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Grimaldi's **EUROCARO VENEZIA** entering the Grand harbour in Malta port – Photo : Gaetano Spiteri.(c)



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## EVENTS, INCIDENTS & OPERATIONS

# Snowstorm forces Turkish straits to close

A snowstorm that sharply reduced visibility in Turkey's Bosphorus Strait forced maritime authorities to shut the key shipping channel on Tuesday, shipping agent GAC said. Traffic for all northbound and southbound vessels was suspended at 11:45 a.m. (0945 GMT) because of the poor visibility, GAC said in an email. It was the second day of intermittent closures.

The snowstorm also prompted flag carrier Turkish Airlines to cancel 76 flights scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, after cancelling dozens of flights on Monday due to the weather, according to its website.

GAC said the Dardanelles Strait at the other end of the Sea of Marmara remained open to tanker traffic.

The Bosphorus and Dardanelles are the only maritime outlet for oil, grain and other commodities from Russia and other Black Sea countries. Poor weather frequently forces their closure in winter.

Each year, some 10,000 vessels carrying 150 million tonnes of oil and petroleum products pass through the straits.

Source: Reuters



The **ULTRA ROCANVILLE** in Rio Grande – Photo : Marcelo Vieira ©

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## Shipping Ministry to award 25 projects worth Rs 11,000 cr by March-end

The Indian shipping ministry will award 25 projects worth Rs 11,000 crore by the end of the current fiscal, a move that is expected to increase cargo-handling capacity at ports by 250 million tonne. The decision follows Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's instruction to the ministry a month ago that capacity expansion should be fast-tracked.

Ports in the country have been plagued by capacity shortage largely due to security clearance issues, which discourage private sector participation. "The ministry has set a target of awarding 42 projects in 2013. We have already awarded 17 and will now complete 25 projects by March, increasing the total capacity across ports by 250 million tonne," Pradeep Sinha, secretary in the shipping ministry, said. Construction of a mega container terminal in Chennai and a second dock at the Haldia port are among the projects that will be awarded. The ministry has also decided not to pursue the Port Regulatory Authority Bill largely due to opposition from various state governments and minor Ports.

The Bill aimed to regulate all ports in the country, including the mushrooming private ports that are currently free to fix tariffs. The ministry, which has not awarded any major projects in the last two years, has also written to the ministry of finance to revive a subsidy given to the shipbuilding industry.

"We have made a recommendation to the ministry of finance to revive the subsidy given to the shipbuilding sector. We have asked the ministry to give 15% subsidy and, in addition, we are also seeking infrastructure status for the sector," Sinha said.

The ministry has also given in-principle approval to the deregulation of the tariff mechanism. Currently, port tariffs are fixed by the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), a government-controlled body that often finds itself at loggerheads with port operators over rates. "For future projects, the ministry has decided that the tariff be market regulated and not decided by TAMP," Sinha said. "As far as existing projects where TAMP is involved, the ministry will look at it on an individual basis."

In February last year, TAMP had reduced the tariff at two terminals at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, quashing a demand for an increase in rates. Meanwhile, the finance ministry has approved a plan by JNPT, Dredging Corporation of India and Ennore Port to tap the bond market by February to fund their capital expenditure plans. Last month, streamlining the security clearance mechanism for companies participating in port projects, the ministry had said that a clearance once received would be valid for three years.

"The ministry has also taken measures to reduce the time taken for the projects and has streamlined security clearance procedures and is constantly monitoring various projects," Union Shipping Minister GK Vasan said. In a follow up, the ministry has forwarded to the home affairs department a request by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone to revalidate the security clearance it has received earlier for a port project in Chennai.

In a separate development, JNPT has agreed to give a no-objection certificate to the Mumbai Trans-harbour Link. Earlier, it had opposed its construction saying it would come in the way of the proposed fifth container source  
*ndiatimes*



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The **CBO CHIARA** operating in the Malim field (Brazil) photo : [Capt. Jan Plug](#) ©



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The **Christian Esberger** at the Westerscheldt River – Photo : Willem Kruit ©

## NWE-USAC clean tanker rates rise to 12-month high on US gasoline demand

Spot freight rates for medium-range clean tankers on the Northwest Europe to US Atlantic Coast route have risen to their highest in more than a year on rising gasoline demand from the US, according to sources and Platts data Tuesday.

Freight rates to send a 37,000 mt clean cargo on a typical Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp to New York Harbor route rose to \$30.14/mt at Monday's close, which represents a \$7.19/mt climb in rates since January 2. According to Platts data, the last time rates were higher was on January 3 2012 when they reached \$31.50/mt.

