



# QUAYNOTES

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND'S NORTH SEA GATEWAY

## Wider role for training simulator

Aberdeen Harbour Board's state-of-the-art ship's bridge simulator is to be used from October by specialist safety training provider, RGIT Montrose, to deliver OPITO-accredited Command and Control courses for Masters and Mates.

The monthly four-and-half day course is for offshore stand-by safety vessel operators and other sectors of the shipping industry, with the syllabus meeting the onshore training, development and assessment requirements for Command and Control by Masters and Mates of emergency response and rescue vessels.

Gordon Caird, Operations Manager, RGIT Montrose said: "Delegates on the courses will benefit from using sophisticated, real time simulation, providing added value to the training experience."

Harbour Board Operations Director & Harbour Master, Captain Colin Parker, said: "The simulator has already proved its worth in training our own staff. The arrangement with RGIT Montrose is an excellent example of how the simulator can make a wider contribution to developing skills and improving safety of operations in the shipping industry, and we are actively pursuing other opportunities."

The arrangement expands the long established working relationship between the Harbour Board and RGIT Montrose which also provides training from a quayside facility at the port.

The £150,000 simulator is housed at the Board's maintenance facility on Blaikies Quay and will be relocated next year to the port's new Marine Operations Centre at Footdee.

## Busy half-year sets records

Aberdeen Harbour has continued to attract increasing traffic, with the best half-year figures yet.

Cargo reached 2.3 million tonnes in the six months to June, up from 2.2 million tonnes in the same period last year. The trend towards larger vessels - which led to a record tonnage in 2004 for the sixth year in succession - was seen again, with shipping at over 9,987,000 tonnes, up from 9,975,000 tonnes.

Harbour Board Chief Executive, Barclay Braithwaite, commented: "Following the record levels of cargo and shipping in 2004, it is encouraging to see the overall increase continuing this year and that it is again coming from a wide range of traffic."

The offshore industry set a half-year cargo record with 1.02 million tonnes, a rise of around 46,000 tonnes. Commercial traffic, at just over 1 million tonnes, also showed an increase, including grain exports, up more than 20,000 tonnes at almost 53,000 tonnes.

The half-year tonnage of oil-related vessels using Aberdeen, the centre of offshore industry activity, passed 6 million tonnes for the first time.

Passenger numbers continued to rise, by more than 6,000 to 61,328, due mainly to the increase on the daily roll-on/roll-off ferry service between Aberdeen and Orkney and Shetland.

## Vacancies for Board Members

Applications are being sought from candidates with wide and relevant strategic experience at board or committee level to fill three non-executive vacancies for board members at Aberdeen Harbour Board.

Applicants should have a keen interest in the activities and business of the port and, to complement the existing range of expertise on the board, be able to demonstrate professional or personal experience in one or more of the following areas:

- The trade and industry of the North-east of Scotland, preferably with knowledge of freight or maritime transport
- Human resources and industrial relations
- Knowledge and interest in the local and wider community and the economic and social context within which the port operates.

The appointments, for an initial three years from 1 January 2006, will be made on the basis of merit and aptitude in accordance with the Guide to Good Governance for Trust Ports. Members are expected to devote one or two days a month to the work of the board.

The closing date for applications is 12.00 noon, Friday 14 October.

For further information and how to apply, please see [www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk](http://www.aberdeen-harbour.co.uk)

or write to:

Ian Jessiman, Board Secretary  
Aberdeen Harbour Board, 16 Regent Quay,  
Aberdeen, AB11 5SS.

## Northern Star Awards sponsorship

Aberdeen Harbour is a supporting sponsor for this year's Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce *Northern Star Business Awards*. Presented on 29 September, the 10 categories recognise some of the brightest and best in North-east business and public life.

## Strategic property acquisition

Land and properties on Blaikies Quay, including an office building and a number of neighbouring industrial units, have been purchased by the Harbour Board in a £5 million transaction.

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency are principal tenants of the 20,200 sq. ft. Marine House which they occupy along with other maritime-related businesses. Of the seven industrial units acquired, six are currently occupied by a range of firms involved in transport & distribution and engineering and maintenance activities. The vacant unit fronting Commercial Quay is suitable for a variety of activities and is being marketed by the Board.

