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Capt Jan Plug onboard the **Acergy Falcon** seen during the “warm welcome” arrival in the Port of IJmuiden last Friday

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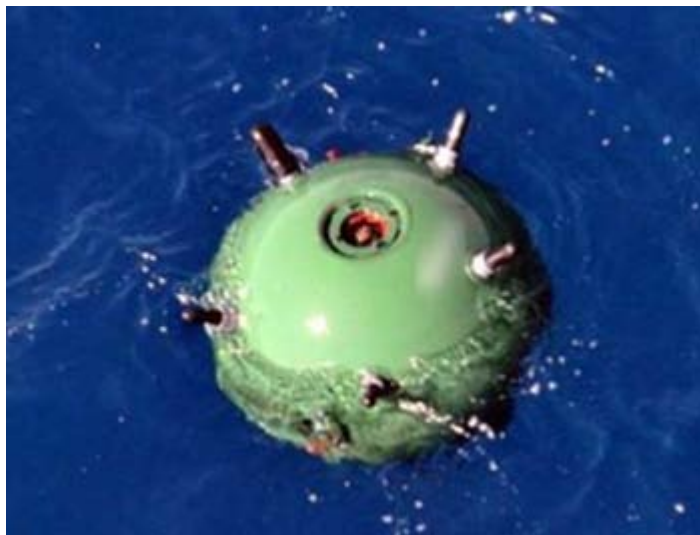


The **ACERGY FALCON** seen enroute Velsen – Photo : Marcel Coster ©

NATO Intercepts Libyan Ships Laying Mines

North Atlantic Treaty Organization officials Friday said they had intercepted Libyan government ships laying mines in the harbor of the besieged port city of Misrata in eastern Libya. NATO officials declined to immediately release further details. They said their more immediate focus was closely monitoring the movements of forces loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi in northwest Libya, and that NATO is preparing to ramp up its military efforts near the Tunisian border. NATO's Operations Director for the mission characterized NATO's strategy as a change of tack. "Our campaign will now shift targets to now hit more pro-Gadhafi troops targeting civilians," said Brigadier General Rob Weighill in comments relayed by video to Brussels from Naples. "We cannot, and will not, disclose the plan. You will see the results in the next few days."

Asked what he meant, he said NATO was watching "more activity in Zintan and Yefren," two cities near the Tunisian border. Brig. Gen. Weighill said NATO's mission has been, and will continue to be, successful. "We know these air strikes are having a serious impact on Gadhafi's ability to hurt his own people." He said NATO still couldn't confirm the deaths this week of pro-Gadhafi forces. "Of course, we regret any loss of human life, especially if it involves forces protecting civilians."



Brig. Gen. Weighill said Col. Gadhafi's regime is getting more aggressive. "Pro-Gadhafi forces continue to shell the citizens of Misrata with longer-range artillery, mortar and rockets," he said. "They are indiscriminately firing high explosives and their rounds into the cities." He called the actions "morally wrong," adding that the government has disabled a desalination plant in Misrata and continues to hide behind women and children in the city.

Still, NATO officials denied they were trying to kill Gadhafi. "It is not our policy to target and attempt to kill an individual," said Brig. Gen. Weighill. NATO officials said that while NATO is protecting civilians, the rebels are still facing an uphill road. Abdel-Fatah Younes, a rebel leader, met with NATO officials on Thursday. NATO spokeswoman Carmen Romero said it was for an

"exchange of views."

Brig. Gen. Weighill downplayed hopes that the rebels were gathering momentum in their battle against pro-Gadhafi forces. "To suggest they're winning would be overly optimistic," said Brig. Weighill. "They are putting up a very spirited fight. They are being supported on a daily, hourly basis by NATO aircraft that are striking forces close to civilian populations." NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen has delivered his first report to the U.N., said Ms. Romero. The report makes clear that NATO's "campaign has stopped large-scale attacks on civilians in Libya, and has allowed humanitarian missions access to the city of Misrata," she said. "It is a very fluid situation on the ground but the actions of NATO forces have saved many, many lives and will continue to do so." **Source : Wall street Journal**



Above seen the "**Rolldock Sun**" passing Terneuzen whilst enroute from Christobal (Panamacanal) to Antwerp loaded with the cutter dredger "**Vlaanderen XIX**".

