

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 113



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The RYAN LEET seen at the slip in St. John (New Foundland)

Photo : Jan van der Doe ©

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EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS



The **POLAR STAR** seen anchored off Horta (Azores) – Photo : Miguel N3ia ©

M/V Polar Star was built in Finland, and served in the Swedish Maritime Administration's fleet of icebreakers under the name of **Njord**. Today, the M/V **Polar Star**, an expedition cruise ship, is owned and operated by **Polar Star Expeditions**, formed in 2000 and a company of Karlsen Shipping. When the M/V **Polar Star** was purchased in 2000, she underwent a complete retrofit and upgrades, and was then renamed after her namesake that served Karlsen's Arctic cruise program.

Class: DNV + 1A1 Ice 1A* - Length: 86.5 metres, Beam: 21.2 metres, Draft: 9.85 metres
Tonnage: 4998 GRT, Type: 105 passenger maximum (100 in Antarctica)
Propulsion: Diesel Electric, 12,000Bhp, Bow-Thruster: 750Bhp, Speed: 15 knots max; 11.5 knots cruising
Flag/Home port: Barbados/Bridgetown, Call Sign: 8PPK, Official No./IMO No.: 725482/6905745

Plan to stop boat people

THE Federal Government is about to spend millions more on its campaign to stop boat people, with a plan aimed at disrupting people smugglers in South-East Asia.

The budget measures follow this week's visit by the Immigration Minister, Kevin Andrews, to Indonesia to discuss combating people smuggling.

Mr Andrews said he wanted to build on co-operation with Indonesia in efforts "to strengthen our borders and our joint investment in more sophisticated detection of irregular movements ... "

The co-ordinator of the Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre, David Manne, said it appeared the Government was developing a radical "South-East Asian solution" to replace its troubled "Pacific solution" to deter asylum seekers.

He said the Government was seeking to send asylum seekers to countries such as Malaysia, where Burmese Rohingya refugees were routinely persecuted.

China searches for boat after piracy report

A Chinese fishing boat and its 18 crew disappeared in the South China Sea shortly after its captain reported pirates had boarded his vessel, Xinhua news agency reported on Saturday.

The captain of "**Qionghai 08099**" phoned his family on Thursday morning saying his boat was being robbed by armed pirates after experiencing mechanical problems near the Spratly Islands, a Hainan provincial official was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

Local marine officials from China's southernmost province of Hainan dispatched a coast guard ship and mobilized other fishing vessels to aid in the search.

Captain Xu Demin first called his wife saying a group of unidentified men were robbing his boat. Twenty minutes later Xu phoned a cousin, saying that the robbers had left with his catch of fish, but that another unidentified vessel was approaching.

The family has had no further contact with Xu since the second call, according to the report.

The Spratly Islands are a string of tiny islands in an area that is claimed all or in part by China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines.



Colombia's navy says cocaine seizure much smaller than thought

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The Colombian navy said Tuesday that a buried cache of cocaine found along the Pacific coast was much smaller than initially believed and not the largest drug haul in the nation's history, as officials first claimed.

On Monday, Defence Minister Juan Manuel Santos said a 25-metric ton (27 tons) cache of cocaine worth upward of US\$500 million (€368 million) was found buried in 1,000 packages near the town of Pizarro, 400 kilometres (250 miles) west of Bogota. He called the seizure the "biggest in the history of Colombia."

But the navy said Tuesday the amount of cocaine seized actually totalled 13.2 metric tons (14.5 tons), attributing the discrepancy to miscalculations from an initial sight count.

The revised figure still makes the seizure the largest by Colombian authorities this year, but short of previous hauls. In May 2005 officials found 15 metric tons (16.5 tons) of cocaine in a wood-lined underground chamber in the jungle near the Pacific coast, described at the time as the country's largest drug seizure.