Shipping sources said Tuesday that they pegged freight rates at \$31.00/mt in the European morning Tuesday, equivalent to Worldscale 180.

"Rates have climbed on a supply and demand imbalance. Demand for sending barrels across the pond has been high; and what I found a bit strange this time is that some charterers waited for the market to calm down. They underestimated the market and then suddenly someone goes and gets caught out.

"So then the sentiment is just very bullish from the owners, plus more cargoes are popping out of the woodwork, and the market moves up," said an NWE-based shipbroker.

Sources reported at least 12 fixtures on subjects of fully fixed for NWE-USAC routes loading in the next seven to 10 days. While at least six to seven gasoline cargoes were reported to be waiting to be covered by vessels for loading dates in the next seven days.

The key factor for higher freight costs is US demand for US specification gasoline cargoes. Gasoline traders had rushed to seize an arbitrage opportunity which emerged in late December until late last week. US REFINERY MAINTENANCE

A key factor for rising US demand for European produced gasoline was a heavy US refinery maintenance schedule for January, a trader said. "I have seen 225,000 mt of gasoline looking for shipping which will depart Northwest Europe for the US by January 20, with an additional 75,000 mt fixed for the US with options, so this could swing to South American destinations," he added.

The NWE-USAC gasoline arbitrage had closed late last week, but the trader said some of the vessel stems that had appeared on market Monday could have been fixed earlier. "I think the arbitrage is closed currently, perhaps a few of the vessel stems we saw come out last Monday to go to the US had been sold a day or so earlier," the trader said. "Source: Platts



The Damen built **DEFENDER I** passing the breediep durin trials. Photo: Gerrit Jan Postma ©

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## Boskalis in all-cash deal for Dockwise

**Royal Boskalis Westminster N.V.**, which operates a fleet of more than 1,100 vessels worldwide in a wide range of services, has confirmed that it will make an all-cash voluntary public offer for all the issued and outstanding ordinary shares of leading marine contractor **Dockwise Ltd.** at a price of EUR 18.50 per share cum dividend. The offer values Dockwise at EUR 733 million with an enterprise value of approximately EUR 1.25 billion.



**Boskalis** says it will finance its offer and refinance existing facilities through a mix of existing cash resources, new senior debt facilities and an equity issuance. Boskalis confirms that it has taken reasonable measures to ensure that it will be able to finance the equity part of its offer and that it has secured EUR 1.3 billion of committed financing arrangements with tenors of up to 5 years. The combination of the committed debt financing and the intended issue of new equity will be used to finance the offer and for general corporate purposes.

In respect of the equity issue, Boskalis has convened an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders to take place on January 10, 2013 to request the shareholders to authorize the Board of Management, subject to the approval of the Supervisory Board, to issue new Boskalis shares up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the number of ordinary shares currently issued.

In addition to the proceeds of the equity offering and the existing cash resources, the financing will comprise a combination of 3- and 5-year bank facilities and a 1-year bridge facility for a combined total amount of EUR 1.3 billion. The financing has been arranged with a group of banks comprising ABN AMRO Bank, ING Bank, Rabobank and The Royal Bank of Scotland.

In line with regulatory requirements, **Boskalis** will submit a request for approval of its offer document to the Oslo Stock Exchange and the Netherlands Authority for the Financial markets. The Offer Document is expected to be published and the offer is expected to commence in the week of the January 21, 2013.

Through its various units, **Royal Boskalis Westminster** provides dredging, maritime construction, offshore energy support, heavy lift and subsea services, towage and salvage services.[sourcemarinelog](http://sourcemarinelog)



Last Monday afternoon the **UNION BOXER** arrived in RotterdamHeyplaat) with the **VIKINGBARGE 5** the transport was assisted by the tugs **GEPKE III** and **EN AVANT 21**. Photo : Jan Oosterboer ©

## CASUALTY REPORTING

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## Tanker hits San Francisco bridge

An oil ship has hit a tower of the San Francisco Bay Bridge but did not appear to spill any oil into the bay.

The 750-foot-long **Overseas Reymar**, sailing under a Marshall Islands flag, was empty except for water that was used as ballast, US Coast Guard Lieutenant Heather Lampert said.



The tanker was about eight kilometres from the Golden Gate Bridge, where the San Francisco Bay opens into the Pacific Ocean. None of the channels or ports in the San Francisco Bay were listed as shut, according to the Coast Guard's website.

