

Number 182 *** COLLECTION OF MARITIME PRESS CLIPPINGS *** Friday 01-07-2011

News reports received from readers and Internet News articles copied from various news sites.



SIGREWAY

Boskalis SHOREWAY seen passing Maassluis outward bound - Photo: Piet Sinke (c)

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The GEOBAY seen anchored at Dampier awaiting orders – Photo: Roel Scholma (c)

Dry bulk market shows signs of further weakening

The dry bulk market seems to be unable to shake off the additional supply of vessels, an oversupply issue of grave concern that would have occured even if the world economy hadn't undergone the worst recession in recent decades. With China's moods and swings continuing to play a catalytical role in dry bulk rates' volatility, things are expected to stay as they currently, at least until more nations like India and other emerging economies come forward and major economies return to their pre-recession levels of activity.

As a result of these conditions, with the added "bonus" of fears for a Chinese economy major slowdown, the Baltic Dry Index (BDI) remains trading at multi-year lows, declining by more than 20% since the beginning of the year. Yesterday, the index took another dive down to 1,420 points, a fall of 1.25% on a daily basis. All ship types were down as well, with Capesizes losing 1.63% and Panamaxes retreating yet again by 2.33%, on the back of Tuesday's fall of 3.18 percent. Brokers said the market lacked direction due to slow business. In a report, Reuters said that earnings for panamaxes, which usually transport 60,000-70,000 tonne cargoes of coal or grains, have more than halved since the same period last year. "We continue to believe that the order book will outweigh the impact of scrapping over the near-to-intermediate-term and keep dry bulk day rates under pressure," Wells Fargo Securities said in a note, quoted by Reuters.

In its weekly report, shipbroker Fearnley's said, referring to the capesize market, that "the Pacific market has continued to rise on the back of last week's strength. Driven by vessels delays the majors had to scramble to cover early positions and driving the West Australia freight rate up from a conference level in the mid/upper USD 7.00's to high USD 9.00. Since then it has pulled back a bit but still trading in the upper USD 8.00 level. The Atlantic has also proven to be robust with levels now north of USD 14k daily on timecharter, and tonnage is still in tight supply. There were a few period deals done in the upper USD 11k's for short period, and around USD 11k for a one year deal. Presently the market seems stable at today's improved levels" said the shipbroker. Regarding the ailing Panamax segment, it mentioned that it "continued its downward pointing curve this week with rates knocking off ard USD 1,000 in both hemispheres. It seems the Pacific has dried up with cargoes as rates just keep on declining. Several ows are now ballasting towards the ECSA grain cargoes to secure employment for their ships. In the Atlantic owners are getting more and more reluctant to leave the basin and this puts pressure on the rates. The Tarv's are now being fixed in the region of USD 15k while the Fhauls are fetching around USD 22k. In the Pacific, rounds are being fixed at tick below USD 10k while the backhauls are getting a poor 5k level. The period market also took a dive this week with the MV CLARE 74,759 dwt/blt'05 being fixed with delivery Mizushima for 11/14 months at USD 12,750" said the report.

As for the smaller Handy/Supramax segment, Fearnley's noted that "the Atlantic seems over supplied with tonnage on prompt positions. The sentiment is nervous but it could be better balance for mid July positions onwards. EC South America also softening assisted by ballasters from Indian Ocean. West coast India remains inactive due to monsoon in India. There has been no change in India, good vessel in EC India may see around USD 10k for an Indonesian round voyage and Richards Bay will see the same. Handymax/Supramax may see low/mid USD 20 for Red Sea/India business. In the Pacific large Supras are able to secure 10k for NoPac rounds with an underlying weaker tone for forward positions" concluded the shipbroker. In its report, Reuters mentioned that brokers were watching for further developments in China, which is facing its worst power shortages in years and likely to have an impact on dry freight activity. Uncertainty over prospects for the world economy could also potentially hurt demand for raw materials said the agency. Source: Nikos Roussanoglou, Hellenic Shipping News Worldwide

Chinese navy to send escort fleet to Gulf of Aden and Somali waters

The ninth group of Chinese escort ships will set sail from Zhanjiang in Guangdong Province on July 2 for the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia on an escort mission, China Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun said Wednesday.

Yang told reporters during a press briefing that the new task force will comprise the destroyer, **Wu Han**, and frigate, **Yu Lin**, as well as the supply ship, **Qinghaihu**. Yang said Chinese navy fleets had escorted 3,953 ships from countries all over the world by Wednesday. Among the escorted ships 47 percent were foreign commercial ships, he added. Yang said Chinese navy fleets had rescued 40 ships chased by pirates to date. **Source: Xinhua**

FALCK NUTEC SAFTEY TRAINING





After many years FALCK NUTEC is known as one of worlds largest trainings centres, this week the editor of the newsclippings followed the Ships Medical Care (Unlimited) course at the Rotterdam-Maasvlakte location, further more this facility has a covered survival pool with wave, wind and rain machines in which very realistic conditions can be simulated, students can learn the various ways to evacuate, rescue and use the available equipment as well as survival at sea in emergency situations.



