



Increased oilfield exports through hub port

The key role of Aberdeen Harbour as a hub port for the export of oilfield equipment is being demonstrated again by an ongoing series of shipments for the offshore industry in West Africa.

Seletar Shipping Scotland has so far handled seven load-outs of purpose-built subsea equipment on behalf of FMC Kongsberg Subsea, and shipments are anticipated every six weeks for the foreseeable future.

The cargo originates from FMC's manufacturing centres in Norway and Fife and is marshalled at Aberdeen, along with ancillary equipment produced locally, for loading onto chartered vessels.

The highly valuable and sophisticated equipment, principally subsea manifolds and wellheads destined for the ports of Soyo and Luanda in Angola, requires specific handling and loading procedures in excess of general cargo handling.

Seleatar Operations Director, Grant Bruce, explained: *"The facilities at Aberdeen ideally suit our client's requirements, both in terms of available local resources and expertise and the port's location as a convenient hub at the centre of European oil-related activity."*

"We are strengthening our commitment to our clients' West African operations and are aiming to expand activities in this area, utilising Aberdeen as a base port."

Harbour Board Operations Director and Harbour Master, Captain Ray Shaw, said: *"These regular shipments are another excellent example of the port's suitability for the marshalling and export of oilfield equipment, not only from the UK, but also elsewhere in Europe."*

*See Subsea shipment

Rates and charges held again

All Rates and Charges at the port are being held at 2006 levels for the coming year – the eighth time in nine years with no increase in the main charges.

The charges on ships and goods have risen by only 17%, against an increase of 143% in inflation, since the early-1980s.

"The capacity to handle record activity by port users, the investment in modern facilities and the efficient operation of the port, including cost-control, allow the Board to hold charges yet again," explained Harbour Board Chief Executive, Colin Parker.

"The decision also reflects the Board's commitment to ensuring the port's competitiveness and our confidence in the future."

"The Board are continuing to invest in the port as part of the strategy to sustain and expand traffic and to grow the already significant contribution to the economy."

The five-year budget for development and maintenance to 2011 is £40 million, on top of over £150 million invested in recent decades.

Seasons Greetings

Members, management and staff at Aberdeen Harbour Board wish all readers of Quaynotes a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2007!

With the port open as usual for shipping operations, the Board's offices at 16 Regent Quay will be closed on 25 and 26 December and 1 and 2 January.

Cruise ships booked

Five cruise ships are booked to date to call at Aberdeen in 2007, with others expected to be added to the line-up. *Ocean Majesty* is scheduled for 18 May, with the *Island Sky* a week later and again on 12 June. The *Polar Pioneer* is due in port on 21 June and 13 July.

Board members appointed

The Harbour Board have appointed two new members to the board and re-appointed a third for three years from 1 January, 2007. Joining the board are:

Michael Goodlad (38), a property developer and accountant, until recently Finance Director of Cornerstone Community Care. A member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, his experience includes local government, the fishing sector and securing funding for research projects at Aberdeen University. He is also accountant for the family-owned Northern Isles Shipping, Lerwick.

Brian Turnbull (51), Director of Marine Services, BP Exploration. A master mariner, he served at sea between 1971-85 and as marine loadmaster at the Nigg oil terminal, adding responsibility for production and administration. Since 1997, he has been responsible for logistics contracts for BP's UK, Norwegian and Dutch bases. With extensive safety experience, he was founding chairman of the Marine Safety Forum and is currently tasked with setting BP's global marine standards.

Alan Amoore has been re-appointed to the board which he first joined in 2003. A member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, he was in professional practice for over 30 years, latterly with KPMG. He has considerable experience of advising commercial organisations, is convenor of Aberdeen University's audit committee and a member of the University Court, and is involved with business and charitable organisations.

Strong interest was again shown in the vacancies on the board which has nine non-executive members and three executive members.

Traffic growth continues

Traffic at Aberdeen Harbour has grown significantly in recent years, with figures for the first nine months of 2006 showing the tonnage of cargo up more than a million tonnes on the same period three years ago, and the volume of shipping rising by around 3.5 million tonnes in the same timescale.

Between January and September, the port handled a new high of 3.83 million tonnes of cargo, 300,000 tonnes ahead of the same period in 2005.