The navy explained in a statement Tuesday that drug traffickers typically assemble packages weighing between 20 and 25 kilograms (44 and 55 pounds). But the packages found Sunday were significantly smaller when weighed on Tuesday at a naval base several hundred kilometres (miles) north of the estuary where the stockpile was found.
Today in Americas

There were no arrests in the operation, but the navy said it seized 5 go-fast boats and several motors which are believed to belong to Colombia's biggest drug trafficking organization, the Norte del Valle cartel, which operates near the area.

The seizure came as President Alvaro Uribe traveled to Washington on Tuesday to shore up support for the U.S.-backed Plan Colombia, an anti-narcotics and counterinsurgency program that has cost American taxpayers more than US\$5 billion (€3.68 billion) since 2000.

Colombia is the world's leading cocaine producer, supplying 90 percent of the drug consumed in the United States.

Most of the cocaine leaves the country by sea, on go-fast boats that transport the drugs up along the Central American coast for their eventual smuggling into the United States overland through Mexico.



The **MSC ENGLAND** seen in Santos – Photo : Bruno Pricoli ©

Pumping of ship fuel delayed

Almost a month after the sinking of the **Sea Diamond** cruise ship off the coast of Santorini, the government has yet to decide how it will remove more than 400 tons of fuel still in the shipwreck, it was revealed yesterday.

The Merchant Marine Ministry admitted last week that it did not have an approved strategy for saving the popular island's coastline from being badly polluted.

Merchant Marine Minister Manolis Kefaloyiannis told Parliament that a company called Core Marine Limited had sent a letter to the ministry on April 13 "that included a plan on how to remove the fuel and other pollutants."

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The minister said the firm had been asked to submit the technical details for approval by the ministry but did not give any more details about what its plans were.

A ship belonging to the Hellenic Center for Marine Research (HCMR) reached Santorini on Monday to record data regarding the **Sea Diamond's** exact position. This information will be necessary for deciding how the fuel will be removed.

Municipal authorities are anxiously monitoring the wreck at a depth of around 120 meters on the slope of Santorini's submerged volcanic crater. "I do not know the reason but there has been a considerable delay in plans to remove the fuel," Santorini Mayor Angelos Roussos told Kathimerini yesterday.

Some of the diesel has already started to leak from the wreck, prompting a cleanup of some of the island's beaches.

Experts fear that half the fuel oil may have already seeped out of different parts of the ship, even though the fuel tanks do not appear to have suffered any damage.

However, the remaining fuel could still create a serious problem for the marine environment, an expert told Kathimerini.

In a bid to gather more information about the sinking, Greek authorities on Sunday sent the ship's data recording device for analysis to the US under heavy security. It is not clear if the data will explain why the accident occurred.

SA rescue ship en route to stricken yacht

The rescue ship the **SA Agulhas** is expected to reach the stricken yacht **Cowrie Dancer** in the Southern Ocean late on Wednesday to rescue its crew left injured after its mizzen broke in a storm.



Photo : Glenn Kasner ©

Mark Hellenberg, search and rescue mission co-ordinator for the Maritime Rescue Co-ordinating Centre, says everyone on board is doing well under the circumstances.

"But they require medical assistance. We hope to get there around 9pm," he added.

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The rescue co-ordinating centre confirms that an Australian crew member, John Blackman, is missing after he was washed overboard during the storm. We do not believe he will be found alive. We are now focusing on the surviving crewmen today," says Hellenberg. The yacht's skipper, American Dale Peterson, reportedly has a broken leg while Australian Nicholas Lawson injured his hip. The crew also includes a South African, Carol Erasmus, who is unhurt.

At around 8am on Wednesday, the **SA Agulhas** was 190 nautical miles from the stranded yacht, which is drifting at two nautical miles per hour. The yacht left Cape Town on April 23 for Australia. Hellenburg says the rescue ship is in contact with the surviving crew members.



The MV **De Hong** was loading bunkers in the Port of Walvis Bay on its way to Angola to fetch the **Mighty Servant 3** after the refloating and to tow her to South Africa.