*"With the properties at the heart of the harbour's busy central area, this is a strategic acquisition representing an investment opportunity and integrating this key location back into the port management systems, thereby helping to facilitate long-term operational improvements,"* said Harbour Board Chief Executive, Barclay Braithwaite.

The acquisition, from Manchester-based Mr Aubrey Weis and Aberdeen Estate Company, of which he is a director, was made with the assistance of Young & Co, Chartered Surveyors, and J & E Shepherd, Aberdeen, as principal property advisors to the Board.

## Improving port safety

The late-September quarterly meeting of the Port Safety Liaison Group is the latest in the series for a cross section of base operators, service companies and regular port users.

Established by the Harbour Board last year following the regional launch in 2003 of the Safer Ports Initiative, the Group have identified and are progressing a number of actions promoting a stronger health and safety culture and further year-on-year improvements in safety and performance.

Harbour Board Health and Safety Advisor, Stephen Wilson, commented: *"The meetings provide an important link between the Board and port users. With the vast network of knowledge and experience amongst group members, the vision is that local health and safety issues pertinent to us all will be tackled."*

## Port Handbook published

The latest edition of the biennial Aberdeen Harbour Port Handbook has been published, with updated details on the continuing development of facilities and services which is ensuring that the harbour meets the evolving requirements of users, present and future. Copies are available from the Harbour Board - email: [info@aberdeen-harbour.co.uk](mailto:info@aberdeen-harbour.co.uk)

## Sea Aberdeen celebration

The city's many links with the sea were celebrated at *Sea Aberdeen*, an afternoon of family entertainment in the beach area, organised by the City Council in conjunction with the RNLI and TS Scylla Sea Cadets, and sponsored by Aberdeen Harbour.

## UAL Aberdeen on West Africa route

The renaming of the latest addition to Universal Africa Lines' fleet has highlighted its commitment to servicing the UK offshore oil and gas industry's activities on the west coast of Africa.

The multi-purpose cargo vessel, UAL Aberdeen, paid her first visit to the port this summer, loading around 2,000 tonnes of oilfield equipment for Lobito, Luanda and Soyo, in Angola.

Ian Shewan, General Manager of Nor-Cargo, the local handling /terminal agent, said: *"The renaming of the vessel to highlight the Aberdeen connection reflects UAL's commitment to servicing the oil industry, and the success in building up traffic on this route with the growing role of the port as a marshalling point for the export of oilfield equipment and supplies."*

With a twice-monthly service, UAL has been calling at Aberdeen since 2000 and servicing the offshore industry in West Africa for 25 years.

## International gateway

Aberdeen's role as an international gateway has included connections to around 40 countries - from Europe to North America, Africa and Asia - over the past 18 months.

Trading links include Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Eire, Equatorial Guinea, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Gabon, Greece, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey and USA.

## Quay dates

Aberdeen Harbour's extensive involvement with the oil and gas industry in the 40 years since the first oil base opened in 1965 has been marked with the publication of a 16-month calendar featuring photographs of the modern port and from over the decades.

The publication coincided with the biennial Offshore Europe exhibition and conference in the city and a Harbour Board reception in the Maritime Museum.

## Northern Maritime Corridor update

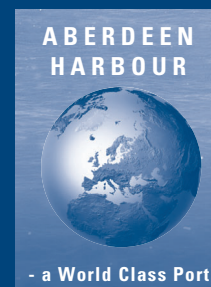
The potential for increased roll-on/roll-off traffic within the Northern Maritime Corridor (NMC) and also for oil-related traffic to be generated as the result of projects in the Barents Sea was highlighted by Harbour Board Operations Director & Harbour Master, Captain Colin Parker, at a recent conference.

His review of North-east ports' experience of the NMC to date also noted that the use of sea transport, especially short sea shipping, has been raised up the political agenda by such initiatives.

*"There is now far greater understanding about ports and shipping in other NMC countries, and the networking has provided a valuable insight into international markets,"* he told delegates at the NMC meeting in Norway.

Captain Parker stressed the need for a level playing field within the Corridor, and called for an end to protectionism.

The NMC project is funded by EU Intereg IIIB programmes and focuses on 20 regions of eight countries in the coastal areas of the North Sea and Northern Periphery. The vision is efficient, safe and sustainable transportation by sea, enhancing regional development. A second phase - NMC II - is being planned.



For further information, please contact:

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