Photo : P., M. & Ph. van Luik - www.shipsofterneuzen.nl ©



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Ship owners keen to invest in new vessels, despite rates' glut

With the Easter Holidays slowing down activity, things have started to pick up this week. According to the latest report from Shiptrade Services, the S&P activity wasn't very exciting last week, "but the market is expecting news about the sale of the M/V **"PARADISE ISLAND"** (about 46,000 dwt built Oshima in 2001) for which offers were invited by the previous Wednesday April 20th and is expected to set a new price for modern handymaxes, as the last recorded sale of such a vessel was that of M/V **"GRAND GLORY"** (about 48,000 dwt, built Sanoyas in 2001) which was reported sold for region USD 25 mill last December. Furthermore the only reported sale from the previous week was that of the Aframax M/T **"DIAMOND QUEEN"** (about 107,261 dwt built Koyo 1998) which was reported sold for USD 18.75 mill to Bakri Navigation of Saudi Arabia. The enquiries were showing a general decrease, which has been explained by a general reduction of about 50% in numbers. Far eastern buyers, as always, are still the leaders although their volume was decreased significantly. Greeks showed a vast depreciation of approximately 80%, followed by other buyers" said the shipbroker.

In terms of newbuildings, 12 orders were reported to have been contracted last week for dry bulk carriers, involving all ship types. In the demolition market there has been some activity from Bangladesh buyers who are trying to purchase many vessels which they can beach until the next tide, together with the fact that Bangladeshi Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) preparing to go to the courts again. In India the story remains the same with some very competitive numbers being paid; Pakistani buyers are taking a step back while they are satisfied with their recent acquisitions and would not follow the aggressivity of the Indian buyers. Chinese have firmed their numbers waiting for their competitors to reach their limits of their beaching capacity for the next tide while quite a few vessels are well positioned in order to be acquired by Chinese buyers.

In a separate report, Golden Destiny had noted that the week ended with the Greek presence being noticed in both the newbuilding business with 10 reported orders and in secondhand ship purchase activity, with 6 deals. The total invested capital of Greek owners in the newbuilding sector this week remains undisclosed since almost in all transactions the contract details haven't been revealed. In the secondhand market the invested capital is calculated to be in the region of \$111,650,000 and was focused once again in the bulkcarrier, in the tanker & in the container sector. "In the bulk carrier segment, it seems to be the first week of the year with so eager business with a record of 40 contracts equalling a total deadweight of 3,6 million of tons. An intense ordering interest has been revealed in all sizes for very large ore carriers grasping the headlines of this week. In the tanker segment, with even the depressed crude market, Thenamaris surprised by contracting a single VLCC at Shanghai Waigaoqiao for delivery in January 2014. A robust activity has been also recorded in the gas segment for LPG carriers bringing hopes for more growth in the future, as there seems to be an optimistic view for the freight markets within 2011 on the occasion of Japan's growth for LNG demand. In the container market, John Fredriksen's Ship Finance International has placed an order for units of 4,800 TEU at Chinese state owned Shanghai Shipbuilding for a total of \$230 mil with delivery in 2013, chartered for the German liner operator Hamburg Sud. Greek owners made their presence strong this week in the container newbuilding business. Aeolos Management has placed an order at Hyundai Heavy Industries of South Korea for a pair

of 6,700 TEU at Hyundai Heavy Industries valued at \$150 mil ebloc, whilst East Med has booked a pair of 1,700 TEU vessels at China's Guangzhou Wenchong Shipyard. There has been also emerged some movement in the post panamax segment. Maersk Line is preparing to order a second series of 18,000 TEU ships Triple-E class vessels cost \$190 mil each, bringing the total number to 20. AP Moller-Maersk chief executive Nils Anderesen confirmed that he expects the company to exercise the first option for another 10 units that will be built by South Korean shipbuilder Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering. In the meantime, French Line CMA CGM and German owner Claus Peter Offen are reported to be in joint negotiation with Samsung Heavy Industries about enlarging the size of five ships originally specified at 12,800 TEU to 16,000 TEU. The fever in containership ordering from the beginning of New Year has raised estimations for the current orderbook at close to 28% from 25% at the end of last year. **Source : Nikos Roussanoglou, Hellenic Shipping News Worldwide**