For incidents in the offshore or shipping there is often no direct external help available That is why it is of great importance to stabilize a victim until the moment that specialist help can be offered. The ability to offer direct medical to a colleague is indispensable in this branch, realistic victims, such as seen Joop (top), who slipped at the engine room stairs, are frequently present during (scenario) training.





Season's first oil-tanker sails Northern Sea Route



The sailing season along the Northern Sea Route has never before stared earlier as the Arctic sea ice heads for another major melt. It is the Belgium owned oil-tanker "Perseverance" is loaded with 70.000 tons of oil condensate that earlier this week sailed from Murmansk towards the north east. The tanker is this summer chartered by the Russian oil company Novatek, reports Petroarctic, a network of suppliers for petroleum projects in the north.

Painted with shark teeth, the nuclear powered icebreaker "Yamal" sailed from Murmansk this week to break ice along the Northern Sea Route for the season's first larger oil-tanker. Photo: Thomas Nilsen

"Perseverance" holds ice-class 1A and is expected to be at port in China around July 20, sailing nearly half the time the vessel would have spent from Murmansk to China if sailing the Suez canal. Several other ice-classed oil tankers are

waiting in the Kola bay for the sailing season to start. Novatek plans to ship 110.000 tons of condensate along the north coast of Siberia with the oil tanker "Vladimir Tikhonov" later this summer. In total, Russia's nuclear powered icebreaker fleet reportedly escort some 15 larger bulk and oil tankers along the Northern Sea Route this year.



Two of Sovkomflot's ice-classed oil-tankers waiting in the Kola bay. Photo: Thomas Nilsen

Source : BarentsObserver ©

China denies ship active in Japan waters

China denied claims on Tuesday that one of its marine research vessels had been active inside Japan's exclusive economic zone, after Tokyo launched a formal diplomatic protest with Beijing. "On June 23, a Chinese scientific research vessel went through the Japanese exclusive economic zone heading for the high seas for marine environmental research activities," foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei told reporters. "When it went through the Japanese EEZ, it did not do any marine research activities. China has already made this clear to the Japanese side." On Friday, Japan said the Chinese ship had crossed through its 200 nautical mile (370-kilometre) EEZ and conducted activities in the zone without asking for permission, prompting Tokyo to protest via diplomatic channels. Chinese media has reported that the vessel was on a mission in the Pacific to test water for radioactive contamination after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that damaged the Fukushima nuclear plant on Japan's eastern coast. The exchange is the latest in a long-running spat between the neighbours over maritime territories and comes as neighbouring nations voice concerns over China's increasingly assertive stance as a naval power. Source: The Himalayan



Above seen the 1982 built LBR flag bulker **H PIONEER** entering Grand Harbour, Malta on Thursday 30th June, 2011 to berth at Magazine Wharf. **Photo: Cpt. Lawrence Dalli - www.maltashipphotos.com** ©

Teekay and A2SEA to jointly develop foundation installation vessel

Teekay has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with A2SEA to jointly develop an innovative vessel design for the installation of offshore wind foundations. The MOU encompasses the key terms of cooperation between Teekay and A2SEA for the design, delivery and operation of floating transportation and installation vessels for offshore windfarm foundations for deepwater locations and harsh weather conditions, and which meet the requirements of expected future offshore windfarm foundation concepts, such as tripods and jackets.

The joint cooperation between the two companies is based on A2SEA's extensive knowledge of offshore windfarm installation and Teekay's unique experience of operating large vessels controlled by dynamic positioning systems. A2SEA and Teekay are jointly developing a floating windfarm installation design through a technical study with the objective of subsequently delivering an innovative vessel to the market by 2014. "A2SEA is committed to developing an innovative vessel design that can cope with the next generation of offshore windfarm foundations," said Kaj Lindvig, Chief Sales Officer at A2SEA.

"Our aim is to provide a cost efficient concept that is unrestricted by factors that the second generation vessels coming onto the market now face such as water depth and type of seabed. "We at A2SEA, alongside Teekay Corporation, believe that we have a floating installation concept that will be capable of transporting pre-assembled foundations straight out to the site that will drive down the time and cost of windfarm foundation installation.

