren dat er 'Russische roulette wordt gespeeld met de veiligheid in Het Kanaal'. Zeeliedenvakbond Numast erkent dat een menselijke fout de meest waarschijnlijke oorzaak is van de aanvaring. 'Mogelijk worden die fouten ook in de hand gewerkt door de bezuiningswoede bij rederijen', aldus vakbondswoordvoerder Andrew Linington. 'Ze proberen tegenwoordig met een zo klein mogelijke bemanning te varen. Vaak werken mensen op deze schepen tachtig tot negentig uur per week. En dat kan in drukbevaren routes zijn tol eisen.'

De autoriteiten denken dat het nog wel maanden kan duren voordat het enorme wrak, dat bij eb enige meters boven het water uitsteekt, is geborgen. Een schip van het Nederlandse bergingsbedrijf Smit is al wel bezig met het overpompen van de tweeduizend ton stookolie van de Tricolor. De Vicky liep voor de kust van Duinkerken vast op de voorkant van de Tricolor, maar raakte op eigen kracht weer los. Aanvankelijk werd gevreesd dat er grote hoeveelheden brandstof zouden lekken. Volgens de Belgische autoriteiten is die vrees ongegrond. Wel is Fase 3 van het rampenplan voor de Noordzee afgekondigd.

FGO sale approved

Friede Goldman Halter has received approval from the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Southern Division, for the sale of the assets of Friede Goldman Offshore, to ACON Offshore Partners.

The sale, which was due to be completed in early January, includes \$18 million in cash and the assumption of \$43 million in debt. The new company will operate from Pascagoula, Mississippi and Port Arthur, Texas under the name Signal International

Subsea 7 close to winning "two major contracts



Top : The **DSND MAYO** one of the workvessels of Subsea 7 – **photo : Kevin Blair ©**

Subsea 7 is "in the final stages of negotiating two major contracts in the UK sector," according to a statement issued by the company at the end of December.

"Both contracts are expected to be finalised in January 2003," said the statement. Their combined value is in excess of £30 million.

Trico Marine announces \$50 million refinancing of credit facility

Trico Marine Services has entered into a new \$50 million revolving credit facility to refinance its previous \$45 million credit facility. The new facility will mature on December 18 2005, and is structured as a senior secured revolving credit facility.

Proceeds from the facility will be used for working capital needs, capital expenditures and other general corporate purposes. The facility will be secured by mortgages on the company's Gulf of Mexico class supply boats and crew boats. The new facility, containing customary terms and conditions, replaces a previous facility which was scheduled to expire in June 2003.

Paris launches Prestige case

FRANCE has opened legal proceedings aimed at formally identifying and prosecuting those responsible for the pollution which arrived on the beaches of southwest France yesterday in the form of lumps of partially congealed oil, writes Andrew Spurrier in Paris.

The office of President Jacques Chirac said yesterday the decision of the public prosecutor in Brest to open a judicial investigation was in line with the promise made by Mr Chirac at the European Union summit on December 13 that legal action would be started immediately if pollution from the Prestige arrived on the French coast.



"The pollution which has now arrived on the French coast makes it necessary to move on to the stage of a judicial investigation so that those responsible for this ecological catastrophe can be sought after and sanctioned, whether they be those in charge aboard, the owner, the operator or their representatives," it said.

The prefect of the department of Gironde ordered beaches to be closed to the public yesterday after the discovery of large numbers of lumps of congealed oil on the region's beaches.

The lumps were found along a long stretch of the French Atlantic coastline covering three departments, Landes, Gironde and Charente-Maritime.

The main fear, however, was that they would be followed by wider-ranging pollution by slicks which, according to French environment minister Roselyne Bachelot, could reach the coast near Bordeaux as early as Sunday. Ms Bachelot said the pollution threat posed by the Prestige was as grave as that from the Erika three years ago but that the pollution concerned was more dispersed.

It was a "sword of Damocles which is going to hang over our heads for a long time", she added.