The 1982 built Product tanker **18 Heaven** was arrested and detained by the Sheriff of the Singapore Supreme Court at Apr 28 at Singapore's Pulau Bukom Anchorage for undisclosed reasons. **Photo : Piet Sinke ©**

Hijacked ship reaches Kenya without remaining crew members

After waiting in vain for about a fortnight in Somalian waters for release of seven members still held hostage by Somalian pirates, Indian freighter **Asphalt Venture** with its eight freed crew today reached Mombasa in Kenya.

The vessel, in close consultation with Indian authorities, remained in Somalian waters since release of eight crew by the pirates on April 15 in the hope that the remaining seven crew members taken ashore by the pirates would be released after the seven-month ordeal, OMCI Ship Management that owns the bitumen carrier said.

"To remain in these waters longer would have been dangerous for both the vessel and the remaining crew members. With the arrival of the vessel in Mombasa, the Master and 7 crew members on-board can be sent home and can return to their families," it said. Somali pirates who took a multi-million dollar ransom for the hijacked Indian freighter had released eight of the 15 Indian crew members held hostage on September 28, 2010. The asphalt/bitumen tanker was on its way to South Africa from Kenya.

However, the remaining crew members were still held hostage despite the reported deal for release of entire crew, the first such case where the sea brigands did not honour the agreement despite an undisclosed amount being paid as ransom. The owners said the vessel came to Kenya today.

"With the engineering officers still in captivity and no engine power, the vessel proceeded slowly under tug tow and under escort of an Indian Naval frigate out of Somali waters," the statement added. Disappointed over non-release of the remaining crew, the company said it is now working in close cooperation with all the appropriate authorities to ensure the safe return of those still in captivity.

"Our thoughts are with the families of those who have not yet returned and we are making every effort to get them home at the earliest," it added. Earlier, Shipping Minister G K Vasan said the government is taking all steps to check such incidents and seek safe release of the captives. Indian warships have been escorting merchant vessels in the Indian ocean as part of international anti-piracy efforts and the country's Navy and Coast Guard have seized around

120 pirates, mostly Somali nationals, over the past few months. Last month, the Indian navy captured 61 pirates when they attacked a naval ship. Pirates currently hold some 30 ships and more than 600 hostages.

Overseas Indian Affairs Minister Vayalar Ravi had said on April 18 that saving the lives of Indians held hostage by Somali pirates would be the guiding concern of the government when it decides on taking appropriate action. **Source** : Deccan Herald



Back in town!

by Nico J. Ouwehand

For people living in Maassluis and interested in maritime matters the appearance of **D16** looks quite familiar. The small tug was built at the Haas Shipyard and commissioned in 1948. The purpose of the **Maassluis**, as she was called at that time, was to help the oceangoing tugs of Smit International in and out of the local harbour. When by the end of the seventies the really big tugs came into the market, which no longer could enter the relatively small port of Maassluis, she was transferred to Eerland Towage, still bearing her original name. 1978 she was sold to a small private towage company and renamed **Libra**. Ten years later she was resold to Belgian interests in order to tow barges on the river Meuse. She became **VH76** and later on, once back under the Dutch flag for the same kind of work, she was renamed **D16**.



Just a few weeks ago she was purchased by **Luuk Vroombout** (Alphatron) in order to tow the tugs of 'Sleepboothaven Maassluis' (= Towage Port of Maassluis) like the **Elbe** (the former Greenpeace and in the final stage of her restoration) in and out of the harbour. A special foundation was established for restoration and maintenance of this historic ship. Within a few weeks she will have her original appearance again with a the wooden wheelhouse. For a start the well-known blue band around her funnel was quickly painted around her funnel. It's funny that this harbour tug was the only one with a blue band instead of the usual red band that was customary for Smit-harbour

tugs. After all she was like a small sister to the seagoing tugs. Good "Luuk" [Maassluis](#), we are glad that you are back in town!

