

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 117



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The VAN GOGH seen in Valetta (Malta)

Photo : Anthony S. Chetcuti – Malta Pilots ©

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EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS



The **TAKLIFT 7** seen with the partly re-floated **MIGHTY SERVANT 3** in Angola

Maritime security contract for Chouest vessel

Edison Chouest Offshore, Galliano, La., is being awarded a \$7,465,039 fixed-price contract for the charter of U.S. flagged Maritime Support Vessel MV **C-Courageous** to support maritime security operations.

The vessel will provide berthing and messing for 30 military personnel and will serve as a platform to transport, launch, recover, refuel, rearm and perform maintenance on small patrol watercraft.

The vessel can operate at full capacity for up to 30 days without re-supply. This contract includes three one-year option periods and one 11-month option period that, if exercised, would bring the total award amount to \$36,467,547,

including the estimated cost of reimbursable items such as fuel, port services and canal charges. Work will be performed worldwide, and is expected to be completed August 2008 (July 2012 with options).

Contract funds for the base year will expire at the end of the current fiscal year. This contract was competitively procured with more than 100 proposals solicited and nine offers received. The U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command, Washington, D.C., is the contracting activity.

Cruise ship returns after rescue

A British cruise ship rescued seven Algerians from a small boat spotted drifting in the Mediterranean. The P&O cruise ship **Oceana** went to help the vessel after it was seen off the Balearic Islands on Thursday.



File photo of the **OCEANA** – Photo : Joop Marechal ©

Despite rescue, one of the men died. The ship brought the surviving six back to Southampton, where they were interviewed by immigration officers. The Home Office said people rescued at sea should be disembarked at the nearest place of safety.

A Home Office spokesman said: "The men's eligibility for admission to the UK is being considered in line with the immigration rules.

"The Border and Immigration Agency is in liaison with the shipping agents regarding the incident. "Under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Safety of Life at Sea and Search and Rescue Conventions, persons rescued at sea should be disembarked at the nearest place of safety.

"The United Kingdom is supportive of the recommendations of the IMO and would aim to apply them with anyone rescued in our waters or elsewhere." Seven Algerians had been on board the vessel, which had run out of supplies and was drifting without lights or radio equipment.

Cruise ship passenger Steven Walker said the ship stopped in Gibraltar and one of the group was taken to hospital in Spain where he later died. The **Oceana**, which carries more than 2,000 passengers and 875 crew, had been on a two-week cruise to the western Mediterranean.

Mr Walker, 55, from Ferndown, Dorset, said: "It was about 2am when the rescue happened, most of the passengers were asleep but they did put a warning out. "The boat was drifting with no radio or lights.

"Obviously it was potentially quite dangerous so they sent an inflatable out to see what was going on and then brought them on board." P&O declined to comment on the incident.



Fast Ferry **Blue Star 1** seen arriving at Zeebrugge port from Rosyth, the ferry - **Blue Star 1** operated before at the route Patras (Greece) <> Ancona (Italy) on which route her sister **Blue Star 2** is still operating, since February 2007 the **Blue Star 1** replaced the **Superfast X** at the route Zeebrugge <> Rosyth, both vessels are owned by Strintzis Lines Shipping and operated by Blue Star ferries, and were launched within only 14 weeks of each other at June 2000 from Dutch builders Van der Giessen-de Noord. The Blue Star ferries have an overall length of 176.09 m and a length between perpendiculars of 160.57 m, with a beam of 25.7m. They have a design draft of 6.35 m, a depth main deck of 9.4m, and a depth to deck 5 of 15.1m. The ferries have a registered gross tonnage of 29,415 gt and a net tonnage of 10,048t. The deadweight is 4,563t and at 6.5m draft, they have a deadweight of 5,075 t. **Blue Star 1** is a fast conventional ferry capable of over 28 knots carrying 1600 passengers and 850 cars.

