



DAILY SHIPPING NEWSLETTER 2003 – 033



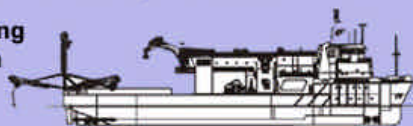
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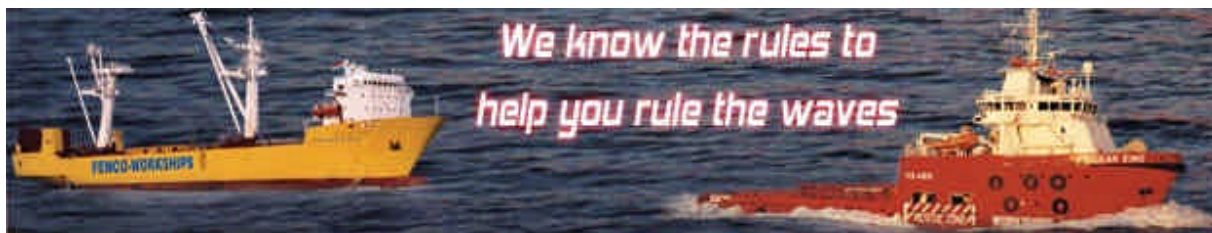
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ANADARKO PROJECT



SMIT Transport & Heavy lift - Marine projects was awarded the Engineering, Management, Load out, dry tow, offload and the final positioning of the 6 legged **ANADARKO** production platform at the Al Rayyan Field Offshore Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

Photo's:

Neil McMillan — ANADARKO Qatar Energy



The 10 **SMIT** Project team members took care about the loading of the 10.150 tons production platform onboard the **SMIT ANAMBAS** on February 20th in Jebel Ali, the **SMIT ANAMBAS** loaded with the platform departed for the Al Rayyan Field under tow of the **DEA TRADER** with the **SMIT LABUAN** as escort / support vessel, the platform was offloaded in the field March 7th, and at present the spread is waiting for weather improvement , so the platform can be installed safely at her final location to complete the works.

Oil majors stop loading Iraqi crude

ONE of the biggest buyers of Iraqi crude, ChevronTexaco, has stopped loading crude oil at Iraqi ports, the Wall Street Journal says. However, the oil giant may purchase Iraqi cargoes that have set sail for the US, buying part of a cargo in the Gulf of Mexico as late as last week. "No refiner is going to keep buying Iraqi crude and hope the missiles don't fly," ChevronTexaco spokesman Chris Gidez was quoted as saying. Several other US oil companies have also curtailed Iraqi imports including ExxonMobil and Valero Energy, the report says. Valero has cut back "sharply" on loading since the beginning of 2003, while ExxonMobil was reportedly buying Iraqi crude for European markets, traders said. Despite ChevronTexaco's move, traders said few other refiners have entirely stopped loading Iraqi oil.

USCG probe NCL dumping reports



THE US Coast Guard is investigating reports that Norwegian Cruise Line's 50,760-GT cruise ship **Norwegian Wind** dumped rubbish including bottles and beer cans while en route from Fanning Island to Maui, Hawaii, local news reports say. The alleged incident happened on February 6, but the captain told the passengers who complained at the time that the ship did not violate any environmental rules. A NCL representative

yesterday reportedly confirmed "some discharge" in international waters. The US Coast Guard has reportedly checked the ship's logs and other data to see whether the alleged dumping witnessed by the passengers was within its jurisdiction. Photos of the wine bottles and soft drink and beer cans, along with plastic plates, utensils and organic material, have also been passed to the Environmental Protection Authority. Fairplay contacted NCL in Miami but the company was not immediately available for comment

NZ reassesses watchkeeping rules

NEW Zealand's Maritime Safety Authority (MSA) is to introduce new rules governing the qualification of watchkeepers on commercial vessels. MSA director Russell Kilvington said work would begin by the middle of this year. The move follows a statement from the Transport Accident Investigation Commission urging authorities to "critically review" the need for watchkeepers to be appropriately qualified. An MSA report called poor watchkeeping skills a major contributing factor in the fatal collision and sinking of a yacht by a 1,500-tonne barge under tow in November 2001. The accident, in which the yacht owner lost his life, happened in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf, when the yacht hit a partially submerged 500-m long towline connecting the barge and the tug.

