

Number 139 *** COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS *** Tuesday 05-06-2007 News reports received from readers and Internet News articles taken from various news sites.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



VLIERODAM WIRE ROPES Ltd.

wire ropes, chains, hooks, shackles, webbing slings, lifting beams, crane blocks, turnbuckles etc.

Binnenbaan 36 3161VB RHOON The Netherlands

Telephone: (+31)105018000

(+31) 105015440 (a.o.h.)

Fax: (+31)105013843

Internet & E-mail

www.vlierodam.nl info@vlierodam.nl





The BOURBON SURF seen arriving in Slovag (Norway)
Photo: Marc van der Stok ©

SVITZER OCEAN TOWAGE



Jupiterstraat 33 2132 HC Hoofddorp The Netherlands Telephone: +31 2555 62711

Telephone: +31 2555 62713 Telefax:+31 23 557 1896

E-mail: smitwijs.sales@svitzerwijsmuller.com

In the field of ocean towage, **SVITZER Ocean Towage** brings to its clients over 250 years of experience and expertise. Global Towing Aliance, for which **SVITZER Ocean Towage** acts as commercial and operational manager, offers for worldwide towage six high horsepower tugs ranging from 170 to 200 tons bollard pull.

IN MEMORIAM

The editor of the newsclippings received the sad news that May 19th 2007 in Paramaribo (Surinam),

RUUD DE KEIJZER



passed away, after been sick for a short while.

Ruud, was the cook onboard the **GIANT 4** during the **Kursk** recovery operation in the Barents Sea, and during this large project we have seen that **Ruud** was one of the "better ships cooks", at that time working for **SODEXO**, he was feeding the 50 hungry crewmembers onboard the **Giant 4** around the clock !! , and we were never disappointed about the food.

The editor is wishing on behalf of all the readers his wife Emmy and the rest of the family and friends all the best to cope with this loss.

EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS



The tug **VLIELAND** arrived safely with her tow from the Black Sea in Harlingen (The Netherlands) **Photo: Jan van de Witte** ©

SOMALI PIRATES CAPTURE DANISH SHIP AS FRENCH WARSHIP LOOKS ON

SOMALI pirates hijacked a small Danish-flag general cargo ship last Saturday some 114 miles off the coast and sailed it towards Hobbio, north of Mogadishu, where there is now a small fleet of hijacked vessels. According to reports a French warship arrived on the scene as the **Danica White** entered Somali waters but refused requests from the ship's manager, H Folmer, to intervene within territorial waters.

The 1,616 dwt ship was on passage from Sharjah to Mombasa with five crew on board. There are also three fishing vessels being held at Hobbio. It is understood negotiations for their release are underway. There are unconfirmed rumours that a crew member from one of the fishing vessels may have been killed.

The ICC International Maritime Bureau has reiterated warnings not to sail anywhere near the Somali coast and to take anti-piracy measures while in the Northern Indian Ocean and the approaches to the Red Sea.

Somali pirates kill ship crew member

Somali pirates holding a Taiwan-flagged fishing vessel have killed one of its crew members because the ship's owners were not giving in to demands for a ransom, a Kenyan maritime representative said on Monday.

The pirates killed their captive on Saturday and have threatened to take the life of another if their demands are not met, said Andrew Mwangura, director of the Kenyan-based East African Seafarers Assistance Programme. The ship, named **Ching Fong Hwa 168**, was captured in mid-May and had two Taiwanese and 14 Chinese crew members on board. It was not clear if a Taiwanese or Chinese crew member had died.

"Since they took her captive, there has been communication between the owners and the captors but it seems that the owner wasn't cooperative," Mwangura told Reuters by telephone from the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

"They want a ransom and have said they'll kill another crew member if the ship owner doesn't pay," he added. Mwangura's seafarers association gathers information from a variety of sources including radio monitors, shipping firms and relatives of crews.

Piracy off Somalia has escalated this year since an Islamist movement that brought a semblance of law and order during its six-month rule was ousted from Mogadishu at the end of 2006. Last week, pirates took a cargo ship with its five Danish crew. Three other ships — an Indian dhow and two Tanzanian fishing vessels — are also currently being held.