Photo : Piet Vink ©

Lucky escape for children in dinghy

TWO children had a lucky escape after being swept out to sea on a dinghy. Swanage coastguards and Swanage RNLI Inshore Lifeboat were alerted after the youngsters were blown out to sea on the inflatable beach toy at around 5pm on Saturday.

The mother of the children quickly attempted to swim out and rescue the dinghy. Once the children saw their mum swimming out to them, they both jumped out of the inflatable into the water and swam towards her.

The trio, who all hail from London, were then picked up by the coastguards, who also recovered the inflatable dinghy.

The youngsters were safely returned to the beach and did not require any medical attention, said coastguards.

Portland coastguard say they dealt with 30 to 40 incidents of this type last year and urged parents to keep an eye on their children if they are using inflatables in the water.

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 117

"These incidents are a great concern to us and should be to parents as well," said a spokesman for Portland coastguard. "The way these incidents happen is there appears to be little wind close to the shore because of beach huts and buildings.

"But as the youngsters paddle out they get away from the shelter and into the wind and tide, which quickly sweeps them away. "We have been trying for years to get across the safety message about these toys - they are not dinghies and are not sea-worthy." Coastguards are urging parents to tether the inflatables to groynes, beach walls or tent pegs to prevent them blowing out to sea.

"In general, youngsters shouldn't be left alone when playing by the water," added the spokesman.



The **TRINITY SUPPORTER** seen arriving in Kemaman Supply Base – Kuantan (Malaysia)

Photo : Capt. Jelle de Vries ©

CASUALTY REPORTING

Storeroom of Singapore ship catches fire, no casualty

A Fire broke out in the storeroom of a Singapore merchant ship that had docked in Khidderpur.

A cabin crew was injured in the incident, which took place at 9.30 am. However, the fire was controlled by 10.20 am, as the Fire Services department pressed three fire tenders into action.

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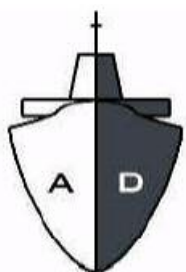
According to the police, spray painting was on at the ship's storeroom since morning. During this, one of the crew members lit a light and a fire broke out. The incident sent dock authorities and the crew into a tizzy. Dock guards and other employees rushed to the ship and rescued the crew members.

One of the crew members, Zuo Thun Fo (35), received burn injuries in the incident. He was rushed to the SSKM hospital where he was admitted in the burn ward. "The labourers engaged in the dock spotted smoke emanating from the room and also heard the shouts of the crew members. Later, the crew members were rescued and the fire in the storeroom controlled," said a employee at the dock. Following the incident, security at the dock complex was stepped up.

NAVY NEWS

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Sailors "man the ship" and officially bring the newest Virginia-class nuclear attack submarine **USS Hawaii (SSN 776)** to life during her commissioning ceremony. Hawaii is the third Virginia-class submarine to be commissioned and part of the first major U.S. Navy combatant vessel class designed with the post-Cold War security environment in mind.

New Orleans Arrives At Homeport San Diego

San Diego welcomed **USS New Orleans (LPD 18)**, the Navy's newest surface ship, as it arrived at its new homeport May 3. New Orleans, the second of the San Antonio-class amphibious transport ships, is the first of its class homeported on the West Coast. She is a Hurricane Katrina survivor and the first ship built and commissioned in her namesake city.

"The ship's building process was put on hold during the hurricane, but was continued as the work forces started to operate again," said New Orleans Commanding Officer Cmdr. John B. Skillman. "The ship was kind of a start in the rebuilding process of the city." "This ship is a great addition for us here in San Diego," said Commander Expeditionary Strike Group 3 Rear Adm. Mark W. Balmert. "This ship brings a new generation of warfighting here. It has more capabilities in terms of self defense -- and it can carry more Marines, vehicles, and aircraft -- than the ships it's replacing."