Photo : Carlos Morgadinho ©

Tidewater to hold internal investigation into Nigerian operations

Tidewater in the US has announced that it is conducting an internal investigation of its Nigerian operations, focusing on the legality, under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and local laws, of its Nigerian affiliate's reimbursement of certain expenses incurred by a customs agent in connection with the temporary importation of its vessels into Nigeria, particularly the obtaining of certain permits that are necessary for the company's vessels to operate in Nigerian offshore waters.

The Audit Committee of the Company's Board of Directors has engaged the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson of Washington DC, a leading international law firm with significant experience in investigating and advising upon FCPA matters, to lead the investigation.

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The Audit Committee commissioned the internal investigation in late February 2007 after management brought to its attention a settlement earlier that month of well-publicized criminal FCPA proceedings (the second in recent years) involving Vetco Gray Controls, a Houston-based oil service company with substantial operations in Nigeria.

Tidewater's management and the Audit Committee were concerned that the company's Nigerian affiliate used the same third-party agent for its temporary importations in Nigeria that was thought to be significantly implicated in the 2007 Vetco Gray proceedings.

As a result of its ongoing internal investigation, the company has become aware that certain practices followed by the company's Nigerian affiliate or its agents in connection with temporary importation permits, while perhaps consistent with the practices of others seeking such permits in Nigeria, will have to be changed in order for the company to ensure full compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and other applicable laws.

The Audit Committee and management will work together with special counsel and appropriate personnel within the Company to implement promptly appropriate corrective measures. The company has voluntarily contacted the Securities and Exchange Commission and the US Department of Justice to advise both agencies that an internal investigation is underway and that it intends to co-operate fully with both agencies.

Said Tidewater: "The internal investigation continues, and no conclusion can be drawn at this time as to whether either agency will open a proceeding to separately investigate this matter, or, if a proceeding is opened, what potential remedies these agencies may seek. In addition, although management will seek to avoid material disruption to its Nigerian operations, the company can not gauge at this time the ultimate effect of implementing the necessary corrective measures for its business in Nigeria."

The company has determined that given the status of the investigation, it is premature for it to determine whether it needs to make any financial reserve for any potential liabilities that may result from these activities.



The **SMIT ORCA** with the **TAKLIFT 7** in position ready for re-floating operation of the **MIGHTY SERVANT 3**
Photo : crew **SMIT Orca**



The **OOCL NARVA** – Photo : Edwin Heino ©

Stranded fishing vessel brought to safety after striking rocks at Mutton Island

A lone fisherman was brought to safety by the Galway Royal National Lifeboat Institution lifeboat early on Monday, 30 April, when his boat struck rocks off Mutton Island.

The Coast Guard raised the alarm at 7.40am and the lifeboat was launched within minutes. The vessel got into difficulty after a rope fouled its propeller. After establishing a tow, the **Galway RNLI lifeboat** brought the boat to safety at Galway docks.

Commenting on the early morning rescue, Lifeboat Operations Manager Pat Lavelle said, "We were racing against an ebbing tide which could have left the vessel and its crewmember stranded on the rocks. However, the lifeboat crew were on scene very quickly and managed to bring the fisherman and the vessel to safety".

Meanwhile, a 24-year-old man was given a three month suspended sentence and fined ?600 at Galway District Court last week for causing ?70 worth of criminal damage to a lifebuoy.

According to Roger Sweeney of Irish Water Safety, "Recent accidents where people have fallen into water emphasise the importance of the ring buoys which are erected along popular stretches of Galway's waterways. Lives will be lost unless the public assists the local authorities to ensure that ring buoys are not interfered with or damaged. The placement of ring buoys at many locations throughout Ireland has contributed to the saving of many lives.

"Irish Water Safety introduced a specific colour code for the ring buoy, rope and box to enhance visibility and to reduce vulnerability to theft and abuse. Regrettably, there are still incidents of malicious damage and theft to these lifesaving appliances and there is a continuing need for the public to be made aware, in unambiguous terms, that damage or theft of such ring buoys or the attached rope, could result in the loss of life.