Police seize cocaine on Costa ship



Top : a file picture of the **COSTA TROPICALE** – photo : Piet Sinke ©

BRAZILIAN federal police seized 50 kg of cocaine on Costa Crociere's **Costa Tropicale** in Santos on Saturday. The 35,000-GT vessel was en route to Santos after visiting Buenos Aires and Punta del Este in Uruguay before returning to Europe for the summer cruise season. Two Spanish women, two Argentine women and one Argentine man were arrested. The cocaine was found in luggage belonging to the detained passengers, who had embarked in Buenos Aires with passage booked to Europe. Costa's Brazil representative said the haul was found during routine inspections by port authorities and federal and military police.

Vietnamese border guards seize bombs from sunken U.S. ship

Several Vietnam War-era bombs recovered from a sunken U.S. warship were seized from fishermen who were planning to sell them, an official said Tuesday.

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Up to a half dozen bombs were confiscated from four fishermen who have reportedly recovered about 160 bombs near the Spratlys islands, about 500 kilometers (310 miles) off the coast, a Quang Ngai provincial border guard said.

The fishermen told authorities they were storing the bombs, which are each about 1.8 meters (6 feet) long, in a sea bed several kilometers (miles) from shore and have sold 39 bombs to another fisherman for 117 million dong (US\$7,600), the official said on condition of anonymity.

The buyer had apparently planned to extract the explosives for dynamite fishing, he said. Rough sea conditions have prevented officials from recovering the other bombs being stored, the official said. Authorities are investigating the case, but no details about the ship's history were available.

Dozens of people have been killed or maimed by unexploded ordnance every year since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

Lifeboat evacuates ferry

Passengers have been evacuated from a ferry which got into trouble off Orkney when its propeller became snagged. The 12 passengers were on board The Claymore ferry when it got into difficulty near St Margaret's Hope Bay, on South Ronaldsay, just after 2000 GMT.

A coastguard spokesman said the ferry stopped moving when an unknown object became entangled with one of its propellers. Shetland Coastguard co-ordinated a rescue operation involving the Longhope lifeboat to take the 12 passengers off the vessel.

They were taken to a nearby ferry berth on Orkney. The spokesman said: "We are unsure if the ferry was leaving or returning to Orkney when it lost power and stopped moving. "All 12 passengers were taken off as a precaution. There are no injuries."

It is understood that 10 crew members remain on board

SHIPYARD NEWS SEAWAY PETREL



At Brattvaag the new survey ship for Uksnøy is been fitted out. She will be named "**Seaway Petrel**" and as the named stated she will be chartered by Stolt Offshore.

Photo : Oddgeir Refvik ©



Remontowa S.A. signed a contract with the Danish shipowner DFDS AS for the conversion of the ferry
"Dana Sirena"

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KEEL LAID DOWN



The ROMANTIKA - Photo : Aleks Lindstrom ©

The keel laying ceremony of the 40,000 gt sister vessel to Tallink's "[Romantika](#)" took place at Aker Finnyard in Rauma on 11 March. The vessel will start cruises between Stockholm and Tallinn after delivery in April 2004. The passenger capacity will be 2,500 in 740 cabins. She is built to the highest ice class with a 26,240 kW propulsion machinery and will be equipped with a cathalytic reduction system for control of exhaust emissions.

MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN



Top : On the 21st of December 2002 there arrived to REMONTOWA the ferry "[Mecklenburg - Vorpommern](#)" , belonging to Danish - German shipowner Scandlines The main aim of the conversion was to enlarge the trailer capacity i.e. the lenght of the trailer lines from 2150m to 3160m.