According to **New Orleans'** Web site, the ship possesses state-of-the-art warfighting capabilities. The ship accommodates the Marine Corps' "mobility triad" -- Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicles, landing craft air cushion, and the Marine Corps' new tilt-rotor MV-22 Osprey aircraft. This aids the Marine Corps as they seek to complete their missions quicker and more efficiently. New Orleans also houses two, high rate-of-fire 30 mm Close-in-Gun System mounts, with room for additional firepower upgrades. This will improve the ship's security and security for other ships that may accompany her. The ship is also fitted with a larger flight deck and increased vehicle lift capabilities, thus allowing the ship to operate under much more demanding circumstances.

In fighting the global war on terrorism, **New Orleans'** cutting-edge technology and warfighting capabilities will be a huge asset to the U.S. 7th Fleet and all of its naval operations. "We are really excited to see what she can do," said Skillman. "And see how it can further support expeditionary strike groups."

NATO to stage Baltic Sea exercise

NATO is to stage an exceptionally large military exercise in the Baltic Sea later this month, according to Finnish media report Sunday. The exercise will be held between May 14 and May 25 in the territorial waters of Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Poland.



The **USS SIMPSON (FFG 56)** seen in the port of Brest after exercise Neptun Warrior – Photo : Jacques Carney ©

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 117

Taking part in the NATO exercise will be some 80 vessels, several aircraft and around 10,000 people from 17 nations including coastal state members of the alliance, and the United States. Finland and Sweden will be participating under the auspices of the Partnership for Peace program.

The exercise will be the biggest in the Baltic Sea since 1999. Mine sweeping and the fight against terrorism will be among the themes of the exercise.

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The **FAR SOVEREIGN** seen in drydock in Gotenborg – Photo : Rob de Visser ©

\$1.28 billion containership order

Samsung Heavy Industries Co. issued a disclosure saying it has received a \$1.28 billion order to build "eight oversized containerships" for a "ship buyer in Europe."

The vessels will be delivered by 2011, the company said in a regulatory filing. It is understood the order is for eight 12,600 TEU containerships and has been placed by Germany's Peter Doehle.



The **SMIT EUROPE** seen fitting out in Turkey

Photo : Hans van der Ster ©

Shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy Profit Soars

Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., the world's largest shipbuilder, said Monday that first-quarter net profit skyrocketed on demand for high-priced oil tankers and container ships.

Hyundai Heavy earned 371 billion won (US\$400.52 million; euro295.34 million) in the three months ended March 31, the company said in a statement. That was a roughly 15-fold increase from 22.9 billion won a year earlier.

Sales during the quarter rose 29 percent to 3.68 trillion won (US\$4 billion; euro2.93 billion) from 2.85 trillion won a year earlier. First-quarter results "are reflecting the orders we won after 2004 when shipbuilding prices soared," said Kristy Choi, a company spokeswoman.

Demand for so-called very large crude oil carriers and large-sized container ships as well as improved performance in other divisions including construction equipment boosted earnings, Choi said.

Ship construction can take about 6-7 months but the company has a huge backlog. As of the end of March Hyundai Heavy had orders for 276 vessels valued at US\$23.3 billion (euro17.1 billion), Choi said.

Increased international trade as a result of China's strong economy has helped boost demand for container ships, Choi said. Demand for construction equipment, particularly excavators, was strong.

"Sales in the U.S. and Western and Eastern Europe were very, very good," she said. Ulsan, South Korea-based Hyundai Heavy, established in 1972, in just three decades rose to become the world's largest shipbuilder.

DAILY COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS 2007 – 117

The company also designs and builds offshore facilities such as oil rigs and pipelines. It also manufactures marine terminals, power facilities, desalination plants, construction equipment and industrial robots.

The company was formerly part of the massive family-run Hyundai conglomerate, at one time South Korea's largest business empire with interests including ships, autos and computer chips.

The conglomerate broke up, however, in the aftermath of the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis into separate ones centered on former group companies. Hyundai Motor Co., for example, forms the nucleus of one of those groups.

Shares in Hyundai Heavy, which released earnings results after the stock market closed, rose 4.8 percent to close at 261,000 won (US\$283; euro208).