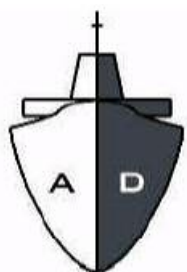
"Some irresponsible members of the public vandalise these lifesaving appliances. Some of the Local Authorities on their regular checks particularly in urban areas discover that they are either missing or have been vandalised. There is obviously a financial cost to this vandalism to be borne by the ratepayers and taxpayers, but the serious risk is to human life caused by the deliberate damage to this equipment.

Mr Sweeney on behalf of Irish Water Safety appealed to the public, "to assist in maintaining these vitally important lifesaving appliances in good condition at all times" and said any person seen tampering or in possession with these lifebelts should be reported to the local authorities and/or the Gardaí.

NAVY NEWS

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Frigates must be able to defend themselves

The Defence Minister of New Zealand must stand by his assurance that the Navy frigate deploying to the Middle East next year will be able to defend itself, says National's Defence spokesman, Dr Wayne Mapp. A report from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute said the navy's torpedoes are nearly obsolete and will not be supported beyond next year. Today Phil Goff assured the House today that 'By the time those torpedoes capability expires the Navy will have replaced those torpedoes'.

"Self defence capabilities are of significant concern, as next year over 170 personnel will deploy on a frigate to the Arabian Gulf. "We all know that the Gulf is a place of significant tension. "It would be hoped that our personnel would not have to rely on torpedoes within a few months of the end of their life for self protection."

INS Vikramaditya refit marginally behind schedule: Indian Navy

The Indian Navy denied reports in the Russian and Indian media that delivery of aircraft carrier **INS Vikramaditya** (ex-Admiral Gorshkov) would be delayed till 2010. Indian Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta, expressing surprise at the report, has said that refitting of the ship was moving ahead as per schedule, with only marginal delays.

"The work is going on as per schedule and I do not know where this particular report came from. The work is only three to four months behind schedule and we can expect the aircraft carrier to be delivered by late 2008 or early 2009," chief of naval staff, Admiral Sureesh Mehta, told reporters here. Adm Mehta also said that the Russians have committed for a timely delivery of the aircraft carrier.

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It may be recalled that a few days back media reports had said that Russian shipbuilders had grossly miscalculated the amount of cabling required for the ship by almost four times, provisioning for 700km as against a requirement of 2,400km. This underestimate would have pushed delivery of the ship back to 2010.

The aircraft carrier is currently being refitted at a cost of \$1 billion at the Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk city of Russia. "Our officials, who are stationed at the spot have said that the work is going on as per schedule and we can have a month long delay once the work is completed as that part of Russia is frozen for a long time," he said. Adm Mehta was in the city to preside over the investiture ceremony of naval officers and men held at INS **Kunjali** today.

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Spotted May 2nd at FLT facility Onne Nigeria the new Bourbon crew boat, '**Surfer 322**' being prepared for launching. The vessel was built by 'West Atlantic Shipyard' at Onne port Nigeria. - **Photo : Monty Dames ©**

China Shipping Group enters shipbuilding market

Xinhua reports that China's second largest shipping conglomerate, Shanghai-based, China Shipping Group, plans to enter the newbuilding market by the end of 2008.

China Shipping Group's six current yards, situated in Shanghai and Guangzhou, are limited to ship repairs, ship conversions and hull maintenance.

However ground for a new shipyard has already been broken in the Yanjiang Development Zone of Jiangdu in east China's Zhejiang Province. It will cover an area of 187 hectares and stretch 3,500 meters along the coastline.

China Shipping Group plans to bring annual production capacity of the yard to 1.5 million deadweight tons over a period of three years. Xinhua notes that is the second time in less than two months that a major centrally-administered state-owned enterprise has branched out into shipbuilding.

In March, the Shanghai Baosteel Group Corp., China's largest steel producer, jointly invested 10 billion yuan (about US \$ 1.3 billion) with China State Shipbuilding Corporation to build the country's largest shipbuilding base at the estuary of the Yangtze River.