The maritime prefecture said yesterday that the first “significant” slicks from the Prestige were 180 km from the French Atlantic coast and warned that no action could be taken to contain them over the next two days because of stormy conditions at sea. The lumps of oil which have already reached the French coast are thought to have drifted up the coast from Spain under the surface of the sea, making them difficult to detect by the spotter planes which have been following the main slicks.

CASUALTY REPORTING

SMIT Salvage awarded LOF contract for the grounded Vermont Borg



SMIT Salvage, together with Klyne Tugs, has been awarded a LOF 2000 Scopic contract to refloat the **Vermont Borg**.

The **Vermont Borg**, a newbuilding hull with a length of 138 m, was being towed for completion to a shipyard in The Netherlands. The tug line parted during heavy weather in the western approaches to the channel and the hull eventually ran aground at around 05.00 am Thursday, 3 January off the northwest coast of Guernsey in the Channel Islands.

In responding to the casualty, a salvage team has been mobilised from Rotterdam who will start inspections first light tomorrow. Thereafter a salvage plan will be formulated. The Klyne tug **Anglian Prince** is at the location and is already making preparations for the refloating operation.

Singapore Navy Ship Collides with Merchant Ship

A patrol ship of Singapore's navy, **RSS Courageous**, collided with a merchant vessel on Friday night in the eastern Singapore Straits near Pedra Branca, an island disputed between Singapore and Malaysia.



A statement from Singapore's Ministry of Defence Saturday said that eight crew members sustained minor injuries and have all been evacuated to hospital for medical treatment.

The statement added that all of them are in stable conditions and rescue operations are still in progress.

Top : The 52,000-ton **ANL Indonesia**, Saturday, Jan. 4, 2003, after the collision

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A total of 44 crew members were onboard the patrol ship when the collision with the Dutch-registered container vessel, **ANL Indonesia**, took place about one kilometer off the Horsburgh Lighthouse at 11.35 pm local time.

Singapore and Malaysia recently reiterated their claims to Pedra Branca, an atoll the Malaysians refer as Pulau Batu or White Rock island.

They both alleged that they will refer the territorial dispute to the International Court of Justice for resolution.



Top : The damaged 500-ton Singapore Navy ship **RSS Courageous** was towed back to its base in Changi, Singapore, Saturday, Jan. 4, 2003.

Body of trapped crew member found on S'pore Naval ship

The body of one of the four women trapped in the aft of the **RSS Courageous** has been found. It was wedged between two beds in the sleeping quarters of the anti-submarine patrol vessel.

The ship, now at Changi Naval Base, is still being drained of water to allow rescuers to search for the other three women who are full-time specialists in weapons and equipment.

The Defence Ministry has declined to name the woman, as her next-of-kin has yet to be notified.

The Singapore Navy anti-submarine ship that was rammed by a container vessel close to midnight on Friday was towed back to Changi Naval Base earlier on Saturday.

Dr Tony Tan earlier conceded that rescue operations were 'complicated' as it was 'difficult' to get into the aft.

Airforce and naval vessels are still combing the area in 'search and rescue operations' even though the ship is back to shore. The ship was 'uplifted' to locate the women.

None of its 23 Indonesian and Dutch crew members of the **ANL INDONESIA** were injured. The 55,000 tonne vessel heading towards South Korea is now docked at Singapore's Eastern Anchorage, pending investigations

SHIPYARD NEWS

Chinese yard completes Pathumabaha FSO

Yantai Raffles shipyard in China has completed the **FSO Pathumabaha** for PTT Exploration and Production. Having been completed, the new FSO is due to be towed to Thailand and is due to become operational in February.

Irving Shipbuilding wins South Venture topsides

The owners of the Sable Project offshore Nova Scotia have announced the award of the fabrication contract for the South Venture topsides to Irving Shipbuilding in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

A decision by Sable Project owners on whether to proceed with the proposed South Venture development is expected in early 2003. South Venture was included in Sable's development plan application, which was approved in 1997. Pending owner approval, the South Venture platform would begin operations in 2004.

The first Tier of the Sable Project, which began production in 1999, includes three offshore platforms - Thebaud, North Triumph and Venture - and two onshore processing plants.