"We are very excited about this venture and the prospect of developing a pioneering foundation installation technique." Stein Rynning, Senior Vice President, Teekay Shuttle Tankers and Offshore added: "Teekay's unique experience in sophisticated shuttle tanker operations and ability to access suitable existing tonnage, paired with A2SEA's extensive experience in the offshore wind sector, provides the ideal basis to jointly develop an optimized vessel for the installation of offshore wind foundations."

Under the terms specified in the MOU, if constructed, Teekay will own and operate the vessel while A2SEA will provide project management and operational expertise. Source: Offshore Shipping Online

UK customs 24-hour strike to hit ports - get documents in early, says OOCL

THE UK's public sector worker strikes on Thursday, so far numbering 750,000 teachers and civil servants, will impact travel and cause delays at some ports and airports with customs and immigration officials likely to join the action. Hong Kong's OOCL advises shippers to submit customs entries earlier to avoid possible reduced or no service at

Thamesport and Southampton. "No-one at the UK Border Agency (UKBA) will be able to confirm the level of service until they see how many staff do not turn up for work," said the carrier in a statement to customers.

Members of the UKBA has warned its customers delays are likely to impact ports, airports and international rail terminals following a 24-hour strike action of the Public and Commercial Service (PCS) union. PCS union spokesman said unless the government were prepared to back track on its decision to cut pensions to public servants it was likely to see further strikes in the autumn, of which millions more will join. Source: Schednet



The PRETTY WORLD seen moored in Rotterdam-Waalhaven - Photo: Peet Gralla ©

Tender for 3 icebreakers contract to be held in July, official says

Bidding for 3 icebreakers contract will be held this July, Russian Deputy Transport Minister said on Tuesday. The diesel-electric powered icebreakers will be built for Rosmorport. "Most likely the 16MW icebreakers will be laid down in 2011," Viktor Olersky said in an interview with journalists at the St. Petersburg Maritime Defense Show.

Besides, there is an option for construction of another diesel-electric icebreaker for Rosmorport, of rated power 25MW, the official said, and a nuclear-powered 60MW icebreaker for Atomflot. Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rosmorport was established in 2003. The company manages federal assets in the ports of Russia, including sea berths, and operates the world's largest icebreaker fleet of 26 diesel-electric powered icebreakers. Source: PortNews





The PLANET seen in Kiel (Germany) - Photo : Ad de Kruijf ©

Gentse Feesten: gratis rondvaarten in de haven

Inschrijven vanaf dinsdag 5 juli

Ook dit jaar organiseert het Havenbedrijf Gent tijdens de Gentse Feesten zijn traditionele rondvaarten in de haven. Van zondag 17 juli tot en met zondag 24 juli 2011 vaart het jacht Jacob Van Artevelde vier keer per dag de haven in. Gedurende anderhalf uur kan iedereen de haven van op het water van binnenuit beleven. De rondvaart is helemaal gratis. Gewoon vooraf inschrijven is de boodschap. Vanaf dinsdag 5 juli.

70.000 jobs

Het vertrekpunt is de Rigakaai langs het Grootdok aan het begin van de haven (tegenover Weba). De Jacob Van Artevelde vaart van daaruit richting Kluizendok en terug. Onderweg ziet men onder meer de chemische bedrijven, de Ringvaart, Stora Enso, het Sifferdok, de cluster van biobrandstofbedrijven aan het Rodenhuizedok, het Mercatordok waar grote schepen met rollend materieel op en af naar Scandinavië vertrekken, ArcelorMittal en tal van overslagkades. De rondvaarten geven een uniek zicht op de haven van Gent, dé economische motor van Oost-Vlaanderen waar 70.000 mensen (in)direct hun brood verdienen.

Meer plaatsen

Tijdens elke rondvaart kunnen er 80 passagiers aan boord. Vorig jaar waren deze rondvaarten in een mum van tijd volzet. Het Havenbedrijf heeft dan ook de capaciteit met de helft opgetrokken: er wordt 1 dag meer gevaren (acht dagen in plaats van 7) en vier keer per dag (in plaats van drie keer). Dit brengt het totaal aantal passagiers op 2.560 (in plaats van 1.680).

Waar en wanneer

De **Jacob van Artevelde** vertrekt aan de Rigakaai (tegenover Weba) in de haven van Gent. De rondvaarten vinden plaats van zondag 17 tot en met zondag 24 juli om 10, 12.30, 14.30 en 16.30 uur. De trip duurt anderhalf uur. Gratis, maar inschrijven is verplicht: vanaf dinsdag 5 juli als volgt:

- online via www.havengent.be/gentsefeesten, vanaf 9 uur (tot en met donderdag 14 juli).
- telefonisch via Gentinfo (09 210 10 10), vanaf 9 uur.

Per reservatie kan men maximum 6 personen inschrijven. Vanaf zaterdag 17 juli wordt er bij annulering of niet komen opdagen 5 euro per persoon gefactureerd.