California Department of Transportation inspectors were sent to check for damage to the Bay Bridge, which links San Francisco and Oakland.

The tanker struck a fender at the foot of a support tower in the bridge's western span.

"The fender took the hit like it's supposed to," said Randy Rentschler, director of public affairs at the California Metropolitan Transportation Commission. He said the collision did not appear to have caused any significant damage to the bridge.

In 2007, the tanker **Cosco Busan** spilled more than 200,000 liters of heavy fuel oil after striking the Bay Bridge in heavy fog. Source : [stuff.co.nz](http://stuff.co.nz)



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## NAVY NEWS

Indian Coast Guard Ship '**ICGS-Rajkamal**', the fourth in the series of eight Inshore Patrol Vessels (IPVs) designed and built by M/s **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers**, Kolkata, was commissioned in Chennai anuaryby Minister of State for Defence Jitendra Singh. The 50-meter indigenous IPV displaces 300 tonnes and can achieve a maximum speed of 34 knots, with an endurance of 1500 nautical miles at an economical speed of 16 knots.

Equipped with state-of-the-art weaponry and advanced communication and navigational equipment, it makes an ideal platform for undertaking multifarious close-coast missions such as surveillance, interdiction, Search and Rescue, and medical evacuation.

The special features of the ship include an Integrated Bridge Management System (IBMS), Integrated Machinery Control System (IMCS) and an integrated gun mount with indigenous Fire Control system (FCS).



ICGS 'Rajkamal', literally meaning 'Royal Lotus' will be based at Chennai and will be under the administrative and operational control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (East). The ship is commanded by Commandant Ravindra Kumar and has a crew of five officers and thirty enrolled personnel.



The ship will enhance the Indian Coast Guard's capability to undertake operations to further Maritime Safety and Security and Coastal Security on the Eastern Seaboard. With the commissioning of **ICGS Rajkamal**, the force level of ICG has gone up to 77 ships and boats and with the planned inductions the force level would be doubling by 2018.

Vice Admiral MP Muralidharan, Director General Indian Coast Guard, Inspector General SP Sharma, Commander Coast Guard Region (East) and other senior dignitaries of the Central and State Govt were present during the commissioning ceremony. (ANI)source : [NewstrackIndia](#)

## DANISH CORVETTES FOR SCRAP

The Danish corvettes **Niels Juel**, **Olfert Fischer** and **Peter Tordenskiold** are going to be scrapped at **Lindoe, Odense** by the danish company HJ Hansen. The last of the corvettes, built at **Aalborg Shipyard** in the years 1978-80, was taken out of active service in August 2009.



The corvettes are 84 meters long and 10 meters wide.

They are build of an iron/aluminum superstructure. Each vessel weights about 1,100 tons. The scrapping will take about 1 month, and the work will be carried out in a environmental way. 95 percent of the vessels will be recovered. The iron and metals can be used in the production of new products.

H.J. Hansen expects to receive the vessels at Lindoe during January.

Left : Niels Juel pictured docking at the former Fredericia Skibsværft on November 13, 2008

H.J. Hansen actively working to utilize the facilities at Lindoe and the opportunities it offers to lift larger and more complex dismatling work in the maritime sector.

The company have especially focus on Shipbreaking and recycling of drilling rigs, which are areas with high demands on technology, construction and environmental issues.

In 1990-1991the**Olfert Fischer**was deployed to the

Persian Gulf during the first Gulf War.

Photo / text BentMikelsen - [www.shipgaz.com](http://www.shipgaz.com)(c)

### 3 Chinese navy ships visit Vietnam

Three Chinese navy ships returning from counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden have docked at south Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, kicking off a five-day good-will visit on Monday. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy ships belonging to the 12nd Escort Task Group were warmly received by representatives from Vietnamese army and government, the Chinese embassy in Vietnam and consulate general in Ho Chi Minh City as well as local Chinese institutions and companies.

The escort task group is composed of missile frigates **CNS Yi Yang** and **CNS Chang Zhou** and comprehensive replenishment ship **CNS Qian Dao Hu**. The fleet, led by Rear Admiral Zhou Ximing and joined by over 790 PLA Navy officers and men, had left China in July, 2012, and visited Sydney of Australia in December after fulfilling the escort mission.

Zhou Ximing, on behalf of the escort task group, briefed Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Kong Xuanyou and other visitors to the ships on their counter-piracy and escort mission. According to the schedule, the Chinese PLA Navy visiting group will hold various activities jointly with their Vietnamese counterparts, as to increase bilateral communication and understanding, while Zhou Ximing and his commanding team are to visit and hold talks with Vietnamese government and senior military officials including Rear Admiral Pham Van Hong, Deputy Staff Chief of Vietnamese Navy.

