



# QUAYNOTES

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND'S NORTH SEA GATEWAY

## Increasing oil-related activity

Aberdeen Harbour's room to handle more traffic in the offshore oil and gas industry has been demonstrated again, this time by increased activity in the first half of this year.

The number of oil-related vessels calling at the port in the six months to June totalled 2,352, showing a 14% increase on the 2,063 arrivals in the same period in 2003. The tonnage of oil-related shipping was up 17.4% at 5.98 million tonnes, reflecting both the increased numbers and the larger vessels introduced in the industry in recent years.

The wide range of offshore cargo imported and exported across

the quays rose by 27%, to almost 970,000 tonnes.

The trend has continued into the second half of the year, with the oil industry a major contributor to the port setting a record all-sectors monthly shipping total exceeding 2 million gross tonnes for the first time, with 2.03 million gross tonnes recorded in July.

Harbour Board Chief Executive, Barclay Braithwaite, commented: "Operators new to the port, including BP Exploration, have been a key factor in the growth which demonstrates the harbour's continuing capacity to handle both established and new traffic."

### Aberdeen-Azerbaijan shipment

A consignment of casing has been shipped from Aberdeen Harbour to the Caspian Sea via Russia for use in oil field development offshore Azerbaijan.

The Russian-flag vessel, Bratsk, loaded 1,750 tonnes of pipe at Atlantic Wharf before heading for the Caspian Sea via the Baltic and the Russian canal and river system, a route which has been used in recent years and saving 1,700 miles on sailing via the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Gary Archer, Operations Manager, Aberdeen, for broker, Panalpina World Transport, said: "The shipment, which could be the first of a number, is another example of the port's growing role as a marshalling point for the export of oilfield equipment."

A leader in oil industry freight forwarding, logistics and supply chain management, Panalpina's full scope contract with Azerbaijan International Operating Co includes operations at all ports used in mobilising equipment for development of four fields. The Bratsk also carried 465 tonnes of casing loaded in Flushing.

Nor-Cargo acted as ship's agent and stevedores for the Bratsk in Aberdeen.

### ISPS Code in operation

With the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code introduced in July, all port facilities at Aberdeen have had their security plans approved by the Department for Transport's security division, Transec.

Vessel pre-arrival checks have become a standard part of operational procedures and business continues uninterrupted as before.

The Harbour Board and the oil base operators continue to invest in improved security infrastructure around the port, including fences, gates and CCTV cameras.

Port users have been asked to ensure staff and vehicles have identification systems to assist in the checking of visitors. This request has been widely supported and should ensure a smooth transition if a higher level of security was introduced requiring identification to be checked before every entry to the port estate.

Operations Director and Harbour Master, Captain Colin Parker, said: "All port users on land and water are encouraged to remain vigilant at all times and report anything suspicious. Transec will now be carrying out visits to all ports to assess the levels of compliance with the new security regime."

### Offshore industry milestone

This month marked the 40th anniversary of a significant milestone in the development of the offshore oil and gas industry in Aberdeen and of the port's key role in support of its activities.

The first discussions between the Harbour Board and an operator – Shell U.K. Exploration & Production – seeking to establish a service base at the port started on 17 September, 1964. The outcome was the company, as operator on behalf of Shell and Esso, opening a base the following year at Torry where it continues to have a major presence.

Today, the long list of operators which use the port continues to increase, with established and new generation companies adding to the activity.

### Vertec modules for Far East

Following assembly and fitting-out at Telford Dock, two modules, weighing 160 and 200 tonnes respectively, have been shipped to Singapore for installation in a Floating Production, Storage and Offloading vessel which will operate offshore Western Australia.

The variable speed drive halls were designed and manufactured by Vertec Engineering at Dyce under a £2.5 million contract – its biggest yet – awarded by Baker Hughes Centrilift.

# Further support for lifeboat

Aberdeen Harbour Board are continuing support for the RNLI's local station, with a project to replace four pontoons at an access gangway to the Severn Class lifeboat, Bon Accord.

Recent inspection by Board and RNLI staff has showed the pontoons to be holed and corroded in places. Discussions between the RNLI and the Board identified replacement as the only solution, at a cost of around £70,000. Following an approach by the RNLI for assistance, the Board agreed to carry out and fund the entire replacement project for the charity.