Shipbuilding Complex Breaks Ground in Vietnam

Construction of a \$106m shipbuilding complex began in Hau Giang Province. The plant is expected to be a major booster to economic growth in the Mekong Delta. The complex will produce ships of up to 70,000 tons. The state-owned Vietnam Shipbuilding Industry Group (Vinashin) has planned to pour \$68.7m in the plant. The complex will also house a container production factory, a ship engine manufacturing plant, ports, and a self-reliant thermo-electric power plant. Three other Mekong Delta provinces, Long An, Ca Mau and Kien Giang, have also begun work on ship yards to produce 20,000-100,000-ton vessels.

BAE beats off competition to secure Spanish submarine deal

The defence giant BAE Systems has won its first export order for submarines in 30 years.

The deal with Spanish shipbuilding company Navantia to supply parts for four diesel-electric hubs is estimated to be worth less than £10m but is seen as strategically important for BAE as it could mark the start of a longer-term relationship between the two companies.

BAE will make eight pressure domes at its base in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria for four **S80** boats being built for the Spanish navy and will deliver them by the end of this year. It will also provide technical support in aspects of pressure-hull fabrication as the programme develops.

Simon Jones, who led the negotiations for BAE, said the deal represents an important progression in the international submarine sector. "We are developing the basis of a long-term collaborative and co-operative relationship, equal in terms of responsibility and benefit," he said. "We see this as the future basis for business arrangements in our respective markets."

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The group fought off competition from Germany, France, Russia and the US to win the order. Navantia is Spain's nationalised shipbuilding industry and has shipyards in Cartagena, El Ferrol and Cadiz. The **S80** is the first submarine the Spanish have built on their own.

BAE said its priority is its **Astute** nuclear submarine building programme, which is under way, but the contract marks a welcome return to the export market. BAE is due to launch its first **Astute** submarine in June. However, it is looking increasingly likely that BAE will walk away from the bidding for the Devonport submarine yard, near Plymouth, which refits and refuels Britain's nuclear submarine fleet. The deadline for final offers is today.

BAE is understood to have held talks with rival bidder Babcock International about making a joint offer for the yard but these are believed to have stalled after the two sides failed to reach an agreement.

Hyundai Mipo's Q1 earnings more than double

Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co., the world's fourth-largest shipyard, said Thursday that it first-quarter earnings more than doubled from a year earlier on increased orders for high-priced ships. Net income reached 89.1 billion won (US\$95.7 million) in the first three months of the year, compared with 43.5 billion won a year earlier, the company said in a regulatory filing.

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The **SABLE CAPE** seen enroute Rotterdam

Photo : Jan Verhoog ©

PQA completes maintenance dredging'

The Port Qasim Authority (PQA) has completed the maintenance dredging of its outer channel with a draught of 14.5 metres for smooth arrivals and departure of vessels.

Sources told Business Recorder that the PQA had awarded dredging contract at a cost of Rs 995 million to a Belgian company, '**Dredging International**', that started dredging in mid-January and completed its operation in the last week of April.

The company's dredger, named '**Lange Wapper**', with capacity of 14,000 cubic metres, conducted the entire operation before start of high monsoon season which usually hampers the dredging activity due to high swell and rough sea. The dredger has to remove siltation (sea soil) from its outer channel as per contract requirement.

The shipping activities at the port registered an impressive growth in all facets of port operations. During first eight months of current financial year, the PQA handled 17.4 million metric tons cargo registering an increase of 20 percent over corresponding period of last year. The shipping also increased by 16 percent during the same period. The port caters for over 40 percent of the trade facilities of the country's economy.

As far as container handling is concern, the box traffic at the port also registered phenomenal increase annually. It may be mentioned that the PQA recently berthed the longest container vessel at Qasim International Container Terminal (QICT) which was the first -largest ship arriving in the country's maritime history. The vessel, **Maersk Missouri**, was 295 metres long with 50,698 gross registered tonnes (GRT) and carrying capacity of over 5000 TEUs (Twenty Equivalent Units).