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PetroProd Converting Three Tankers into FPSOs

PetroProd Ltd on Friday made an announcement following up to its December 18-19, 2006, private placement, in which the company raised US\$70 million in equity and US\$150 million in debt. PetroProd said that it has taken delivery of two of the tankers to be converted into FPSOs. On Friday, the company was set to secure the third tanker from the sellers.

The first two tankers have secured charters, each generating an average of approximately US\$15,500 per day after operations cost.

The third tanker will undergo planned life extension and conversion work prior to entering the shipyard for further conversion work.



After conversion in Johor Bahru (Malaysia) the **KIKEH FPSO** was towed to the KIKEH Field (68 nm NW from Labuan) and installed between April 27th and May 2nd, the Hook up was done by the **NORMAND INSTALLER**



Photo's : Cor Bakker ©

Amanda Group venture bags US\$250m job

A joint venture shipyard between a Singapore firm and Norway's Aker Yards has clinched a US\$250 million deal to build six specialised vessels for use in the booming oil and gas industry.

The anchor handling supply vessels will be built at the joint venture's new shipyard in Vung Tau, Vietnam, said the Singapore partner, Amanda Group, on Friday.

It said that the vessels were ordered by Norway-based Aker Capital, which has interests in the oil industry. Anchor handling supply vessels can supply oil platforms, tow them to location or anchor them up.

The contract is worth about 1.5 billion kroner (S\$377.2 million).

'We are very pleased by this contract as it confirms our strategy to offer state-of-the-art offshore vessels from our new yard in Vietnam to meet the increased demand in the Asian offshore market,' said Roy Reite, president for offshore and specialised vessels at Aker Yards.

Amanda Group executive chairman Graham Bell described the orders as a 'great start' for the Vietnam shipyard, which will be ready by October this year.

The first delivery will be in 2010 and the last vessel will be delivered in 2012, Amanda Group said

BW Gas scraps another

Oslo-listed owner BW Gas has confirmed the sale one of its older units for scrap. The 75,600-cbm very large gas-carrier (VLGC) **Berge Arrow** (built 1978) has gone to undisclosed buyers for \$9.1m.

BW Gas is set to book a net gain of \$7.3m on the deal in the second quarter, it said in a stock exchange announcement on Monday.

TradeWinds reported last week that BW Gas was on the verge of selling the vessel with managing director Jan Haakon Pettersen confirming the company was in negotiations to sell the ship for scrap but could not confirm if a deal had been struck.

Monday's announcement says that the vessel was delivered on 4 May.

Pettersen recently said he expects the company to sell more tonnage for scrap this year and Monday's announcement indicated that two other vessels are in semi lay-up. Already this year BW Gas has sold the 12,000-cbm **Havpil** (built 1977) for demolition and the 75,000-cbm **Berge Sisu** (built 1978) to be used as a trading/storage vessel in the Middle East.

Eitzen orders Japan bulkers

Camillo Eitzen & Co has ordered six new large supramax bulkers from Japanese shipyards. The 60,000-dwt units will be built at Oshima Shipbuilding and Imabari Shipbuilding with deliveries between 2010 and 2012.

Shipowner Axel C Eitzen tells Norway's Dagens Naeringsliv the vessels are specially designed for his outfit. "This is not easy to get today with such a huge demand for berths at the yards," he said.

The paper reports a price of some \$37m to \$38m per ship. The vessels will be owned by Japanese companies and hired long-term by Eitzen with purchase options. Through subsidiary Eitzen Bulk in Denmark the company has already secured employment averaging six to seven years for each vessel.



Vroon to Have 4 New Carriers

Dutch owner Vroon has confirmed it has signed up for 4 new pure car and truck carriers (PCTCs) at Mitsubishi in Japan, reports TradeWinds. The 3,900-vehicle-capacity, 14,900-dwt ships will be delivered between summer 2009 and

spring 2010. No price was revealed, but Vroon said: "We anticipate a further demand for car carriers in the years to come, in particular for medium-size vessels.