SURF goes to Brattvaag for two new UT 755Ls

SURF in France has awarded a contract to Brattvaag Skipsverft - part of Aker Kvaerner - for a pair of UT 755L PSVs. The vessels will be operated by SURF's subsidiary, Bourbon Group. The hulls of the vessels will be built in Romania by Aker Tulcea. The PSVs are due for delivery in January 2004 and March 2004, respectively.

Massive repair for Limburg



The Euronav-controlled VLCC **Limburg** will need some 6,000 tonnes of steel replacement in order to effect a full repair. At roughly \$2,000 per tonne in the Middle East or Singapore, that brings the cost of the work to roughly \$12m.

The sheer quantities involved make this one of the biggest shiprepair jobs ever undertaken, with getting on for 15% of the ship's lightweight being replaced.

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The 2000-built VLCC was the subject of a terrorist attack in early October off Yemen which blasted a huge hole in her side. The vessel is now sitting at anchor off Fujairah.

United Defense Shipyard Awarded \$4.45M Contract

United Defense Industries, Inc. announced the \$4.45 million award to its subsidiary, Southwest Marine, by the Supervisor of Shipbuilding and Repair, San Diego, Calif., for the fixed-price Dry Docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA) on **USS McClusky (FFG-41)**. The ship, a Perry class guided missile frigate home-ported in San Diego, fulfills a Protection of Shipping mission as an Anti-Submarine Warfare combatant for amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups and merchant convoys. The work is scheduled to begin on January 15, 2003, and be completed on March 19, 2003. The work package includes, but is not limited to, dry docking, underwater hull inspection, repairs to the potable water tank, ballast tank, fuel oil tank, superstructure and main propulsion shafting. Also included is the installation of lagging and insulation, deck covering, carpet and electrical grade matting.

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Fugro acquires Foundation and Exploration Services Group and Petcom Inc

Fugro Holdings Limited in the UK has reached agreement with the shareholders of the FES Group on the acquisition of the company. The purchase will be finalised in February 2003, following completion of due diligence and subject to final Supervisory Board approval. The purchase price is around £4.1 million. The FES Group, which is the largest independent, geotechnical site investigation company in the UK, employs over 100 staff from its operating bases in Basingstoke, Consett and Dublin.

The company generates an annual turnover of £6.5 million from onshore and overwater geotechnical investigations and drilling operations on a wide variety of projects, predominantly within the UK domestic market. The addition of FES will allow Fugro to extend its services portfolio to provide in-

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house ground investigation and drilling services for land and marine site investigations in the UK to complement the specialist Cone Penetration Test (CPT) and geophysical services that have been offered by the group in the UK for already 30 years.

Jason Geosystems, part of Fugro's Geoscience division, has reached agreement on the acquisition of Petcom Inc in the US, subject to due diligence. The purchase price is \$3 million. Petcom is based in Dallas, Texas, employs a staff of eight, and had a Net Revenue of \$1.6 million in 2001.

The current owners and original founders have agreed to continue their commitment as Petcom's management team. The company was founded in 1992. Petcom provides best-in-class Petrophysics software and services to the oil and gas industry. Petcom customers are multi-national oil companies, large independents, service companies, consulting firms and individual consultants.

Noble Corporation acquires jack-ups

Noble Corporation has acquired two jack-up drilling units, the **Trident III** and the **Dhabi II**, from a subsidiary of Schlumberger Ltd for \$95 million. The **Trident III** is a Marathon LeTourneau 116-C, independent leg, cantilever jack-up which is currently operating in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) under a long-term contract with Dubai Petroleum Company.

The **Dhabi II** is a Baker Marine, independent leg, cantilever jack-up that is also operating in the territorial waters of the UAE under a long-term contract with Abu Dhabi Oil Company Ltd.