Pirates have made Somali waters, through which thousands of merchant ships pass each year, some of the most dangerous in the world. The heavily-armed assailants generally use speedboats and often justify their actions by saying they are protecting Somali waters against illegal fishing or toxic dumping.

Schipper opgepakt met veel gevaarlijke stoffen

Het Korps landelijke politiediensten (KLPD) heeft op het Schelde-Rijnkanaal een schipper aangehouden, omdat hij meer gevaarlijke stoffen aan boord had dan is toegestaan. Dat heeft de Waterpolitie van het KLPD zondagavond bekendgemaakt.

De 26-jarige Rotterdammer voer richting Antwerpen en had 250 containers aan boord, waarvan volgens de laadlijst 77 met gevaarlijke stoffen. Tijdens een inspectie bij de Kreekraksluizen bij Reimerswaal bleek dat er niet 77 maar 96 containers met brandbare, giftige en bijtende stoffen op het schip stonden. De lading moet vermoedelijk worden overgeheveld naar een ander schip.

Volgens het KLPD is het voor het eerst in vijftien jaar dat een schip met gevaarlijke stoffen om deze reden moet worden gelost. De eigenaar van het Nederlandse containerschip uit Ridderkerk had bovendien geen vergunning om op het Schelde-Rijnkanaal te varen. Het schip, met een lengte van 135 meter en een breedte van veertien meter, maakte een van zijn eerste reizen en voldeed nog niet aan alle veiligheidseisen.



Overview of the International Lifeboat conference in Gothenburg

Photo: Pim Korver FILM+VIDEO ©

Coastguard airlifts injured woman in Studland Bay

Portland Coastguard coordinated a difficult rescue of a badly injured woman from a motor cruiser in Studland Bay this afternoon.

Portland Coastguard received a Mayday call at 4pm from the motor vessel **Tiger**. Two reporting that one of their party had a severe back injury and had been recovered to the bathing platform at the back of the boat. Portland oastguard scrambled the Coastguard Rescue Helicopter Whiskey Bravo and requested the launch of Poole inshore and all weather RNLI lifeboats and Swanage Coastguard Rescue Team. Dorset Marine Police also provided assistance from their RHIB on scene.

Once the Coastguard Rescue Helicopter was on scene it was clear that conditions were not ideal for a straightforward winching operation. With no wind, helicopters struggle to hover safely and the busy area of Studland Bay was full of vessels, creating confined working conditions. The Coastguard winchman was winched down to the RNLI inshore lifeboat and then transferred to the casualty motor vessel and rescuers worked for some thirty minutes to stabilise the badly injured 32 year old woman on board and prepare her to be airlifted.

The Coastguard Rescue Helicopter returned to Studland Bay and it was necessary to make a clear path for the motor vessel to get up speed while tracked by the helicopter, allowing enough lift for the aircraft to winch the woman aboard safely. She was taken to a landing site which had been secured by Poole Coastguard Rescue Team where a Dorset Ambulance was waiting to transfer her to hospital.

Portland Coastguard would like to remind boat users not to make routine transmissions on Channel 16 during distress work and not to hamper search and rescue helicopter operations.



Louis ship 'scratched'

A Louis Cruise Lines vessel was slightly damaged after coming into contact with a pier while docking at a Greek island on the weekend. The incident happened on Saturday morning as the 14,173-gt **Serenade** (built 1957) arrived at the Aegean Sea island of Tinos in the Cyclades archipelago.

A spokesperson for Cyprus-based Louis said the ship was only "slightly scratched well above the water line" and that the damage has already been repaired. The ship was cleared to sail by local and classification authorities with a delay of only three hours to its itinerary.

The Bahamas-flagged **Serenade** was on a seven day cruise of the Greek islands leaving Limassol. fter Tinos it is scheduled to visit Syros and Kos. There were 671 passengers and 258 crew members onboard at the time.

Earlier reports had indicated that the ship had been holed but the Louis spokesperson said that this was a very small incident which would not have made the news had it not been for the sinking of one of the owner's vessel off Greece in April.