Earlier this year it announced an order for two 3,900-capacity ships at Mitsubishi on its website, before withdrawing the statement. It is also building four 3,500-capacity units at Hyundai Mipo in Korea.

The company already operates five car carriers with capacities ranging from 2,500 to 6,500 vehicles.

Deep Sea fixes trio

Norway's Deep Sea Supply has found employment for three of its offshore vessels in deals worth nearly \$60m.

The John Fredriksen company has fixed its 3,250-dwt PSVs **Sea Trout** (built 2006) and **Sea Angler** (built 2007) to ENI Congo. The Italian energy concern has taken the two ships for three years in deals worth \$47.5m. It has an option to extend both contracts by one year.

Deep Sea has also fixed its 6,500-bhp anchor handler newbuilding **Sea Wolverine** to Singapore's Swiber Holdings for two years. Swiber is paying about \$10.8m over the life of the charter which is due to start on delivery of the ship from ABG in India in October 2007.

EURONAV SELLS ITS OLDEST VLCC, THE 'SAVOIE'

Euronav NV announced that the company sold the double-hull VLCC **Savoie** (1993–306,430 dwt), for USD 82.2 million. The capital gain of this sale transaction of about USD 44.4 million will be recorded in the second quarter of 2007. The vessel is foreseen to be delivered to its new owner in early June of this year. This sale is part of the ongoing fleet renewal program of Euronav and the strategy to maintain a young fleet.



The **VOLVOX HOLLANDIA** seen moored in Willemstad – Curacao
Photo : Kees Bustraan ©

MOVEMENTS

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EARTHTRACE, the space age boat that has been attempting an around the world record passage, running just on Bio Diesel, has arrived in Singapore. This photo was taken at **One Fifteen Marina** just after arrival on Sunday 6th May.

To raise funds Earthrace are offering a '**Race Leg Raffle**' for the chance to ride along with Earthrace for one Leg of their trip. Tickets sell for US\$ 25, and the number is limited to 800.

Photo : Bill Petrie ©

Full details at www.earthrace.net

ETA aan de Maascenter:

8-5 11:00 uur **Stevns Icecap** met de **Rambiz** voor de 2e Werkhaven



The **ARKLOW RAMBLER** seen enroute the Coen harbour in Amsterdam

Photo : Reinier Jansen ©



The **HOLIDAY DREAM** seen moored at Curacao – Photo : Kees Bustraan ©

AIRCRAFT / AIRPORT NEWS

Jet liner bound for Amsterdam makes emergency landing at Pulkovo

A Boeing 737 plane, Flight 2771 from St.Petersburg to Amsterdam, made an emergency landing at Pulkovo airport, the city's emergency situations department has told Interfax.

"The crew made the decision to turn back to the airport after the inertial system broke down 14 minutes into the flight. There were 113 passengers and seven crew aboard the liner. No one was hurt," a department spokesman said.

An anonymous female caller told the airport administration that terrorists had reportedly boarded Flight 777 to Stockholm. "This information is being checked but the call was most likely false," an airport spokesman said.

Sterling Airlines is nieuwe lowcostspeler voor Brussels Airport

Vanaf 28 oktober komt er opnieuw een lowcostluchtvaartmaatschappij naar Brussel: het gaat om het Scandinavische **Sterling Airlines** dat lijnvluchten aanbiedt naar Denemarken, Zweden en Noorwegen. Dat blijkt uit een persbericht van het bedrijf.

Brussels Airport probeert sinds enkele maanden naast meer langeafstandsvluchten ook pure lowcostmaatschappijen aan te trekken en die strategie lijkt te werken. Recent kondigden ook **EasyJet** en **SkyEurope** hun komst naar Zaventem aan. Ook **Air Berlin** zou volgen mediaberichten interesse hebben in een verbinding met de hoofdstad van Europa.

Brussels Airport wordt op die manier steeds meer een concurrent voor Charleroi, waar Ryanair aanwezig is.