With 6,422 vessels using the harbour (Jan-Sept 2005 - 6,289) and the trend to larger ships, the volume of shipping rose again, to 17.67 million gross tonnes (Jan-Sept 2005 - 16.02 million gross tonnes).

Harbour Board Chief Executive, Colin Parker, said: *"The first nine-months have seen a continuing strong performance across most sectors.*

"The marked increase in cargo and shipping handled in recent years reflects not only the high level of activity in established areas, but also new traffic, including the growing role as a hub port for shipments of oilfield equipment from Northern Europe to destinations such as West Africa.

"Current and future projects will ensure that there is capacity for further growth."

The port has also made a busy start to the fourth quarter of the year, with a record monthly tonnage of vessels in October. By end of November, the tonnage of shipping using the port this year had passed the level for the twelve months of 2005.

Subsea shipment down under

A complete subsea field development package has been shipped from Aberdeen for use by the offshore industry on the other side of the world, highlighting the port's role in the export of oilfield equipment.

The *Priam* loaded 810 tonnes of equipment at the deep-water Pacific Wharf before heading for Freemantle, Australia. Searoute Port Services were the local agent in Aberdeen for the shipment, with Eagle Global Logistics as the freight forwarder.

"The shipment was another example of the port's growing role and importance to the local economy, backed by continuing expansion of facilities, in support of the UK offshore industry in global markets," commented Harbour Board Chief Executive, Colin Parker.

Refurbished office let

A new tenant has moved into 14 Regent Quay where the Harbour Board recently completed a major refurbishment of 7,200 square feet of office accommodation on five floors.

The modernisation project included installation of air conditioning, improved lighting and networked cabling for telecommunications and IT applications, as well as extensive redecoration throughout, at a cost of £725,000.

C-MAR Group Holdings, a leading global provider of marine and subsea operational, technical and engineering support services, have taken a 10-year lease of the property.

J & E Shepherd were marketing agents for the Harbour Board in the letting. The main contractor for the refurbishment was Richard Irvin & Sons, with sub contracting undertaken by Morrison Construction.

Award for Operations Centre

Aberdeen Harbour's new Marine Operations Centre has taken top honours in the annual Awards and Commendations presented by Aberdeen Civic Society.

The scheme is an important feature of the Society's work, providing encouragement and recognition for those adding to the amenity of the city. Experts from the Society, the City Council's planning and infrastructure service and the Aberdeen Society of Architects compile the list of buildings.

With the state-of-the-art facility operational since September, Harbour Board Engineering Director, Ken Reilly, said: *"The Centre meets our objective to develop an attractive building further improving the efficiency of harbour operations and enhancing the image of the port and city.*

"It is receiving many favourable comments, and everyone involved in the design and construction is to be congratulated."

*The Marine Operations Centre is just one aspect of the port featured in an updated Harbour Board DVD which also highlights other recent developments and the record level of activity.

Copies are available from the Board and the programme can also be viewed on the Board's website.

Barents Sea opportunities

The role of the North-east of Scotland as a centre of excellence for the supply, servicing and manufacture of oil and gas equipment in the development of the natural resources of the Barents Sea was highlighted at a recent oil and gas industry logistics workshop in St Petersburg, organised by the EU-funded Northern Maritime Corridor II initiative.

Presentations were given by Harbour Board Chief Executive, Colin Parker, and senior representatives of Aberdeenshire Council.

The harbour's current operation as a logistics hub was promoted to the Russian government and oil and gas representatives.

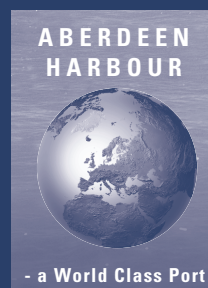
Engineers elect President

Harbour Board Assistant Engineering Director, Jamie Christie, has been appointed to a two-year term of office as President of the Aberdeen Association of Civil Engineers.

The Association's objectives are to promote, encourage and disseminate civil engineering knowledge primarily through meetings and visits and to promote education, training and continuing professional development.

Gallery highly commended

The Aberdeen Harbour Gallery in the city's Maritime Museum has been highly commended in the VisitScotland Northern Lights Tourism Awards. The Gallery was refurbished earlier this year, with the Harbour Board as the main sponsor.



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