The **FAIRMOUNT SHERPA** arrived in Cape Town

Photo : Glenn Kasner ©

Containerships Group to Streamline UK Operations

Containerships Group is streamlining its U.K. operations to increase the efficiency of its services. As part of the reorganization, Teesport will become the new operational center for Containerships' UK services, and the Felixstowe office will be closed, on May 31 this year. The London office, meanwhile, will continue to operate as normal. The streamlining procedure will involve an increase from 30 to 42 in the number of trucks operated from Teesport, beginning within the next few months.

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Edda Accommodation orders purpose-built flotel

Edda Accommodation has placed an order for what it claims is the offshore industry's first purpose built flotel.

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Edda Accommodation, which is part of the Østensjø Group, is extending the Group's services by presenting a purpose built offshore accommodation vessel for a total of 600 personnel.

The vessel - **Edda TBN** - will be the first purpose built monohull to provide accommodation services to the offshore industry. The vessel will be delivered end 2009.

Edda TBN will be 130m long with a breadth of 27m and will be equipped with a telescopic gangway installed on the 1,400m³ deck with one heave compensated knuckle boom crane and to marine deck cranes.

The large free deck area to be used in connection with offshore construction work or as storage area. The emphasis in the design of the vessel will be on low fuel consumption, low emissions, and precise dynamic positioning (DP 3), with a well proven reference system.

Five Voith Schneider propellers will provide a very accurate and stable positioning system and low fuel consumption compared to other propulsion systems. The ship will also have a helicopter deck with refueling plant, and a mix of executive cabins, offices, conference rooms, satellite communication, internet cafe, wireless net, television, fitness rooms, sauna, swimming pool, recreation areas, and a cinema. The value of the vessel is approximately Nkr 850 million, and the yard that will build the vessel will be announced later this month.



The Trailing Suction dredger **Rotterdam** seen operating in Dubai at the "Deira Corniche"

Photo : M.Boender ©

P&OMS wins French Antarctic contract

P&O Maritime Services has won a shipping contract to supply France's Antarctic territories for the next six years. The company will supply the French base of Dumont d'Urville on the coast of Antarctica using Hobart as a staging point. Most of the supplies will be transferred to the joint French/Italian base at Concordia. The company is purchasing the 65m-long platform supply vessel **L'Astrolabe** from Bourbon Offshore to undertake the service during the 120-160 day-long summer Antarctic season. The vessel had previously operated the service for the French government. The contract is with two French government agencies, the Polar Institute (IPEV) and French Antarctic Territories (TAAF). **L'Astrolabe** will continue to operate under the French flag. P&OMS has operated the larger supply/research vessel Aurora Australis on the polar route for the Australian government for 17 years. The company is waiting to hear whether this contract will be renewed.

Nieuwe snelboot voor Vlieland en Terschelling

Rederij Doeksen in Harlingen gaat de snelboot **Koegelwieck** vervangen door een groter schip om meer mensen snel naar Vlieland en Terschelling te kunnen varen. Dat meldde directeur Paul Melles van de rederij woensdag.

De sneldiensten van de **Koegelwieck** zijn de laatste jaren steeds populairder geworden ten koste van de langzamere veren De **Friesland** en De **Vlieland**. De sneldienst vaart in drie kwartier de Waddenzee over, de veren zijn twee uur onderweg. Vooral omdat toeristen vaker maar korter op vakantie gaan vroegen de eilander ondernemers voor meer ruimte op de sneldienst.



The **POS JADE** seen arriving in Hobart assisted by the tugs **Storm Cove** and **Taragal**
Photo : Glenn Towler ©

Tractor Tug Begins Service

Boston's newest and most powerful harbor tug has been christened, crewed up and has started serving customers of Constellation Maritime Co.

The tug **Leo** is a 78-foot, 5,000 horsepower **Dolphin-Class** vessel built at Foss Rainier Shipyard in Oregon. The brand new ASD-powered tug arrived in Boston on March 7 along with the **Orion**, a 3,000 horsepower, 95 foot Voith-powered tractor formerly in service for Foss Maritime on the Columbia River. Together, the two high-powered tugs give Constellation, a Foss subsidiary, a one-two punch that amounts to a significant competitive edge in handling ship assists, harbor work, and future tanker escorts.