CORAL Maiden Voyage



Princess Cruises announced that the new but delayed **CORAL PRINCESS** will indeed be sailing on her maiden voyage from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The **CORAL PRINCESS** had her maiden voyage put back twice and only departed the shipyard in France on December 24. It had been reported in the French press that she had undergone an unpresidented seven sea-trials before being handed over to her new owners. The 964-foot ship was now expected to sail on her January 3 maiden voyage on time after arriving from France January 1st

Top : The **CORAL PRINCESS** in drydock after trials – photo : Eric Jegou ©

Sea Giant fixed for Gulf lifting

Saudi Arabia's Vela has just fixed the biggest tanker in the world, Fredriksen's [Sea Giant](#) for 550,000 tonnes out of the AG off 12/1.



"Very big ... very old ... very prompt," says one broker, adding to the perception that the Saudis moving in to fix such a big tanker could mean that they believe war with Iraq is drawing closer.

The tanker market is watching to see whether more large tankers get fixed ... Fredriksen's 490,000 dwt [Sea World](#) ([photo left](#)) is also sitting prompt in the AG.

Spain to make new ship lanes

THE Spanish government is to propose the creation of two new shipping lanes for the transport of dangerous goods off the country's north-west coast, public works minister Francisco Alvarez Cascos has announced. Under the proposal, the new lanes would lie between 33 n-miles and 40 n-miles off Galicia. At present, oil, gas and chemical products are transported between 25 n-miles and 30 n-miles offshore. Cascos told parliament that Spain would present the proposal at the IMO in February. He said the bid was a new preventive safety measure but admitted that the new lanes would not be the panacea for ending shipping disasters, since "the sea and storms have their own laws".

Top six box ports in Far East

THE top six container ports are now in Asia. Preliminary figures show that Hong Kong maintained its top position, followed by Singapore and Busan in South Korea. But Shanghai in China vaulted over Kaohsiung, Taiwan to take fourth spot and rapidly expanding Shenzhen leapfrogged Los Angeles and Rotterdam to become the sixth largest. Based on the figures up to November, Fairplay estimates that Hong Kong handled 18.7M TEU last year, Singapore 17M, Busan 9M, Shanghai 8.6M, Kaohsiung 8.3M and Shenzhen 7.5M. Rotterdam and Los Angeles are estimated to have handled about 6.5M TEU each. Half of Kaohsiung's cargo is transshipment volumes, which has affected the port badly because of the increasing migration of Taiwanese factories to the Yangtze River delta region in China. "Shanghai, with a large population and catchment area at the Yangtze delta, is developing rapidly," said an official at the Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau. "Many Taiwanese companies have moved overseas, mainly to China, which has affected our volumes," he said.

Icebreakers active in Baltic freeze



Top : The Finnish icebreaker **KONTIO** in action at this file picture – Photo coll : Piet Sinke

A FIFTH Finnish icebreaker has left its base in Helsinki as cold weather has led to rapid freezing of the Baltic. The Finnish Maritime Administration's **Fennica** sailed from Helsinki on December 30 to the northern part of the Gulf of Bothnia, where the ice is up to 50 cm thick. Three icebreakers operate in the region already, while one has been sent to assist shipping in the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland, where the ice is up to 45 cm thick. Temperatures fell close to -40°C in Western Finland over the New Year and the Finnish coast is covered with ice save for the southernmost port of Hanko, according to Jouni Vainio, researcher at the Finnish Institute of Maritime Research. The freeze has come a week earlier than in cold winters such as 1987, 1995 and 1996. In the very cold winter of 1987, ice covered 405,000 km² of the sea, while in the very mild winter of 1989 just 52,000 km² was frozen

South Africa averts combi grounding

THE pristine South Coast of KwaZulu Natal narrowly missed becoming an ecological disaster area on December 31 thanks to urgent action by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA). The 131,232-DWT dry bulk/oil carrier **Inville** (formerly Joinville), en route from Brazil to the breakers and reportedly carrying 800 tonnes of fuel oil, lost all power and was blown towards the shore about 50 km south of Durban. SAMSA summoned a **Smit salvage** tug to the scene, where a line was eventually secured to the 273-m ship, which was within a kilometre of going aground. By this afternoon both ship and tug were lying about 20 n-miles off Durban. Permission to enter port was refused because of the

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ship's 45m width and lack of power. Permission is instead being sought to take it to Richards Bay, where two large generator packs needed for restoring its power can be loaded

Shanghai port handles largest bulk shipment



THE largest-ever bulk shipment to be exported from China consisted of 978 vehicles which was recently loaded on to Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines (WWL) ro/ro vessel, the **Otello**

The 52,000 DWT vessel is the biggest ro/ro ship Shanghai port has accommodated to date and its cargo of 11 types of trucks, cars and buses are destined for North Africa.