Navy fleets escorting commercial vessels in the Indian Ocean have successfully accomplished their international missions over the last four years, the PLA Naval Headquarters has said on Dec. 25, 2012. Chinese Navy has increased its ability to conduct off-shore military maneuvers, with a total of 34 warships, 28 helicopters and over 10,000 officers and sailors participating in ocean-going missions since Dec. 26, 2008, when Chinese navy ships began conducting escort missions in the Indian Ocean. Since then, they have escorted over 5,000 Chinese and foreign civilian vessels, half of which belonged to foreign owners including Vietnamese. **Source xinhua**

## SHIPYARD NEWS

### Union leader claims Rosyth shipyard would be 'sacrificed' by SNP plans

**THE SNP has not spoken to workers at Rosyth shipyard about its independence plans for five years, a union leader has claimed.**

Workers at Rosyth shipyard believe independence would be "catastrophic" for the 1,700 staff on-site, industrial trade union chairman Raymond Duguid said. However, Mr Duguid said they have not seen the SNP since party defence spokesman Angus Robertson came five years ago. Better Together pro-UK campaign chairman Alistair Darling visited the site as part of a "listening tour" of Scotland, which also took in businesses and farmers in Edinburgh and Tranent, in East Lothian. Mr Duguid believes Rosyth would be "sacrificed" in favour of Faslane Naval base on the Clyde.

He said: "As the trade unions in the yard, we have got a fear that if independence was to go through it would be quite catastrophic.

"The foundation of our work is refitting Royal Navy ships and building these two carriers and without these foundations we couldn't support the core workforce that we have got. A Scottish Navy wouldn't be able to support that.

"Funnily enough, the SNP has not come forward to speak to us. They've never asked to speak to us yet. They've not taken on board our views." Mr Duguid added: "The trade unions network with each other and we have listened to the shop steward on the Clyde, who said he has been told by Angus that everything will go to them. "Faslane will be fine but if everything goes to Faslane, there is nothing for Rosyth, so we are the sacrifice. "Our people need jobs. If Faslane closes it's not like we can go work for Amazon or sit watching a wind turbine go round and round."

However, Mr Roberts said: "The SNP and the Scottish Government have regularly and recently met trade unions working in the defence sector and look forward to the positive contribution that can be made towards the Scottish Government's white paper on independence. "Mr Duguid is a leading activist in the anti-independence 'No' campaign. However, if he has any genuine and specific proposals to optimise the defence sector in a sovereign Scotland I look forward to receiving them. Source : The courier

## Trinity Shipyard delivers Lady Sura superyacht

US-based custom superyacht builder [Trinity Shipyard](#) has delivered the 50 metre tri-deck custom built [Lady Sura](#), following her successful sea trials in December 2012.



To offer a relaxing experience on the lower level and panoramic views on the upper level, the [Lady Sura](#) yacht features a full beam two-level master suite on the main deck with forward panoramic viewing windows.

It features four guest staterooms that are located below and one VIP guest stateroom on the 01 deck. Rich in Anigre, mahogany and harmonising burl

finishes, the interior is designed by the US-based custom superyacht interior designer Patrick Knowles Yacht Design. To provide maximum access to outdoor living and world-class views to the guests, [Lady Sura](#) features a sky lounge. Her flybridge features a hot tub, numerous sunpads and lounge seating aft. It also includes a large tender garage aft, which provides ample storage for the tender, jet skis and water toys.

A custom built yacht, [Lady Sura](#) featuring the most up-to-date technologies available, has been delivered to provide a luxury cruising experience to the guests. source : World Interior Design Network

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## DUTCHMEET DUTCH IN BATAM





The Dutch flagged **MOMENTUM SCAN** arriving in Batam (PTMI), as seen from Fairstars **HLV FJELL**, which has loaded several modules in Batam for her next project **photo : Martin de Klerk ©**



The **SELANDIA SEAWAYS** passing Hoek van Holland enroute Vlaardingen. **Photo : Frans de Lijster ©**

# World's largest man-made port welcomes world's largest container ship

DP World's flagship Jebel Ali Port, the largest man-made port in the world, on Monday 07 January, celebrates the maiden visit of the world's largest containership, **CMA CGM Marco Polo**, owned by the **CMA CGM Group**. This milestone reinforces Dubai's and the port's role as a regional gateway for the new generation of mega liner vessels.