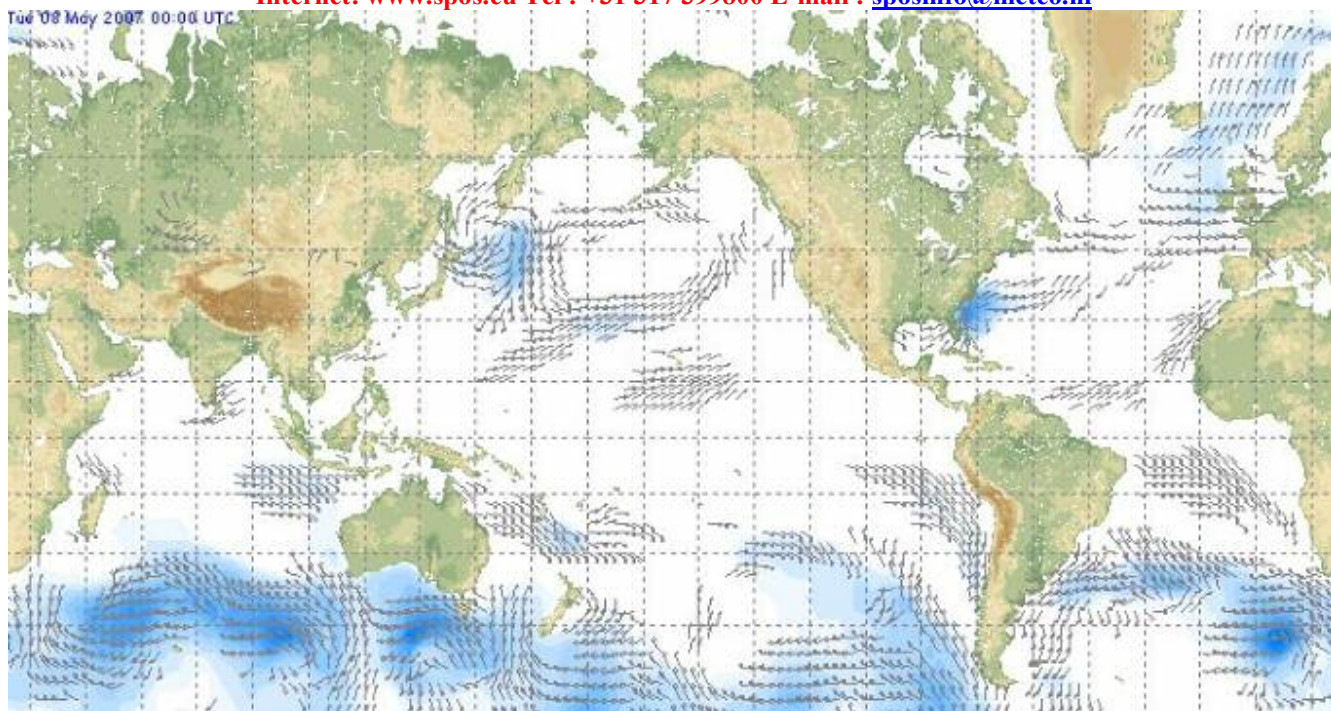
Sterling Airlines vliegt vanaf eind oktober dagelijks naar Kopenhagen en viermaal per week naar Oslo en Stockholm. De vluchten worden uitgevoerd met respectievelijk een Boeing 737-500 en 737-700.

MARINE WEATHER

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Today's wind (+6Bft) and wave (+3m) chart. Created with SPOS, the onboard weather information & voyage optimisation system, used on over 1000 vessels today.

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



Above seen the m.s. **JEPPESEN MAERSK** moored at the APM Terminals at Rotterdam-Maasvlakte.

Note the large amounts of reefer units on deck (and in hold). Vessel is maintaining Maersk Line's ANDEAN service on South America. A lot of full reefers coming to Europe and a lot of empty reefers going to South America.

Photo : Paul Lammers ©

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