In early April Louis' 22,400-gt **Sea Diamond** (built 1986) sank after striking a reef off the Greek island of Santorini with two people still missing, presumed dead. Last month the Greek minister for merchant marine, Manolis Kefaloyiannis, said the state plans to sue Louis over damages arising from the sinking of the vessel.

In mid May an Indonesian crew member was killed and another injured after a mooring rope snapped onboard the 15,781-qt **Orient Queen** (built 1968) as it prepared to leave the Greek island of Mykonos.

Louis capped a miserable start to the year by recently announcing an increased first-quarter deficit as higher expenses and a tax bill ate away at the company's bottom line.

Louis bought the **Serenade**, which is classed by DNV with P&I cover with the West of England, in 1999 for a reported \$6.29m.

MIGRANTS FLOATING AROUND IN THE MED

Twenty-six men, two women and a six-month old baby, recovered earlier this afternoon from a drifting migrants' boat, are presently being transferred in rather choppy seas from the Spanish fishing vessel **HERMANOS ALBATERCERO** to the AFM's patrolboat **P-51**, in a position some 84 nautical miles from Malta.

It was since 21.55hrs of yesterday that the AFM's Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC Malta) at Luqa Barracks have



been attempting to track down this boatload of migrants, who had alerted an African national here in Malta of their predicament. The same African national alerted RCC malta and the local UNCHR representatives, and it was at 12.48hrs today that an Italian Air Force Atlantique long-range surveillance aircraft spotted the migrants' boat adrift, and relayed its correct co-ordinatees

to the AFM's Operations' Centre. - Photo : Lawrence Dalli - MALTA SHIP PHOTOS ©

RCC Malta directed the Spanish fishing vessel **HERMANOS ALBATERCERO** to the migrants co-ordinates to provide first assistance. The migrants were taken onboard and are now being transferred to the AFM's patrolboat, purposely dispatched to the area. Previous reports received of a possible dead migrant amongst the boatload were incorrect. The return trip to Malta is expected to last some 4 to 5 hours.

This has been the third time in the space of four days that an AFM patrolboat, such as **P51**, has had to be dispatched to the near outer confines of Malta's Search and Rescue Region to recuperate migrants in distress. AFM Maritime Squadron crew personnel are at present running near back to back patrolling and rescue or recovery operations. The Squadron is also participating next week in the annual naval exercise Canale, which this year is being held in Augusta Bay in Sicily.



The **TSAVLIRIS HELLAS** seen alongside the **GLAS DOWR** operating in the Sable Field (Mosselbay – South Africa) **Photo: Kees van Beveren** ©

Leak stalls ship off UK

A Polish-owned chemical tanker which caught fire off the coast of Ireland in April has suffered another mishap off the UK coast.



The 4,387-dwt **West Sailor** (built 1981) was left drifting for about an hour in the Pentland Firth near the Orkney Islands after a broken pipe led to a leakage in the cooling system of the ship's main engine on Saturday morning.

Photo: Henk de Winde ©

Repairs were quickly carried out on the system and the vessel, which was loaded with 5,000 tons of sulphuric acid, has since made its way to the port of Eastham near Liverpool.

A report on the BBC's website had indicated that the captain of the Malta-flagged vessel had ignored advice from the UK coastguard to move out of the firth before anchoring to carry out repairs. The vessel subsequently began to drift in heavy seas.

However, a spokesperson at the ship's Gdynia-based owner, Vestland Marine, told TradeWinds that there was no such conflict of interest between the captain and the coastguard.

There is no damage to the vessel or to its crew of 13 though the owner has asked the ship's classification society, DNV, to carry out a precautionary inspection at Eastham on Monday. The West Sailor has P&I cover with Skuld.

The vessel had loaded and set sail from Norway and is under charter to a Norwegian company.

The Vestland Marine spokesman said that there was no connection between the latest incident and the one in April which saw a fire break out onboard the vessel off the Irish coast. Although the blaze in the engine room was contained by crew the vessel had to undergo repairs in Cork which were completed on 26 April.