Cruise Ship Minerva is berthed on what used to be Ranks Ocean Berth and Deerhound is berthed on what used to be Ranks Coastal Berth, both are in the Western Harbour, Leith. Photo: Iain Forsyth ©

Low freight rates are 'unsustainable': Maersk

But CEO unfazed by talk of oversupply of container ships as Maersk orders more

THE low freight rates that the container shipping industry has been seeing of late are 'unsustainable', Eivind Kolding, Maersk Line's CEO, told BT yesterday during his visit to Singapore. Mr Kolding believes that freight rates, having gone south over the first two quarters of the year, are flattening out. In some trades, such as the trans- Atlantic trade, there has even been an uptick in rates, he pointed out.

Currently, Asia-Europe and Asia-North America freight rates have borne the brunt of overcapacity in the market. Spot rates on some Asia-Europe trade routes are now close to zero, after taking into account the bunker adjustment factor.

'Now, a lot of shipping lines have been forced to put these new big ships into Asia-Europe because that's the only trade that can cater to these big ships, and that lack of flexibility, some say, is hurting the freight rate right now,' Mr Kolding said. Some analysts expect that over the next two months, rates could actually come down below bunker costs. At Maersk, the jury is still out on whether supply will overwhelm demand in the remaining two quarters of the year. 'There will be a peak (in volumes). We already see signs of that, so we are prepared for higher volumes. Of course, the big question mark is how big the peak will be compared to the capacity, and that will be a very close call,' said Mr Kolding yesterday.

In a report last week, CIMB Research analyst Raymond Yap had estimated that supply for the industry was outpacing demand by a good 5.1 percentage points for 2011. The recent spate of newbuilding orders have also given analysts more cause for gloom. Mr Kolding, however, is unfazed by talk of oversupply against the backdrop of his liner's order of 20 of the world's largest ships - 18,000 twenty foot-equivalent units (TEUs) per ship - that will be delivered in 2013 and 2014.

'It's actually a sound and farsighted investment. In shipping, you cannot base your investments on today's spot market because you'll never get it right. You have to take a longer-term perspective when you invest in ships,' he said.

Maersk expects demand on the Asia-Europe trade to increase 5-8 per cent every year from 2011 to 2015. 'If that holds true, which we believe it will, then we will still need quite a lot more capacity over the years,' said Mr Kolding. For now, the liner looks unlikely to exercise the second and the last of its option of 10 18,000-TEU ships. 'At this point, these will be ships delivered quite far out in 2015, and we don't feel the need to add ships that far out,' he said. Mr Kolding was

in town to talk about Maersk's manifesto, which he had unveiled earlier this month at the TOC conference in Antwerp, Belgium. As part of the liner's clarion call for greater reliability, environmental friendliness and ease of doing business, Maersk now aims to have a 95 per cent on-time delivery of containers by the end of 2012, up from about 80 per cent now. The industry average, it says, is about 50 per cent. Source: businesstimes.sg

NAVY NEWS



The 18th annual bilateral excercise between the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and the Indian Navy (IN) is in progress. The excercise SIMBEX 2011 was being hosted by Singapore from 18 to 25 Mar 2011. The exercise comprises a shore phase, already held at the Changi Naval Base and a sea phase currently being carried out in the South China Sea. SIMBEX 2011 saw the navies conduct advanced naval warfare training involving air, surface and sub-surface dimensions, aims to enhance the interoperability and mutual understanding between the two navies. Singapore MINDEF release mentions that the RSN is participating in SIMBEX 2011 with three frigates, a missile corvette, a submarine and a maritime patrol aircraft, Joining them are three destroyers, a corvette, a fleet tanker as well as a maritime patrol aircraft from the Indian Navy. In addition, the India Defence Secretary Pradeep Kumar paid a visit to Singapore from 21 to 23 Mar 2011. He co-chaired the 7th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue with Permanent Secretary (Defence) Chiang Chie Foo and then on 22nd mar, he met with Singapore Minister for Defence Teo Chee Hean at the Ministry of Defence. As part of his visit, Mr Kumar also visited the Information Fusion Centre at the Changi Command and Control Centre, and Headquarters Armour at Sungei Gedong.

Multination Arctic Exercises Planned

The Pentagon envisions multinational exercises in the Arctic between the United States and seven other countries that recently agreed to jointly conduct search-and-rescue missions in this vast region of the globe. This fall, Canada will host an initial "tabletop exercise" to help determine ways to implement the arctic search-and-rescue (SAR) agreement, according to David Balton, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for oceans and fisheries.