Constellation deck and engine room personnel have been working with Foss trainers in Boston and Long Beach, Calif., to become familiar with operation and maintenance of the two vessels. Massachusetts State Commissioned Harbor Pilots also have joined training sessions to learn how to best use the tugs. The **Leo** was christened during a reception attended by about 150 people at the Boston Harbor Hotel on April 19. Among the guests were customers, local dignitaries, U.S. Coast Guard and Navy officials, pilots, and representatives of Foss and its parent company, Marine Resources Group. Constellation was acquired last year by Foss Maritime, one of the nation's leading tug-barge companies, with harbor services and marine transportation bases in all major ports on the U.S. West Coast.

Dockers strike at major Chinese port

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Hundreds of Chinese workers demanding overtime pay went on strike at one of the world's busiest ports, holding up thousands of shipping containers at the terminal in southern China, Hong Kong newspapers reported Wednesday.

Crane operators and truck drivers at the Chiwan Container Terminal in the boomtown of Shenzhen stopped working at midnight on Tuesday, pro-Beijing newspaper Wen Wei Po in Hong Kong reported.

A man who answered the phone at the port's offices said services had partially resumed on Tuesday, but he refused to give more details. Calls to the company's headquarters and the local government went unanswered because of the weeklong labor holiday in mainland China.

More than 400 dock workers were unhappy about wages and have accused management of failing to pay them overtime as required by labor laws, Hong Kong's South China Morning Post reported.

They staged a sit-in outside the container terminal's headquarters on Tuesday, the paper said. Police were called in to maintain order, but no violence was reported, the paper said.

The Post quoted an unnamed worker who said they took industrial action on International Labor Day to express their anger. "Many of us have sacrificed our health and spare time to work for the company. We only have one or two days of rest each month. The company should treat us better," the man was quoted as saying.

Dockers earned about 4,000 yuan (\$519) on average per month, the paper reported. The wage is considered high as government statistics showed the national average monthly urban wage in 2006 was 980 yuan (\$127).

Chiwan Container Terminal is one of the world's busiest, having processed a total of 5 million 20-foot equivalent units of containers in 2006, according to its Web site. Chiwan Container Terminal is a joint venture among Chiwan Wharf Holdings Limited, Hong Kong's Kerry Holdings Limited and Hidoney Development Limited.

MOVEMENTS

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The New Zealand registered tanker "**Taiko**" seen departing Dunedin, New Zealand for the last time before being sold and renamed **Atlantia** and registered in Panama. The Taiko served 22 years carrying petroleum products around the New Zealand coast.

Photo : Ross Walker ©



The **SHAMROCK EAGLE** seen in Rio Grande

Photo : Marcelo Viera ©

MYSTERIOUS TUG



The above tug named **FIRQOUSI** was spotted by **Walter van der Dussen** in the port of Karachi (Pakistan)
Is anybody having more information about this (former ??) tug / pilot boat ??? – your help is appreciated !!!

IMRAN your turn this time !!!!

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS

Nelson launches helicopter production

Defence Minister Brendan Nelson on Wednesday launched production of the new army and navy MRH-90 helicopters at the Australian Aerospace plant in Brisbane.

Dr Nelson said this was a significant milestone for a project to equip the Australian Defence Force (ADF) with modern helicopters and create 150 new jobs.

He said it would also ensure the continuation of more than 250 jobs started through the Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter project. "Australia's first four MRH-90s are being manufactured in France and the remaining 42 helicopters will be assembled in Brisbane," he said in a statement.

Dr Nelson said the fuselage of the first Australian production MRH-90 was delivered ahead of schedule to the Australian Aerospace facility and was expected to be ready for crew training in Townsville in December 2008.

Under defence procurement project AIR 9000, the ADF will acquire 46 of the European-designed transport helicopters, which will replace the navy's ageing Sea Kings and army Black Hawks. Dr Nelson said the new helicopters were important to the Australian Defence Force of the future. He said the MRH-90 program would deliver a significant boost to Australian industry with a package worth more than \$1.2 billion.