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NAVY NEWS



The Portuguese Navy (Marinha Portuguesa) first 1870 Tonnes and 83.10 meters long NPO ocean patrol vessel P360 NRP "[Viana do Castelo](#)" has arrived at its homeport, the Base Naval de Lisboa (BNL). The vessel had left the shipbuilder ENVC SA facilities in April 26. The ship will remain in training during 1, 5 month until be considered fully operational with the naval surface fleet. The second vessel, P360 NRP "[Figueira da Foz](#)" is being built and could be delivered by the end of 2011. The whole NPO programme includes the construction of six NPOs and as well two vessels configured for combat pollutions tasks.



The Los Angeles-class attack submarine **USS Annapolis (SSN 760)** is moored alongside the guided-missile destroyer **USS Ross (DDG 71)**. Annapolis and Ross are in Port Everglades for Fleet Week Port Everglades 2011. More than 2,500 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen participate in this South Florida tradition honoring the sea services and establishing relationships through community outreach and increased awareness of the naval services.



The **A 390 WAVE RULER** seen arriving in Willemstad (Curacao) – **Photo : Kees Bustraan ©**



3800 HP TUG FOR CHARTER

3800 hp (40 ton BP) **TTB SALVOR** is available for charter from May 1st in Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea) preferable for a towing trip back to Singapore contact Richard (rw@ttbisso.com) or Piet at (ps@ttbisso.com) for the very competitive prices !!

SHIPYARD NEWS



The Damen buildt SEA AXE [ESNAAD 711](#) seen off Ijmuiden during a demo trip – [Photo : Richard Wisse ©](#)

Aker completes 16th ship — with a buyer

Aker Philadelphia Shipyard said Friday that it had completed its 16th ship, the last one to have a buyer before construction began. The [Overseas Tampa](#) is the 12th Veteran Class MT-46 Product Tanker produced by the shipyard and was delivered to American Shipping Co., with a price tag of about \$105 million.

It will depart in coming days, Aker said in a statement, with the Overseas Shipping Group having chartered it from ASC. Overseas Shipping Group might then lease it to an oil company to move oil between U.S. ports. The 90-year-old Jones Act requires that U.S.-built ships move products between U.S. ports.

OSG and Aker have a bit of a strained relationship. In March, OSG urged the state of Pennsylvania not to give Aker \$42 million to build the next two ships, for which Aker has no buyers. OSG is the dominant shipper in the United States and it says the glut of ships is hurting business. OSG withdrew its objection and the state is paying to help keep the shipyard going. [Source : philly.com](#)

Marad Offers \$9.8 Million in Shipyard Grants

Agency taking applications until June 14

The Maritime Administration will take applications until June 14 for a new round of small shipyard grants. There is \$9.8 million available for grants from the Department of Defense appropriations portion of legislation Congress approved on April 14 to fund the federal government through the end of fiscal 2011, Marad said in the April 29 Federal Register.

The grants pay for capital improvements or training at shipyards that have a single location with fewer than 1,200 employees. Last year Marad awarded \$14.7 million in grants to 16 shipyards to pay for such things as cranes, dock improvements and metal working machinery. [Source : The Journal of Commerce Online](#)

NEW NOSE FOR VEENDAM



HAL's **Veendam** received a new "nose" in Bahamas Shipyard after been damaged during heavy seas near the Falklands. **Photo's : Veendam Eng.Dept ©**





Above seen the **STENA DRILLMAX ICE** seen fitting out at the Samsung yard in Goeje (South Korea)

Photo : Alex Hertog ©

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Box Ships Inc. Takes Delivery of First Two Containerships

Box Ships Inc., a global shipping company specializing in the transportation of containers, announced Friday that it has taken delivery from Paragon Shipping Inc., of the **Box Trader** and the **Box Voyager**, two 3,426 TEU high specification vessels built in 2010. Both vessels have a remaining fixed rate period time charter term of 16 months (with charter option of plus / minus 45 days) with CSAV Valparaiso Chile at a gross daily charter rate of \$20,000.