Maritime activities along shipping routes are expected to increase in the Arctic region as ice melts. Flight traffic is also expected to increase. "The extreme distances, limited infrastructure, and paucity of assets will make a timely SAR response challenging in the best of conditions," a May 2011 DoD Arctic report states. "As human activity increases in the region, this gap is expected to increase. SAR, however, is not a force sizing or shaping mission for DoD; the Department contributes assets when needed and as available."

In May, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and representatives from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden signed the Agreement on Cooperation on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue in the Arctic. The agreement is designed to coordinate "life-saving international maritime and aeronautical SAR coverage and

response among the Arctic States across an area of about 13 million square miles," according to a State Department fact sheet.

While the agreement was signed in May, it will not be enforced several more months, according to Balton, who spoke at a June 29 presentation at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "There are envisioned search-and-rescue exercises to begin to work on implementation of the agreement," Amanda Dory, deputy assistant secretary of defense for strategy, said during the same event. While the multinational SAR agreement facilitates communication and cooperation, it does not translate into more assets and resources for the critical mission, Balton said. "I am hoping each of the eight governments, including the United States, can use it to that effect," he said. Source:



The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG-93) arrives in Puerto Princesa (Palawan – Philippines) to participate in Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Philippines 2011. CARAT is a series of bilateral exercises held annually in Southeast Asia to strengthen relationships and enhance force readiness Photo: US Navy

SHIPYARD NEWS



Hyundai Samho to Build Three Boxships for HI Investment

South Korea's Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries has received an order from HI Investment & Securities to build three box ships of 4,500teu each. The boxships will be constructed at Hyundai Samho and are scheduled for delivery in

2013. After the delivery of the vessels they will be chartered out to Hanjin Shipping for seven years. A local ship fund has financed two out of the three vessels ordered at the South Korean shipyard. Source: Ship-Technology



The SEAWELL seen in drydock at the Damen Shiprepair facilities in Schiedam - Photo: Frans Sanderse (c)

DSME wins \$400m order for LNG carriers

Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co. said on Thursday that it has secured a \$400 million contract for building two liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers (two ships in option) from Angelicoussis Group, Greece and , Yonhap News reported. Under the deal with the Greece company the South Korean shippard will deliver the vessels by the first half of 2014, the company said in a statement. Source: PortNews

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USC to build two warships for Algerian navy

Russia's United Shipbuiding Corporation and state arms exporter Rosoboronexport have signed a deal with Algeria to build two new Tiger class corvettes, the Corporation's head said on Thursday, RIA Novosti reports. The agreement was signed at the International Maritime Defense Show, IMDS-2011, in St. Petersburg.

"We have signed two agreements together with Rosoboronexport to sell two corvettes to Algeria and three light [Molniya missile] corvettes to a former Soviet republic," said USC President Roman Trotsenko. He said the contracts signed at the show so far were worth \$1.3 billion and more contracts were expected before the show closes on July 3. Source: PortNews



The CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE departed from the Meyer Werft in Papenburg for her first sea trails

Photo: Kees de Vries - www.keesdevries.net ©

ROUTE, PORTS & SERVICES





The OCEANIC (PEACE BOAT) seen passing the Panama Canal Photo: Jan Elswijk (c)

Hanjin, Emirates Swap Slots on China-India Loops

Hanjin Shipping and Emirates Shipping plan to swap slots on two of their intra-Asian services in July.Hanjin will start chartering slots of 500 20-foot equivalent units on July 10 Emirates' Hyper Galex service, which will enable it to expand its weekly capacity between China and the Indian subcontinent. In return, Emirates Shipping will be taking the same amount of slots from Hanjin Shipping on its Far East - Middle East Express service. The slot-swap agreement gives Hanjin its second service between the China and the Indian subcontinent in addition to its existing Far East-India Express service. The South Korean liner company said the swap will help it strengthen its market presence in the trade where cargo demand is steadily growing. The Port rotation of Emirates' HGX service is: Qingdao, Shanghai, Ningbo, Xiamen, Hong Kong, Da Chan Bay, Singapore, Port Kelang, -Nhava Sheva, Pipavav, Karachi, Singapore, Hong Kong and back to Qingdao. The port rotations of Hanjin's FIX service is: Qingdao, Ulsan, Busan, Kwangyang, Shanghai, Ningbo, Yantian, Singapore, Nhava Sheva, Penang, Singapore and back to Qingdao. Source: The Journal of Commerce



The CLIPPER GOLFITO seen departing from Willemstad (Curacao) – Photo: Kees Bustraan (c)

First of RAstar class design joins IRSHAD fleet

IRSHAD, a joint venture between ADNOC and Lamnalco, took delivery of its latest high-performance terminal support/escort tug from Spain's Astilleros Balenciaga SA. The **Alaryam** is the latest delivery of the RAstar Class true escort tug designs from Vancouver-based Robert Allan Ltd., Naval Architects, but in actual fact the tug was the first of the RAstar series ever designed. The design was the subject of an extensive series of model testing to prove the concept.