A letter from International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) inspector Ken Fleming sent to Vestland following the April incident and posted on the owner's website reads, "The manor in which the crew dealt with the fire can only suggest that the training program used by your company must be of a very high standard. The record will show that the fire was a very serious one and the crew brought it under control without any serious injuries."

CASUALTY REPORTING

THIS SECTION IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Zware schade aan Westerstaketsel in Oostende na botsing ferry

Het Westerstaketsel in de haven van Oostende heeft zware schade opgelopen toen het vanmiddag werd geramd door de vrachtferry **CFF Seine.** Over een afstand van een dertigtal meter zijn zware steunbalken gebroken als lucifers. De schade loopt volgens de eerste ramingen in de honderdduizenden euro's.



De havenautoriteiten zullen beginnen met alles weg te halen wat los zit aan het staketsel, zodat het niet in de vaargeul terechtkomt. Op het "klein strand" in Oostende spoelden al een zestal afgebroken stukken aan.

Op dit moment wordt onderzocht hoe het staketselhoofd en de brasserie die daar ligt zo snel en zo veilig mogelijk opnieuw toegankelijk kunnen worden gemaakt

6/4/2007

voor wandelaars. Het volledig herstellen van het zwaar gehavende staketsel zal maanden in beslag nemen. Het is niet de eerste keer dat het schip betrokken is in een ongeval. Begin mei voer het tegen de **Zeearend** en de sleepboot **Ensor**

Schip in Harlingen dreigt na aanvaring te zinken

In de haven van Harlingen dreigt maandagmiddag het schip de **Corina** na een aanvaring te zinken. De brandweer probeert het binnenvaartschip zo lang mogelijk boven water te houden tot alle dieselolie uit het schip is gepompt. Dat meldde de gemeente Harlingen.

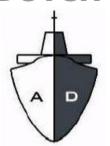
Het zandschip ligt in de haven bij de Marconistraat in het Friese havenstadje. Een ander schip was tegen de **Corina** aangevaren en daarbij heeft het anker een gat in het zandschip geslagen. Daardoor is dieselolie in het water beland.

De brandweer uit Grou is naar Halingen gegaan om schermen in het water te leggen om verspreiding van de brandstof te voorkomen.

NAVY NEWS

THIS SECTION IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

ANGLO DUTCH SHIPBROKERS byba



Waterstraat 16 2970 SCHILDE BELGIUM

Tel: + 32 3 464 26 09 Fax: + 32 3 297 20 70

e-mail: anglodutch@pandora.be

Northrop Grumman-built Truxtun Christened

In a traditional ceremony on Saturday, the U.S. Navy's 53rd Aegis guided missile destroyer, **Truxtun (DDG 103)**, built by Northrop Grumman Corporation, was christened before more than 1,000 guests. The ship's namesake, Thomas Truxtun (1755-1822), was appointed one of the first captains in the U.S. Navy and then selected by President George Washington to command the nation's first naval ship, **USS Constellation**.

Truxtun's fourth generation great-granddaughters, Susan Scott Martin from Woodbury, Vt., and Carol Leigh Roelker from Cincinnati served as the ship's co-sponsors and simultaneously broke champagne bottles across the bow, formally naming **DDG 103 Truxtun. Truxtun (DDG 103)** is the sixth ship to bear Commodore Truxtun's name. The third **Truxtun, DD 229**, was destroyer during a storm off the coast of St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, Canada along with the supply ship Pollux in 1942. The icy waters claimed the lives of 110 crewmembers but dozens survived thanks to the small mining town of St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, Canada. The entire town helped to rescue the sailors. The current mayor of St. Lawrence, Wayde Rowsell, spoke on the history of the incident and recognized two survivors in the audience, Ed Lewis and Lanier Phillips.

Truxtun is a multi-mission ship that can conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection, in support of the national military strategy. **Truxtun** will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously. The ship features offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime defense needs well into the 21st century.

Cdr. Timothy R. Weber is the ship's first commanding officer and will lead a crew of 276 officers and sailors. The 9,200-ton **Truxtun** is the 25th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer built by Northrop Grumman. The ship is 510 feet long, has a waterline beam of 59 feet and a navigational draft of 33 feet. Four gas turbine engines will power the ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots.