The **Box Voyager** and **Box Trader** are the first two of the six vessels comprising the Company's initial fleet to be delivered. The remaining four vessels include two 5,095 TEU 2007 built containerships, the **CMA CGM Kingfish** and the **CMA CGM Marlin**, one 4,546 TEU 2006 built containership, the **MSC Siena**, and one 6,589 TEU 2010 built containership, the **Maule**. Following the delivery of these remaining four vessels, Box Ships' fleet will be comprised of six containerships with a TEU weighted-average age of 2.5 years, a total capacity of 28,177 TEUs and a weighted-average remaining charter duration of 35.3 months. Box Ships Inc. is an Athens, Greece-based international shipping

company specializing in the transportation of containers. The Company's current fleet consists of two containership vessels with a total carrying capacity of 6,852 TEU's with agreements to acquire an additional four containerships that will increase the total capacity to 28,177 TEU's with a weighted-average age of 2.5 years. The company's shares trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "TEU." **Source: Box Ships Inc.**



The **SCH 123 ZEELAND** seen moored in the Port of Scheveningen – **Photo : Arie Verheij ©**

Hapag-Lloyd brings Bremen cruise ship to Vietnam

Hapag-Lloyd Cruises will start on May 17 to bring the **Bremen** cruise ship for a seven-day nationwide tour taking in HCMC then Danang, Haiphong and Halong. This will be the first time for the **Bremen**, which has 750 crew members and cruise passengers, to visit Vietnam. The vessel will return to Vietnam later this year, according to Saigontourist Travel Services Co., which serves the cruise ship.

Hapag-Lloyd Cruises has brought three other cruise ships, the **Columbus**, **Hanseatic** and **Europa**, to the country previously. Saigontourist has said the company has already taken care of around 25,000 foreign cruise passengers, mostly from Europe, China, and Australia this year. It said those are the same figures as this time last year but the company are confident that many more cruise passengers will come to Vietnam in the future.

The company welcomed around 2,000 cruise passengers and crew members on the Italian **Costa Classica** cruise ship on Tuesday for a five-day trip through HCMC, Danang and Halong. Another large ship, the SuperStar Virgo, will make three trips to HCMC in June with over 2,000 passengers per journey. In related news, local travel companies serving international cruise ships have reported an increasing number of vessels visiting the country after a strong decline since 2008. They are expecting 2012 to be a big year for cruise ships in Vietnam. However, problems which relate to the poor infrastructure in the cruise industry will hamper their efforts to attract even more tourists to the country.

The lack of facilities at cruise passenger terminals and services, poor tourism products and higher prices may make Vietnam tours less attractive to foreign travelers. Phan Xuan Anh, chairman of Viet Excursions, said transportation fees in the country are double those in neighboring Cambodia. The price of tourism services for cruise passengers in Vietnam is also 20% higher than in other regional countries. And on top of that cruise prices are heading upwards which will make it even more difficult for tour operators to sell cruises to foreign visitors. "We cannot compete with other cruises. Overseas travel service providers are lowering prices to woo tourists to try and help the industry recover some ground," he said. **Source : Saigon Times**

TOP Ships Inc. Announces New Charters for M/T IONIAN WAVE and M/V CYCLADES

TOP Ships Inc., an international maritime shipping company that provides transportation services for crude oil, petroleum products, and dry bulk commodities, announced Friday that it has taken repossession of the M/T **"IONIAN WAVE"** from the previous Charterer and delivered the vessel to a major Charterer under a new bareboat charter for a minimum period of seven (7) years with three successive one-year options at a daily rate of US\$ 9,000.

TOP Ships Inc. is examining its options, including discussing a commercial solution with the previous Charterer, in order to recover the amounts due. TOP Ships Inc. also announces that it has entered into a new time-charter with a Korean charterer for the M/V **"CYCLADES"**, a 75,681 DWT Panamax drybulk vessel, built in 2000 in Japan. The time-charter is for a period of three years at a gross rate of \$20,000 per day. **Source: TOP Ships Inc.**



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After the successful completion of the Statoil P12 project the **SOLITAIRE** is seen for demobilisation and stinger change in Bergen, alongside is seen the **FRANCISCA** and the workboat **"Workbuster"**.