The RAstar 3600 Class vessel was designed to perform a wide variety of tasks, including ship-handling, LNG and Oil tanker escort, fire-fighting and oil spill response/recovery duties. The hull form ensures the highest standards of both escort towing capability and superior sea-keeping in the heavy sea conditions encountered in these operations. The 35.8 m Alaryam is classed for unrestricted duty and was built to Lloyd's Register of Shipping Class: 100 A1 Escort Tug, Fire-Fighting Ship 1 (2,400 m3/hour), Occasional Oil Recovery Duties LMC, UMS, EP, MCM, and in full compliance with SOLAS and International Loadline regulations.



The tug's propulsion system includes a pair of Wärtsilä 8L26 diesel engines, each rated 2,600 kW at 1,000 rev/min, and each driving a Wärtsilä model CS275 controllable pitch Z-drive unit. The propulsion system recorded a Bollard Pull of 84 tonnes and a free-running speed of 14.7 knots.

The Alaryam is well-equipped for its various towing and escort duties: the fore deck is fitted for typical ship-handling and escort work, with a Karmoy double-drum hawser winch, Karmoy tow-pins and Karmoy anchor windlasses. The winch features a towline render / recover system for escort operations and has capacity for 200 and 150 metres of 76 mm

diameter high strength towline. The aft deck is fitted with a 100 tonne SWL towing bitt and Mampaey towing hook. Also fitted are a 10 tonne capstan, and a hydraulic knuckle-boom deck crane of 15 tonne-metre capacity. The Alaryam is outfitted to the highest standards for an operating crew of up to twelve (12) persons. Facilities on board include spacious crew rooms for the full complement in two (2) single cabins, each with individual en-suite toilet and shower facilities, and five (5) spacious double cabins. Public spaces include a generous combined lounge/mess area and a fully equipped and modern galley. In common with the majority of Robert Allan Ltd. designed tugs, a great deal of attention was paid throughout the design process to mitigate the propagation of noise and vibration. This includes the essential resilient mounting of the main engines, isolation of all exhaust system components, and the extensive use of visco-elastic floating floor systems throughout. Source: MarineLog

Japan: Ulstein Scores Record Contract with MHI for Delivery of ULSTEIN COM

Ulstein Power & Control AS has secured a record contract with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' yard in Nagasaki, Japan for the delivery of the communication and infotainment system ULSTEIN COM. The contract is for the delivery of two, plus an optional two, ULSTEIN COM® systems to be installed on board Ramform W-Class vessels to be built for Petroleum Geo Services (PGS) at the Nagasaki yard. It is the most comprehensive ULSTEIN COM® contract to date. "The

contract with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' yard in Japan is an important milestone for ULSTEIN COM® and testimony to the quality and performance of the product", says COO Power & Control in Ulstein Group, Gunnar H. Hide. The ULSTEIN COM® scope of delivery is an integrated communication and infotainment system including telephony, redundant PA (Public Address) system, on-demand IPTV (IP based TV), CCTV onto IPTV, as well as battery-less telephony. ULSTEIN will also do commissioning and attend sea trial of the systems at the Mitsubishi yard. Source: Ulstein Group



The NAVION CLIPPER seen in Rio Grande - Photo: Marcelo Vieira (c)

Maersk launch transshipment West Mediterranean-Turkey service

DANISH carrier Maersk is to launch a new transshipment service for West Mediterranean to Turkey to link up Algeciras, Ambarli, Izmir, Izmir, Marsaxlokk, through the deployment of three 2,500 TEU ships. The service launches following the removal of Gioia Tauro from its Asia/Europe services to include (ME-3) which will now call at Mersin, reports Parisbased maritime consultant Alphaliner. It will transship Asian containers bound for East Mediterranean by Suez Canal route and central Med at CMA CGM's Malta terminal. The service will use the following port rotation of Port Said, Mersin, Ambarli, Port Said, Jebel Ali, Pipavav, Nhava Sheva, Jebel Ali, Salalah, Port Said. Source: Schednet



The **NEVERLAND STAR** made its first visit to a European port when she came to the Clyde this week with a cargo of crude oil. **Photo: Tommy Bryceland, SCOTLAND**

Stena Line buoyant with new routes clearance

Ferry company Stena Line has expressed its delight at tannouncement that its acquisition of the DFDS routes from Belfast to Liverpool (Birkenhead) and Belfast to Heysham has been fully approved by the Competition Commission.