Jet Airways komt naar Zaventem

De Indiase luchtvaartmaatschappij Jet Airways maakt van Brussels Airport haar Europese uitvalsbasis. Jet Airways gaat daarvoor samenwerken met Brussels Airlines. Er moeten op termijn 10 langeafstandsvluchten per dag komen naar de Verenigde Staten, Canada en India.

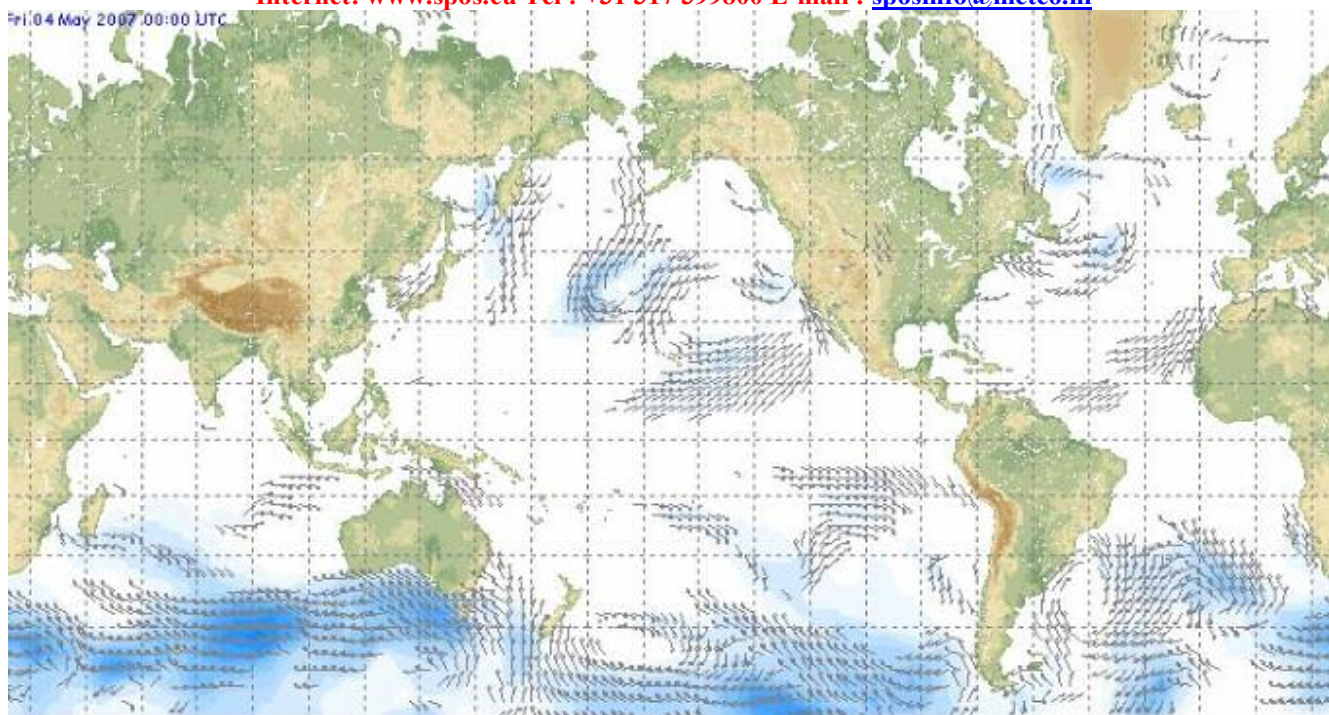
Vanaf augustus worden al 4 bestemmingen aangedaan: Mumbai, New York, Delhi en Toronto. De nieuwe vluchten zijn goed voor 1 miljoen extra passagiers per jaar in Zaventem.

MARINE WEATHER

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.... PHOTO OF THE DAY

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 113



The **NILS HOLGERSSON** seen in Travemünde
Photo : Rob de Visser ©

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