The Scandlines-ferry "[Mecklenburg-Vorpommern](#)" is in traffic again since Monday, 10th on the route Rostock-Trelleborg. The ferry was on a polish shipyard since december and was rebuild for approximately nine million euro. With 25 per cent more cargo capacity and extended service offers for passengers and truck drivers the "[Mecklenburg-Vorpommern](#)" is adjusted to the requirements of a modern ferry traffic, as Scandlines reported. With an additional truck deck the ferry offers 3200 load meters of utility space. It now has place for 600 passengers and truckers with 161 cabs and 87 seats in two quiescent areas.

Belgian dockers resort to violence

BELGIAN dock workers are travelling to the European parliamentary session in Strasbourg, France

today to protest against the adoption of the ports directive. A similar demonstration in Brussels on Friday forced the police to use tear gas and high-pressure water hoses to quell disturbances by 2,500 dock workers from Antwerp, Zeebrugge, Ghent and Ostend, outside the European Parliament. Local action was also organised in all four Belgian cities. "The directive on self handling is a scandal," one docker said on Friday. "What do [ships' crews] know about handling methods? And what about safety? Only our profession has the proper expertise in this field." Although the Belgian dock workers' jobs are protected by a local law, Myriam Chaffart, national secretary of the union CSC Transcom, said the ports directive threatens up to 2,000 jobs in Belgian ports. "If the proposals are adopted in full, I do not rule out even tougher action from our members," Chaffart warned.

Anger over French ferry subsidy

MEDITERRANEAN ferry operator Corsica Ferries has protested about a proposed €76M (\$84M) subsidy for SNCM, the state-owned competitor. "SNCM is not threatened by bankruptcy in the short term and does not need a €76M subsidy," Corsica Ferries founder and president Pascal Lota said in a letter to local politicians. "SNCM will already receive a huge €320M public subsidy for 2002-2006 as part of its concession with Corsica. [It] does not need further subsidies except to get rid of competition and attack us on the routes where it lost most money recently. Using public money to distort competition is unacceptable." In a reply published in French newspaper Le Marin, SNCM president Pierre Vieu says: "Mr Lota's statements are a series of inaccuracies. The [€76M] will be used to restructure the company and eliminate past deficits. It will certainly not be used to distort competition. In any case, the European Commission, if it approves this subsidy, will closely monitor the use we make of these funds."

Rotterdam moves chemicals off road

ROTTERDAM this week moves to increase port safety and reduce congestion by transferring chemical and oil product transport from port roads to pipelines. A bundle of pipelines known as MultiCore will open on Wednesday to move the potentially hazardous products between Rotterdam's terminals, refineries and chemical plants. Multicore is owned by a joint venture of Rotterdam Municipal Port Management and Vopak Chemical Logistics, and its first customer is ExxonMobil. Meanwhile, high-level interests are again petitioning the new Dutch government to proceed with the construction of the Maasvlakte II terminal and to contribute €600M (\$666M) to the project. The latest appeal for the port expansion project comes from a group embracing four ministries, the province of Zuid-Holland, 18 port-related municipalities, the Chamber of Commerce and employers' association Deltalinqs. The group points out that all other port projects are being delayed by the fledgling government's stalling on Maasvlakte II, a project already approved by parliament last year.

Star to resume Korea-China service

ASIAN cruise operator **Star Cruises** will resume services between South Korea and China from April 11. These were suspended for the winter season since October last year. A representative of Star Cruises in Korea told Fairplay that the decision to resume services was made taking into account the "good response" last year. **SuperStar Capricorn**, which can accommodate 1,350 persons, will be deployed for the service. This will commence from Pyeong Taek in Korea and will proceed to Dalian, Tianjin and Qingdao in China. Two sailings per week will be offered. Star had introduced cruises to China from Korea last year.

Hamburg Süd set to buy Kien Hung liner operations

GERMANY'S Hamburg Süd has concluded an agreement in principle to take over the liner activities of Taiwanese operator Kien Hung.

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Negotiations are to be finalised by the end of this month, the companies said, and business should be handed over at the same time. "This is meeting the objectives of both companies," the pair said in a joint statement. The future of the troubled Taiwanese operator has been the subject of speculation in recent weeks, with heavyweights CP Ships and Compañía Sudamericana de Vapores also named as potential buyers of the operations. Hamburg Süd said it would acquire the business with a clean sheet. "The final proceeds will enable Kien Hung to settle all liabilities resulting from the business up to the point of takeover," the statement said.