Harbour Board Chief Executive, Barclay Braithwaite, commented: "The Board recognise the importance of the RNLI's work and are pleased to make this contribution as part of our long and close relationship with the Institution."

RNLI Operations Director, Michael Vlasto, said: "We are most grateful for this latest example of the Harbour Board's generous support which we have enjoyed over many years. To have had to undertake this pontoon work ourselves would have been a significant drain on our funds."

Maitland Miller, Aberdeen RNLI Operations Manager, said: "Once more the Harbour Board have shown their support for the RNLI in a most practical manner. We are extremely grateful to them for yet another generous gesture."

DMJ Engineering, which earlier this year was awarded a contract to provide pontoons for an adjacent berth for the Board's new pilot cutter, is now fabricating four new pontoons for the lifeboat walkway. It will also transfer fittings, such as decking, fendering and bollards, with the pontoons being installed in mid-October.

## Dales Group new dry dock operator

As part of its expansion plans, the Dales Group has taken over operatorship of the River Dee Ship Repairing dry-dock facility from the A&P Group, enhancing services provided by Dales Marine Services.

The Group and A&P have also entered into a long-term agreement to co-operate in the ship repair market, particularly in Scotland, and Dales is also actively marketing the modern facility on a worldwide basis.

It has been successful in securing contracts from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and a roll-on/roll-off vessel operator and is recruiting extra welders and platers to meet demand. Continuing support from local ship owners and operators and the oil and gas industry should ensure the long-term success of the yard, the company said.

The Harbour Board, which extensively refurbished the dry dock in the 1990s, have reassigned its lease to Dales.

## Sea Shepherd Inspection

The August meeting of Harbour Board members included an inspection of the new pilot cutter, Sea Shepherd, on which they toured the port. The £650,000 vessel has been kept busy since being delivered in early summer.

## Paint work completed

Work has been completed on a Harbour Board contract, valued at almost £100,000 and awarded to Palmers, for the painting of the roll-on/roll-off ferry ramp at Jamiesons Quay, used by NorthLink vessels.

## Visitors

With Aberdeen Harbour attracting an average of around 700 vessels a month, recent visitors – in addition to the many regulars - have included:

- G.O. Sars - one of the world's most advanced research ships. The Norwegian vessel, with two Aberdeen University representatives on board, was en route to Bergen following an expedition to the mid-Atlantic Ridge to study marine life.
- Prince William – the tall ship was on a return visit to the port at the start of another training voyage.
- Bremen – this visitor from over the years became the sixth cruise ship to berth at the port this season.

## Continuing environmental collaboration

Further funding has been secured by Aberdeen University for continuation of a partnership which originated five years ago when the Harbour Board commissioned scientists to collaborate on improving the environmental management of the port.

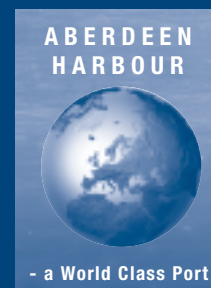
The University has been given a second Government grant, worth almost £106,000, under the Knowledge Transfer Partnership scheme for a further three years' work. The Harbour Board is contributing over £51,000.

Dr Graeme Paton, Senior Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences, said: "We are delighted to have secured this funding which will maintain the harbour as a global leader in environmental quality and allow the University to pass on its expertise."

A wide range of improvements has led to Aberdeen becoming the first port in Scotland and the fourth in Europe to receive the ECOPORTS' Port Environmental Review System certificate status.

Barclay Braithwaite, Harbour Board Chief Executive, added: "Environmental management is extremely important to the Harbour Board in our commitment to operating a world class port and in meeting regulations and the expectations of port users.

"The close working relationship with the University and the successful implementation of a comprehensive environmental management system has seen Aberdeen earn an international reputation as a port industry leader in caring for the environment."



For further information, please contact:

**Barclay Braithwaite**  
Chief Executive  
Aberdeen Harbour Board  
16 Regent Quay  
Aberdeen AB11 5SS

Tel: +44 (0) 1224 597000

Fax: +44 (0) 1224 571507

Email: [info@aberdeen-harbour.co.uk](mailto:info@aberdeen-harbour.co.uk)

[www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk](http://www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk)