The 199-metres long and 32.8-metres wide vessel can accommodate 5,905 cars.

Photo : Mike Louagie ©

NAVY NEWS

British hospital ship to head for Gulf



The British Royal Navy is set to send a hospital ship to the Persian Gulf amid a US military buildup in the region, The Daily Telegraph reported on Friday.

The Royal Fleet Auxiliary **Argus**, to be fitted with chemical and biological protection, will join a task force led by the aircraft carrier **Ark Royal**, which is scheduled to leave for the Gulf later this month, the report said.

Manned by a 120-strong team of naval doctors and medics, the ship will sail to the

Gulf in February.

Amid speculations that the dispatch of the hospital ship was a clear sign of preparations for war against Iraq, sources from the British Defense Ministry said sending the **Ark Royal** was a contingency measure and the fleet would only stop off on its way for a planned exercise near the Far East



New Destroyer to be Christened

The commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Walter F. Doran, USN, will be the principal speaker for a ceremony here Jan. 11 honoring a Navy destroyerman as the U.S. Navy's newest Aegis guided missile destroyer is christened at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems sector. The new ship, designated **DDG 93**, will be officially christened with the name **Chung-Hoon** to honor Rear Adm. Gordon P. Chung-Hoon, (1910-1979).

MOVEMENTS

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Scheldekade 48

4531 EH Terneuzen

The Netherlands

Tel : + 31 – 115 645 000

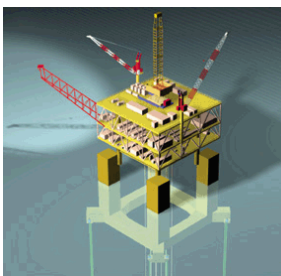
Fax : + 31 – 115 645 001

Internet

commercial@multraship.nl

<http://www.multraship.nl>

KIZOMBA-A TLP



The **KIZOMBA-A TLP** during the loading onboard the **Transshelf** at Daewoo in South Korea, the transport is at present enroute to Rotterdam (Caland kanaal), ETA January 27th

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS

KQ receives third Boeing

Kenya Airways finally took delivery of the new Boeing 737-700 airliner. The American Civil Aviation Authority reportedly delayed to release the new aircraft questioning the competency of Kenya's Directorate of Civil Aviation Authority as a flight regulator.

KQ Chairman Isaac Omolo Okero confirmed there was a delay in the delivery of the aircraft. The aircraft is the third of its kind in the airline's fleet.

He said the delivery of the aircraft was in line with the national carrier's fleet modernisation programme. Okero was speaking during the delivery of the Boeing 737-700 at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA). Barclays Bank financed the purchase of the aircraft through a guarantee by the United States' Exim Bank. The aircraft will enable the airline to offer more frequencies to most of its destinations and to open up new routes, he said.

Okero said the airline had been granted daily frequencies to Mumbai and India.

RIJNMOND WEATHER

Vooruitzichten van zondag t/m woensdag:

Na het weekend nog kouder!

Morgen kans op lichte sneeuw of regen. Vanaf maandag perioden met zon, droog en koud met lichte tot matige vorst.

	ZO-05	MA-06	DI-07	WO-08
Maximumtemperatuur:	3	1	-1	-1
Minimumtemperatuur:	-4	0	-5	-5
Zonnekans in %:	20	30	40	40
Neerslagkans in %:	50	20	10	10
Windrichting kracht:	WZW-3-4	NO-3-4	O-3-5	O-4-5

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY

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The **OMS LIBERTY** departing from Galveston - photo : Jan Plug / Oddgeir Refvik