The news will serve to calm fears among investors and satisfy German tramp owners which have chartered out tonnage to Kien Hung.

"Kien Hung realised that the fluctuation and volatility of the business are difficult to sustain for a smaller operator," the companies said. For Hamburg Süd, the step was a consistent part of its strategy of being a major north-south operator. A spokeswoman for the company, which belongs to the Oetker conglomerate, declined to comment further on the importance of the planned acquisition.

Only last November, Hamburg Süd acquired the Ellerman services from the UK's Andrew Weir Shipping. This was designed to strengthen its presence in the eastern Mediterranean, as was the opening of a new office in Turkey. Traditionally, neither the liner company nor its parent release figures about the profit situation. Managing director Klaus Meves recently said the last year was "just barely satisfactory", with a view to the global climate.

After a period of abstinence, Hamburg Süd recently placed new orders for six 4,100 teu boxships with Daewoo and four 2,500 teu vessels with Germany's Kvaerner yard.

MIDNATSOL



The "old" **MIDNATSOL** has been renamed **MIDNATSOL II**, but it is not known at present where she will go.

Photo : Henk de Winde ©

APL targets Chinese ports

CONTAINER carrier APL has expanded its Mexico Asia Express service adding calls at the Chinese ports of Shanghai and Chiwan and deploying larger, faster ships. "Customers in the Chiwan and Shanghai areas are part of the reason why this is one of the most dynamic exporting regions in the world," explained Manny Fernandez, head of APL's Latin America region. "[Customers] need fast connections to their markets in the Americas," Fernandez added. From March 13, the service will deploy six 4,050-TEU vessels of which four will be drawn from service partner TMM Lines. The expanded service also aims to provide better links to exporters of Central American and Mexican products. The ships have reefer capacity of 400 TEU.

Pertamina to float \$130M bonds

INDONESIAN state owned oil and gas company Pertamina will issue bonds worth \$130M in July to raise cash to acquire two VLCCs. The large tankers are part of a newbuilding programme of 12 ships aimed at expanding the fleet under its own banner. Pertamina's current fleet numbers 126 ships, but only 34 are owned by the company. In addition to the 12 newbuildings, Pertamina also plans to order two new Aframax tankers and two LPG ships this year. The VLCCs will be built at Hyundai Heavy Industries in Korea, Pertamina said. Three consortia have been registered to underwrite the bonds, which mature in ten years, but the company said it would float bids for more candidates to underwrite the bonds. Indonesia's House of Representatives has approved the bond issue by Pertamina subsidiary Pertamina Tongkang, which operates barges

NAVY NEWS



Left :
The **USNS Sgt William R Button** seen her moored in the Port of Antwerp for loading of materials bound for the Middle East.

Photo's : Peter Westdijk ©



Right and Top : A **SH-60 Blackhawk** is landing beside the **Sgt William R Button** , and after cocooning the helicopters they were loaded onboard the vessel.

BAE SYSTEMS to display latest ship designs at 'IDEX 2003'



Models of the latest variants of BAE SYSTEMS' powerful surface ship designs will be on display at IDEX 2003, the International Defense Exhibition to be held in Abu Dhabi from 16-20 March.

Dubai, UAE

The new ships combine in-service experience, state-of-the-art weapon technology and innovative design principles, incorporating the stealth features that are essential in a high threat environment.

The F2000 model on display incorporates a helicopter hangar and is an excellent illustration of the flexibility of the 95-metre design. A key feature of the design is that it provides a very stable landing platform. Powered by 4-diesel engines, this 2000t vessel has a top speed of more than 30 knots. Three 95-metre ships are nearing completion for the Royal Brunei Navy. These highly capable ships perform a patrol vessel role, while maintaining a high self-defence capability that can be deployed in a high threat environment.

Two 106-metre F2000 ships, the **Jebat class**, are already in service with the Royal Malaysian Navy. They provide a balanced and effective capability against air, surface and submarine targets. The first-class capabilities and high availability of F2000 have been thoroughly proven in service with the Royal Malaysian Navy.