SHIPYARD NEWS

THIS SECTION IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:





info@disamaritime.com www.disamaritime.com Ketelaarstraat 5c B-2340 Beerse Belgium

Tel: + 32 (0) 14 62 04 11 Fax: + 32 (0) 14 61 16 88



info@disacivil.com www.disacivil.com



The **SAHANA 85 (ex Neftegas 5)** seen in the new Jadaf shipyard in Dubai (U.A.E) **Photo : Reinier Meuleman** ©

Keppel waits to buy Asia shipyards after boom

Singapore's Keppel Corp., the world's top offshore oil drilling rigs maker, said it may look to snap up Asian shipbuilding yards in several years when it expects a glut in capacity to depress asset prices. Choo Chiau Beng, chief executive of Keppel Corp.'s rig-building unit Keppel Offshore and Marine, was cautious on current expansion prospects and 'paranoid' about growing competition, but said excess capacity will hit the industry when hundreds of yards finish construction.

'There will be a surplus of shipyards in China and Vietnam. After the building boom is over, there'll be a lot of yards to buy cheap,' Choo said in an interview on Monday at the Reuters Energy Summit.

Keppel and its Singapore peer SembCorp Marine Ltd., the world's second-largest offshore rigs builder, has seen a flood of orders for new offshore drilling rigs in the past three years, aided by record-high oil prices

Their main competition is major shipyards such as South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., but a host of smaller yards in Singapore and North Asia have also recently won orders.

Shares of Keppel Corp. jumped 3.5 percent on Monday to a record closing high of S\$11.70, outperforming the 0.8 percent rise on the main index

'Anyone can build rigs -- but the question is can you build competitively for the world market,' Choo said, adding he thought Singapore's open economy, thriving port and technology access still gave it an edge.

Together Keppel and SembMarine are building over 70 percent of all under construction offshore rigs globally, though Keppel does not build oil tankers or container ships. Choo said while its yards were building more rigs than ever before, it still has the capacity to take in more orders and would expand capacity at its 17 yards or acquire new ones if needed, picking out deepwater rigs as a key growth area.

'There is acreage being secured by majors that they need to explore,' he said. 'But we understand that this is a cyclical business. So we don't expand capacity because we believe that the industry will continue to grow forever.'

However, Choo said demand for commodities from economies such as China, India, Russia and the Middle East were acting as new drivers for global growth and the oil industry. That would keep demand healthy for oil rigs and for oil products, produced by Keppel Corp.'s 49 percent-owned Singapore Petroleum Co., he added.

'The fundamental drivers have changed. We don't depend on the US anymore -- there's more a mix of customers,' he said. 'This golden age will last a bit longer -- there's still more legs.' He said the biggest challenge in meeting in this demand was human capital -- getting and keeping good people. Oil service firms have been stretched by booming demand and many industry leaders worry about recruitment in a greying industry.

'We cannot get ready-made people... The pressure on costs is going to be very high.

ROUTE, PORTS & SERVICES

THIS SECTION IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:





TOTAL VESSEL MANAGEMENT

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

Telephone : (31) 10 - 453 03 77
Fax : (31) 10 - 453 05 24
E-mail : mail@workships.nl
Website : www.workships.nl



The **SUPPLY EXPRESS** seen departing from Ijmuiden **Photo: Jan Plug** ©

Burnham-On-Sea Motor Club hands over donation to town's lifeboat

Twenty members of Burnham-On-Sea Motor Club were given a detailed tour of the town's lifeboat station and its technical equipment when they visited this week.

While they were there, they also handed over a cheque for £250 to the RNLI. Motor Club Chairman Dave Pearce said: "We are extremely pleased to be able to make this contribution to the Burnham Lifeboat Funds."

"The money comes from the profits of our 2006 Classic tour, and the kind generosity of former Works Rally Driver Russell Brookes."

"Russell was the Honoured Guest at our annual awards dinner in February, and he requested that we made a charitable donation, in lieu of payment. The volunteers here at the station have given us a very enjoyable and informative tour of the Lifeboats and Equipment."

RNLI spokesman Mike Lang said: "The money is extremely welcome."