The acquisition, which amounts to approximately £40M investment, will enable Stena Line to improve its service on the Irish Sea by offering several different alternatives for transportation between Northern Ireland and Great Britain and will improve service and frequency for freight and passengers. Irish Sea area director Michael McGrath said: "We are naturally delighted to have been given the green light by the UK Competition Commission and will now engage in a process of evaluation and integration in terms of the wider Stena Line business. We have always believed that the DFDS acquisition would make a perfect fit for our business and our customers and we are looking forward to implementing our extended route network on the Irish Sea. We believe that the acquisition also strengthens Belfast as a key transport hub within our route network for both freight and tourism traffic."

As part of the deal Stena Line will also acquire four ships from DFDS which will include the chartered Lagan Seaways and Mersey Seaways on the Belfast-Liverpool route and the freight carriers Scotia Seaways and Hibernia Seaways. This will bring the number of Stena Line routes on the Irish Sea to six, adding to the existing Stranraer-Belfast, Holyhead-Dublin, Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire and Fishquard-Rosslare routes.



Iskes BRENT seen departing from Ijmuiden bound for Harwich - Photo : Marcel Coster ©

Murmansk Shipping eyes acquisition of a 35,000dwt bulker

JSC Murmansk Shipping Company (MSCO) plans to purchase a bulk cargo carrier with deadweight of up to 35,000 tons, the company's press office said. On Wednesday, June 29, MSCO's Board at a regular meeting reviewed a number of issues related to the company's fleet upgrade program and streamlining of non-core assets. No details were disclosed. JSC Murmansk Shipping Company (MSCO) is an integrated corporate structure, which comprises the fleet of three Russian operators: JSC Murmansk Shipping Company, JSC Northern Shipping Company, JSC Northern River

Shipping Company with a total deadweight of about 1.2 million tons. The share of the Russian Federation in the authorized capital of MSCO is 25.5%. Source: PortNews



During the past two months Svitzer Towage (Australian Division) has switch some tugs normally located at Western Port, Melbourne and Geelong Victoria within the ports. GABO 396 Grt 1982 had served most of her career in Melbourne, although von occasion had operated as spare tug at both Geelong and Western Port. Following major docking at Launceston Tasmania briefly returned to Melbourne for fender adjustment to suit Western Port conditions. Photographs taken off the tug COOMA departing Stony Point Jetty Western Port 22 June 2011 Photo: W (Bill) Barber (c)



The 2000 built SINGELGRACHT seen in the IJMuiden locks enroute Amsterdam - Photo: H.Blomvliet (c)

NOL opens new Qingdao box shop early with the APL Dubai first to call

SINGAPORE's Neptune Orient Lines has announced the earlier-than-scheduled opening of its joint venture container terminal at the Qingdao port with the arrival of the 6,574-TEU **APL Dubai** on APL's west Asia express service. This terminal is operated by Qingdao Qianwan United Container Terminal (QQCTU), a joint venture formed in May between NOL and China-based logistics company SITC.

Initially designed to handle an annual capacity of 1.5 million TEU, NOL said the terminal will primarily serve vessels operated by its container shipping unit APL and SITC. According to a NOL statement, the terminal is equipped with sophisticated handling equipment including seven post-Panamax ship-to-shore cranes and 16 rail-mounted yard gantry cranes.

"We are happy that we can commence operations earlier than planned and we thank our partners for making this possible," said APL north Asia president Kenneth Glenn. "This facility will provide great value to our customers' supply chains through improved schedule reliability, higher service levels and access to terminal capacity." APL, NOL's container shipping arm, makes more than 200 port calls annually at Qingdao, linking the city and Shandong province, as well as its neighbouring provinces to international services. Said Mr Glenn: "This container terminal shows that APL is here for the long run. We are committed to Qingdao's long-term growth and the development of North China's economy." Qingdao, on the Yellow Sea coast, is China's fifth-largest container port and the largest in northern China. Source: Schednet



The SMS tug WELSHMAN seen departing from Felixstowe - Photo: Andrew Moors ©

Swire Oilfield Services launches new modular division

Swire Oilfield Services, the leading global provider of offshore cargo carrying units and associated services has officially launched a new global division, Swire Modular Systems. The company recently announced a £50 million investment in

additional fleet units and has formed this new division to offer the benefits of Modular Systems to customers at any location around the world.

Swire has been a leading provider of specialist, custom designed control cabins, workshops, office modules, winch and ROV modules and refrigeration units in Norway for over 20 years. The expertise in design and manufacturing has resulted in customers transferring Swire Modular Systems to all corners of the globe. To ensure that Swire Modular Systems meet the specific requirements of UK customers, a new team has been set up creating six new jobs in Aberdeen to support the UK sector. Led by Reinhardt Schoeman, product line manager Modular Systems UK, this team enables Swire to either design a new bespoke system to a customer's specification or tailor a proven design to ensure it meets customers' needs. These modular systems can either be bought or leased depending on the project requirements.