F2000 typically carries a medium calibre gun, surface to air missile system, surface-to-surface missile system and an antisubmarine capability. A fully integrated combat system, using state-of-the-art multifunction command and weapon control consoles, provides a fighting capability normally found only on larger vessels.

The F1000 65m is a Fast Attack Missile Craft, designed for multi-task operations. The extensive weapon fit on a high speed, compact hull means that this vessel can provide an economic solution to surveillance, intelligence gathering, patrol, interdiction and engagement of enemy forces. The Fast Attack Missile Craft is designed with the flexibility to accommodate a variety of weapon and sensor systems.

F1000 65m has a top speed over 35 knots, combining economic propulsion with comfortable motion characteristics throughout the speed range. The propulsion system comprises four shaft lines coupled to four high-speed marine diesel engines. A high standard of accommodation is provided for a crew of up to 44. The F1000 series ranges in size from 57 to 84 metres, representing an extremely seaworthy range of warships that can deploy considerable fire-power.

MOVEMENTS

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The **SMITBARGE 2** departed Tuesday behind the **FAIRPLAY VIII** from Rotterdam to Hamburg.

Photo : Carlo Schriek ©



The Dutch Frigate **F 828 Van Speijk** arrived with the Belgium Frigate **F 912 Wielingen** and the Dutch support vessel **A 832 Zuiderkruis** at the Canada Docks at the Merseyside

Photo's :
John H Luxton & Ian Collard
©



AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS

Sea King successors may cost \$6B

Includes maintenance

The cost of buying new ship-borne helicopters to replace Canada's ageing fleet of Sea Kings could be as high as \$6-billion when maintenance costs are included, insiders say.

Randy Mylyk, communications director for John McCallum, the Defence Minister, confirmed companies bidding for the \$3-billion naval helicopter contract will also be required to submit proposals for aircraft maintenance over a 20-to-25-year period. Industry and government insiders say this could cost taxpayers an additional \$3-billion for the 28 naval helicopters.

The total value of the contract would almost equal the \$5.4-billion the former Conservative government planned to spend on 43 helicopters the Liberals campaigned against and cancelled in 1993. Mr. Mylyk said it is too early to say whether the total price of the helicopters would be this high, while noting the Conservative government's helicopter contract did not include long-term service costs.

"The ultimate cost will depend on what they actually bid into their final price," Mr. Mylyk said.

Of the 43 **EH101** helicopters contracted under Brian Mulroney's leadership, 15 were for search and rescue and 28 for the navy. The Chrétien government was forced to pay \$478-million in penalties when it cancelled the contract. In 1998, the Liberal government selected Cormorants -- a scaled down version of the EH101 -- for the Coast Guard at a cost of \$799-million.

Ottawa has set a deadline of March 21 for companies to give formal notice of their intent to bid on the contract for the helicopters to be used on Canada's \$9-billion fleet of frigates. The Auditor-General's office recently sent a letter to the Department of National Defence emphasizing the importance of obtaining "best value" for money, making the point that price alone should not be the determining factor.

Hugh McRoberts, the assistant Auditor-General, said in the letter the government should not hide the true costs for such things as inservice support.

Over the objections of DND planners, the government has indicated it favours the procurement-by-price-alone policy, leading critics to suggest Jean Chrétien, the Prime Minister, favours the NH90 helicopter, built by NH Industries, a French consortium sworn to deliver the lowest price.

It is well-known in industry circles that Jacques Chirac, the French President, has lobbied the Prime Minister and his nephew, Raymond Chrétien, Canada's ambassador to France, to purchase this helicopter.

The other two likely bidders are the American **H-92 Sikorsky Aircraft** and **EH Industries**, an Anglo-Italian consortium also known as Team Cormorant, which won the order under the Conservatives.

Canada's admirals favour the Cormorant, which is judged to be more top of the line and can serve a multi-purpose role, from hunting down submarines and transporting troops and equipment, to search and rescue missions.

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



The **RAMBIZ** at Vlissingen Oost with the **SMIT BISON** in front.
Photo : Wim Kosten ©