The 16,020 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent container units) capacity vessel was welcomed by DP World officials and a commemorative plaque marking the occasion was presented by Mohammed Al Muallem, Senior Vice President and Managing Director, DP World, UAE Region, to Captain Igor Sikic, representing the French shipping line owner CMA CGM.

Mohammed Al Muallem, Senior Vice President and Managing Director, DP World, UAE Region, said, "We are delighted to welcome the Marco Polo to Jebel Ali. The vessel's arrival heralds a new era of mega container liners. We stand ready to serve these giants and the even larger vessels currently under construction. Already today Jebel Ali Port is handling an average per week of three ultra-large container ships (ULCS) with a capacity of 14,000 TEU and above, and we anticipate that number will increase steadily in coming years."

Nicolas Sartini, CMA CGM Group Senior Vice President Asia-Europe Lines, said, "It is a great pride for the CMA CGM Group to have launched this new vessel, which is the largest in the world. It shows the expertise of the Group's teams, who are able to handle not only the very technical piloting of the ship but also its commercial operations. The introduction of this new 16,000 TEU vessel on the Europe to Middle East route reinforces CMA CGM willingness to bring the best into this market. CMA CGM would like to thank Dubai and DP World who made it possible for the world's largest container vessel, the CMA CGM MARCO POLO to call in Jebel Ali."

Mohammed Ali Ahmed, Chief Operating Officer, DP World UAE Region, said, "Jebel Ali Port is today equipped with a total of 22 berths and 78 cranes to serve containerships of any size currently in existence and on the order book. And we are adding new capacity including the brand new \$850m Container Terminal 3 set to open in 2014. The developments mean Jebel Ali Port will be able to handle ten of the next generation 18,000 TEU mega vessels at the same time."

Marco Polo, the first in a series of three to be named after great explorers, measures 396 metres in length and 54 metres in width, and boasts a draft of 16 metres.

Sailing under the UK flag, the ocean carrier is on its way back to China after setting sail for Europe from Ningbo on 07 November 2012.

In December 2012, DP World Southampton received the **CMA CGM Marco Polo**, in its European maiden call.

Source: DP World



08-01-2013 The Italian tug " **Giuseppe Cosentino** ", seen arriving at Valletta. Photo : Gaetano Spiteri ©



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The **AUTOSTAR** at the River Seine Photo Fabien Montreuil ©

## McDermott and Ocean Installer join forces in North Sea

Norwegian subsea company **Ocean Installer** and US-based **McDermott** have established an exclusive alliance to jointly meet customers' rigid pipelay needs in the North Sea. The alliance marks McDermott's re-entry into the North Sea.

"We are very pleased that McDermott has chosen Ocean Installer as its partner for the development of rigid pipelay solutions in the North Sea and we look forward to advancing our capabilities further together. Not only is this arrangement beneficial to our two companies, it brings about increased supply and dynamic competition, showing how companies can work together to address growing needs in the market," said Steinar Riise, Chief Executive Officer of Ocean Installer.

"With our expanding portfolio of deepwater subsea projects primarily in Asia Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico, we look forward to working together with Ocean Installer to pursue subsea installation projects that support the continued development of the North Sea and further expansion of Norway's offshore energy reserves," said Stephen M Johnson, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of McDermott.

"This is another step towards McDermott becoming a tier one turnkey subsea engineering, procurement, construction and installation provider," Mr Johnson said.

McDermott continues to expand its subsea resources including a growing fleet of rigid-pipelay vessels such as the lay vessel North Ocean 105, its sister ship lay vessel 108 (expected to be available mid-2014), and recently announced newbuild deepwater combination S-Lay vessel with 2,000 tonne crane, DLV 2000 (which is expected to be available in 2015).

The North Sea subsea, umbilical, riser, flowline S(URF) market is expanding rapidly, noted the companies, and there is a clear need for additional capacity.





The **AZURA** enroute Amsterdam – Photo : Joop Marechal ©

The agreement commits the parties to exclusively pursue and jointly execute rigid pipelay projects in the North Sea and also serves as a framework for a more permanent relationship between the two companies. Source : Offshore News Online

## MARITIME ARTIST CORNER



Tanker passing Hoek van Holland outbound from Rotterdam, the latest watercolour made by **Ronald van Rikxoort**  
[www.artabc.nl](http://www.artabc.nl) ©

## .... PHOTO OF THE DAY ....



In Cape Town Some seals cavorting on a pontoon with the bow of **NAUTICA** looming above, depicting an interesting crest. **Photo: Robert Pabst©**

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