Photo : Engineers onboard the Solitaire ©

Ardmore expands fleet with newbuild and charter deals

Ardmore Shipping Ltd, the specialist tanker company, announced that it has taken over the contracts for two newbuild vessels from Hellepont Group and, in a separate deal, has agreed to charter in two vessels from Hellepont. Ardmore, based in Cork, Ireland, has agreed to take over the newbuild contracts on two 17,000 deadweight tonnes (dwt) IMO II chemical tankers from Hellepont. The two as-yet unnamed vessels are currently being built by Sekwang Shipbuilding in South Korea and delivery is expected in April and July 2012 respectively. In a separate deal, Ardmore Shipping has agreed to charter two 2010-built 17,000 dwt IMO II chemical tankers from Hellepont - the Hellepont Commander and the Hellepont Crusader - for a one year period, with the option of a further year. Both vessels will be entered into the Navig8 Brizo-8 chemical tanker pool for trade and commodity chemicals.

Anthony Gurnee, CEO of Ardmore Shipping Ltd, commented: "We are very pleased to have taken on the contracts with Sekwang Shipbuilding for these two newbuild vessels, which will join our fleet next year, and with our charter agreement for the [Hellespont Commander](#) and the [Hellespont Crusader](#). "These deals are important steps towards realising Ardmore's goal of owning and operating a high quality, modern fleet of chemical and product tankers. At Ardmore, strong commercial partnerships are an integral part of our ethos and we look forward to working with Sekwang Shipbuilding and Hellespont, as well as maintaining our strong relationship with Navig8, where we are particularly pleased with their commercial performance and cooperative approach to vessel operations."



Photo : Piet Sinke ©

The two newbuilds and two charter vessels will join the four existing vessels in Ardmore Shipping's fleet: the [Ardmore Centurion](#), [Ardmore Seatrader](#), [Ardmore Seamaster](#) and the [Ardmore Seafarer](#). Ardmore also has two newbuild vessels on order with SPP Shipbuilding in South Korea, expected to be delivered in 2012 and 2013, respectively. Source: Ardmore Shipping Ltd

K' Line earns \$368 mln in 2010-2011 fiscal year

Japanese carrier "K" Line reported \$368 million in net income for its just-ended fiscal year but forecast lower profit and revenue amid a "largely unpredictable" outlook for shipping, Journal of Commerce reports. The profit for the fiscal year ended March 31 compared with a \$717 million loss a year earlier. Operating revenue rose 17.5 percent to \$11.8 billion.

"K" Line forecast \$24 million in profit for the current fiscal year. The company cited economic uncertainty, high fuel costs and concerns about the impact of the recent Japan earthquake and tsunami. "At this time, it is expected that the effects of the Eastern Japan Earthquake will be limited, but circumstances such as trends relating to harm caused by rumors require continued vigilance," the company said.

"K" Line's container shipping unit posted ordinary income of \$350 million on operating revenue of \$5.35 billion. The carrier said it expects container shipping to remain comparatively healthy but warned that recent weakness in spot rates and rising fuel prices will reduce margins in the months ahead. Bulk shipping is expected to remain weak and vehicle shipments have been affected by the earthquake. Most of the company's tankers are operating under long-term contracts. Source : PortNews

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Above seen on 26/4/2011 the Laid-up Oilrigs in the Cromarty Firth, Scotland, The Jack-Up Rig in the foreground is the **Excalibur I**. Photo : Iain Forsyth ©

Chinese mainland salvage ship to visit Taiwan

A Chinese mainland salvage vessel will visit Taiwan between April 29 and May 11 at the invitation of the island, a mainland official said Wednesday. Yang Yi, spokesman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, said the vessel, "**East China Sea Salvage-113**," would visit the island's Taichung, Kaohsiung, Hualien and Keelung ports, and stop at each port for about two days to open the boat to the public, including maritime affairs students, and hold exchange activities.