In Singapore the **LEWEK PINGUIN** was christened and taken into service May 28th, 2007 **Photo: Capt. Jelle de Vries** ©

APL Offers New East Africa Service

APL launched a new East Africa Express (EAX) service. The weekly EAX service will connect the Indian subcontinent and Arabian Gulf to East Africa. Trade from the Far East bound for East Africa will depart from Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Nhava Sheva in India. The port at Nhava Sheva will also serve cargoes originating from the Indian subcontinent and Arabian Gulf, alongside ports in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

Jason Wong, APL's Vice President, Intra-Asia, Middle East & Australia Trade, said: "Africa is an expanding economy which continues to report impressive GDP growth, averaging about 5% annually in the past six years. In East Africa, economic growth is projected to accelerate to around 6% in 2007 and 2008. To leverage on the region's strong growth potential, APL is extending its footprint into East Africa to provide customers with consistently high-quality transportation services."

The EAX port rotation is: Colombo (Sri Lanka) – Dar Es Salamm (Tanzania) – Mombassa (Kenya) – Nhava Sheva (India) – Port Qasim (Pakistan) – Jebel Ali (UAE) – Mombassa (Kenya) – Dar Es Salamm (Tanzania) – Colombo (Sri Lanka).



DP WORLD IN ABU DHABI DEAL

THE Abu Dhabi Ports Company (ADPC), DP World and Economic Zones World (EZW) have agreed a deal that will see DP World operating the Khalifa Port and EZW operating the Free Trade and Logistics Zone located in Taweelah, Abu Dhabi. According to a statement accords signed last week mark the first step towards a joint venture.

One of the largest marine terminal operators in the world, DP World currently has a management services agreement for Mina Zayed in Abu Dhabi. Involvement with Khalifa Port will represent the next stage in its growing relationship with ADPC.

The statement says that it is "hoped" that EZW, one of the largest developers and operators of free zones in the world, will manage an initial 25 km2 Trade and Logistics Free Zone within the larger Industrial Zone in Taweelah which will be located halfway between Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

The chairman of Abu Dhabi Ports Company, H. E. Nasser Al Sowaidi, said: "The signing of this agreement with DP World and Economic Zones World is yet another step in the drive towards greater cooperation and integration between Abu Dhabi and Dubai. It is also another example of how we are continuing to rapidly implement the vision of creating a world-class port and zones facilities at Taweelah. It demonstrates our commitment to partner with the best-in-class entities to develop the port area and to serve its ever-growing demand. The new port and trade and logistics hub will solidify the UAE's position as a world class transport and logistics hub."

Limits put on Arctic cruises



Norway's government plans to restrict cruise traffic around the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, and prohibit the use of heavy fuel oil.

Photo: Erik Johansen ©

"The goal is to hinder spills that could have hugely negative consequences for the environment in the fragile and valuable areas around Svalbard," said Minister of the Environment Helen Bjørnøy, who is in Tromsø this week in connection with the UN's World Environment Day and International Climate Conference.

She said it was also important to limit the number of tourists visiting nature preserves in the area.

Fishing trawlers and cruise ships make up most of the maritime traffic around Svalbard, and cruise traffic has increased markedly in recent years. The Norwegian Coastal Voyage (Hurtigruten) line, which also runs cruises to Antarctica and is introducing new routes to Greenland, is among the players active in the Svalbard cruise market.

New rules will limit to 200 the number of passengers allowed on board each ship that enters nature preserves on East Svalbard.

The increase in tourist traffic to Svalbard mirrors a global trend. A new UN report shows a 757 percent increase in the number of tourists going ashore in Antarctica during the last 10 years.

Achim Steiner of the UN's environmental program said the UN isn't demanding that tourists stay away from Arctic areas, but that tourism be conducted in a sustainable manner.

Tourists visiting Svalbard are also being assessed a special environmental tax. "The tourists themselves should bear the costs of visiting the area," Bjørnøy said.