Areas of expertise, taken from Swire's extensive multi-national knowledge, have been combined to provide customers with a comprehensive product offering. With extensive specialist cabins knowledge taken from Norway, helicopter refuelling systems from the UK and Australia, and pump and filtration expertise from its North American and Australian operations, Swire has developed an all round effective product.

Head of the new division, Arild Sivertsen is very clear on his vision: "We already have an excellent reputation as a provider of high quality modular systems in the Norwegian sector. By combining this with the global reputation and capability of Swire Oilfield Services we are ideally placed to offer these systems to all offshore operators, anywhere in the world. "As safety standards improve, technical requirements become more sophisticated and working environments made more efficient, Swire Modular Systems will be a key part of the overall solution to maximise offshore productivity and minimise project cost."



The **BREUGHEL** seen fitting out at the IHC-MERWEDE premises in Krimpen aan de Ijssel

Photo: Frans Sanderse (c)

2 Mexican ports are off list for cruise line

Security concerns have caused one cruise line to cancel upcoming calls at two popular ports on Mexico's Pacific Coast. But local travel agents said that Mexico's tourist areas continue to provide a secure spot for a vacation at a great price.

"As the safety and security of our passengers and crew is our highest priority, and based on the continued violence in these areas, we've made the decision to cancel our calls to Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan," Karen Candy, a spokeswoman for Princess Cruises, said in an email to The Dispatch. Other cruise lines have also eliminated stops in Mazatlan, but Princess is the first to end visits to Puerto Vallarta. So is Mexico too dangerous to visit? Not at all, said local travel agents. "I don't understand the cruise line's thinking on this," said Mary Stephan of Allons Travel in Powell. No other cruise line has canceled stops in Puerto Vallarta, she noted. "I've taken my children to resorts there, and I

would again," she said. Mexico is a huge country, she said, and the areas that have experienced violence recently are mostly along the U.S. border, hundreds or even thousands of miles from the tourist hot spots.

The U.S. State Department regularly issues travel warnings for Americans traveling abroad. The last travel warning for Mexico was issued on April 22, said Andy Laine, a State Department spokesman. The travel warning cites violence along the U.S.-Mexico border and advises tourists to avoid several border cities including Ciudad Juarez and Nuevo Laredo. The alert notes that almost 35,000 people have been killed in narcotics-related violence in Mexico since December 2006. But it also notes that more than 150,000 U.S. citizens cross the border to Mexico every day for business or tourism. "Resort areas and tourist destinations in Mexico generally do not see the levels of drug-related violence and crime reported in the border region and in areas along major (drug) trafficking routes," the alert notes. The alert also notes crime and violence in other parts of Mexico, including Mazatlan and the state of Jalisco, home to Puerto Vallarta.

More than 300 narcotics-related murders occurred in Mazatlan in 2010, according to the State Department. Visitors "are encouraged to visit Mazatlan during daylight hours and limit the time (they) spend outside tourist centers" there. Official U.S. government employees are prohibited from traveling to the cities of Colotlan and Yahualica in the Mexican state of Jalisco. But the travel warning notes that most of the violence in Jalisco is concentrated in areas of the state far removed from Puerto Vallarta. "We always encourage travelers to do their homework before they travel," Laine said. Laine said he didn't know of any new advisory planned for Mexico. "If new concerns were to arise, we'd take appropriate steps to update the travel warnings as soon as possible," he said. Avoiding the entire country of Mexico because of violence in places such as Ciudad Juarez would be like avoiding the United States because of violence in New York City or Philadelphia, said Fred Kerner of Grandview Travel.

"Occasionally we'll get a client who says, 'We'll go anywhere all-inclusive but Mexico,'" Kerner said. Kerner said he tries to put Mexican violence into perspective for customers. "Sometimes our explanation satisfies them." But sometimes it takes a bargain to erase the fear - and for travelers looking for sunny, all-inclusive beach resorts, "Mexico always prices out the best," Kerner said. Source: THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

MARITIME ARTIST CORNER



Hallo zoutwaterliefhebbers, boven **Frans Romeijnsen** nieuwste schilderij, de eerste van 3 stuks, via diverse schetsen heeft de Marokkaanse admiraal en 1 van de commanders de schets uitgezocht waaruit dit schilderij te voorschijn kwam, met zijn schip, de 613 als blikvanger en de moskee van Cassablanca moest er ook op als achtergrond www.galeriemarkant.nl

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.... PHOTO OF THE DAY



The ISA seen in action near the TSHD Shoalway - Photo : Crew Shoalway ©