He said the mainland was glad to see "deepened cross-Straits exchanges and cooperation in the fields of maritime search and rescue" and enhanced maritime salvage capabilities, so as to ensure safety of people on both sides and boats traveling across the Strait. Source : Xinhua

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Port operator raises \$200M from sale of perpetual bonds

Razon-led International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) has raised \$200 million from a bond sale earlier this week to fund new projects for the year. In a disclosure, the port operator said its perpetual bonds, which are considered equity from the point of view of the issuer but with some features of a debt instrument, were priced at a yield of 8.375 percent for the first 10 years. ICTSI will have to pay a higher yield if these are not redeemed on the 10th year. "The fresh funds give us flexibility to respond to potential acquisitions and new projects more swiftly," ICTSI treasurer Rafael Consing said in an interview.

HSBC and Citi acted as joint lead managers and bookrunners for the ICTSI transaction. "The highlight of the deal is it's the first unrated perpetual transaction in Asia," said Wick Veloso, treasurer and head of capital markets at HSBC, which was the sole structuring adviser of the transaction. Demand for the securities reached \$800 million as ICTSI went on a road show in Hong Kong, Singapore, London and Zurich. The securities were priced at the tight end of the 8.375 to 8.5-percent final guidance. "This exhibits our fiscal discipline. We could have easily raised more money given the strong demand, but we did not need more," Consing said. The deal was actively pursued by a local team led by HSBC Philippines head of debt capital markets for the private sector Corrie Dela Cruz-Purisima and Citi Philippines head of global banking Kristine Braden. About 73 percent of the deal, which was closed Thursday night, was taken up by Asian investors while European investors bought the rest. By type of institution, private banks absorbed the biggest bulk of 54 percent, fund managers took up 34 percent and banks took up 12 percent, HSBC said. **Source : Philippine Daily Inquirer**



Above seen the 1998 Damen built **SMIT ANGAROSH** in the need of some fresh paint in Port Sudan. the 16.89 mtr long workboat is built under the name **NICOLINE 4** and sold to SMIT in 2005

Photo : Hessel Terpstra ©



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The **ANDRÉ-B** seen in Ijmuiden – Photo : H. Blomvliet ©

DFDS Seaways reduces number of sailings on its Rosyth-Zeebrugge ferry route

DFDS Seaways is to reduce the number of sailings on its Rosyth-Zeebrugge ferry route because of lower than expected demand and increasing fuel costs, Ifw-net reports. DFDS said the freight-only service, which is the only ferry link between Scotland and mainland Europe, would operate with three departures per week from 2 May, rather than four.

But it added two ships would continue to operate the route. Allan Hull, Route Director, said the change in frequency reflected a lower than expected demand for the service since it was changed from freight and passenger, operated using the Scottish Viking, to freight only at the beginning of this year.

Hull said: "It is unfortunate that we are not able to maintain the capacity we had hoped to operate on the route.

"In the current climate of escalating fuel prices, this meant we had no choice but to reduce the frequency of sailings.



The **SCOTTISH VIKING** – Photo : Jasper van Raemdonck ©

"The position now is broadly the same as that offered during the time the **Scottish Viking** operated on the route, so there has been no net reduction in capacity to what was previously offered – or indeed in our commitment to the service." The service departs Rosyth and Zeebrugge on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The ships deployed on the service are the **Tor Finlandia** and the **Tor Cimbria**. Both vessels have capacity for around 130 trailers – the **Scottish Viking** could accommodate 120 trailers.



The **IVER BALANCE** seen at the Westerscheldt River – Photo : Henk de Winde ©

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MARITIME ARTIST CORNER



Dutch Coastguard vessel "**Terschelling**" leaving the fairway Stortemelk, to respond to a Mayday call 70 miles north of the island Terschelling. The aquarelle is painted by mr. **Frans Schot**, a Terschelling based artist, on request of **Capt. Hugo Gorter** - former Dutch Coastguard Captain, who sailed as a master on this vessel between 1967 and 1988. The vessel is still active as diving vessel.

.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



MARCO POLO heading from Rouen on the river Seine below the Tancarville bridge.

Photo : philippe.p.brebant@sfr.fr ©