The **KELLY CANDIES** seen operating in the Gulf of Mexico **Photo: W.Dijkstra** ©

Siem Offshore Charters PSV

Siem Offshore Inc and Five Oceans Services GmbH have entered into a firm three year charter for the large-size PSV "Siem Carrier" for operation as a world-wide Cable Lay, ROV and Offshore Construction Support Vessel. The contract will commence in fourth quarter 2007.

The commercial terms of the contract are confidential between the parties. Siem Offshore Inc expects to invest \$6 million in upgrade of the vessel prior to commencement of the contract.

Maersk Sells Three Jackups to Northern Offshore

Maersk Contractors has sold the jackup drilling rigs **Maersk Exerter**, **Maersk Enhancer** and **Maersk Endeavour**. The buyer is Northern Offshore Ltd. Bermuda, a company controlled by a large number of foreign investors. Maersk Contractors will continue to operate the rigs on behalf of the new owners until the existing contracts with Maersk Oil & Gas expire in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

The crews will thus remain on board the rigs until Maersk Contractors' involvement comes to an end, and will then be transferred to other units in the rig fleet. Maersk Contractors presently has eight highly advanced drilling rigs under construction for delivery between 2007 and 2010 and several of these are expected to be employed in the North Sea. **Maersk Exerter, Maersk Enhancer** and **Maersk Endeavour** are all jackup rigs built in 1982.

Northern Offshore Ltd. says the purchase price for the rigs is US\$455 million, and will be funded through existing cash resources and debt finance.

Jim LaChance, Chairman of Northern Offshore commented: "We are delighted to have concluded this transaction. The acquisition of three high quality North Sea Jack Ups will materially strengthen the size and the quality of our fleet. Through the initial management agreement with Maersk Contractors and the current drilling contracts with Maersk Oil

and Gas we will be given time to build a quality operation around the assets. The contract opportunities we see for these assets going forward will be valuable in our effort to build Northern Offshore into a solid long term drilling contractor with good charter coverage. The transaction is expected to significantly improve cash flow and earnings per share short term as well as long term

SMIT AMANDLA DEMOBS THE ORCA



Smit Amandla transport division was running the project for the demobilisation of the semi-submersible production platform "**Orca**" from her location off Mossel bay to Cape Town on behalf of client Petrosa,



Above the **PENTOW SKUA** waiting for anchor handling

Left: The Smit Amandla paying out towing gear

photos: Capt Kevin Tate / project manager ©

Garware Offshore Receives New PSV

Garware Offshore Services Ltd announced that it has taken delivery of a newbuild PSV, **Kamet**, which was built by Havyard Leirvik in Norway. The vessel, which is a UT 755L with clean notation, DP1 and FiFi1 left Norway recently and is due in India by the third week of June 2007. The vessel will be deployed with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd on a five year contract.

MOVEMENTS



The **PRIDE OF BRAILA** seen enroute Rotterdam **Photo: Willem Kruit ©**

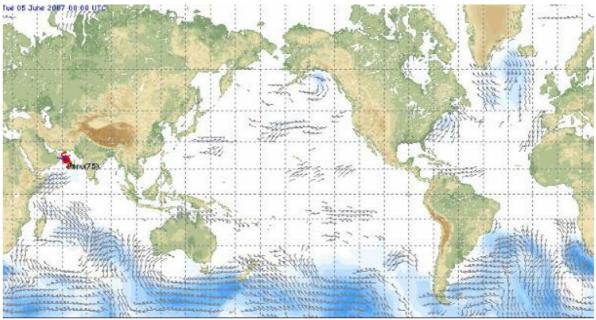


The MAERSK KWANYANG seen approaching Zeebrugge **Photo: Henk Claeys ©**

MARINE WEATHER



Internet: www.spos.eu Tel: +31 317 399800 E-mail: sposinfo@meteo.nl



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



Spotted in the Persian Gulf off Dubai the **ZAHRAA** (former **IJSLAND**) **Photo: Leon de Hoop** ©

The compiler of the news clippings disclaim all liability for any loss, damage or exense however caused, arising from the sending, receipt, or use of this e-mail communication and on any reliance placed upon the information provided through this free service and does not guarantee the completeness or accuracy of the information. If you want to no longer receive this bulletin kindly reply with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.