

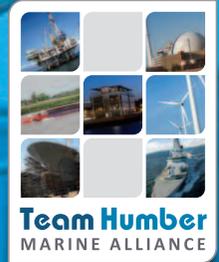
ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2010

# THMAIL

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM TEAM HUMBER MARINE ALLIANCE

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## Small vessel, big impact

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## Wind factor

New business leads  
to slipway investment

## Weighing in

Humber ports still number one

## Making a tanker

Paull firm gets to work

## Safety first

Contract secured with P&O Ferries

# Future's bright

In the realisation of an idea that THMA has considered at steering committee level for many years, the Alliance has now converted into a company limited by guarantee.

This positive development comes with the news that BAe Systems has thrown its significant weight behind the Alliance by becoming a THMA sponsor.

The move to a not-for-profit company status is exciting news for the future of THMA and is something that we had at some time always intended to do. Now is the right time.



There are a number of reasons behind this, but primarily it will open up more funding opportunities and provide us with more independence. Having functioned for 17 years without a Companies House registration, we will now be more masters of our own destiny.

To make it work will take support and energy from all members.

In addition to myself, four other directors have been appointed, industry leaders in their own right, who have committed themselves to help drive the Alliance forward in a

progressive, positive way beneficial to us all.

Team Humber will also be on the move, and we are in the process of deciding where and when we will take up new offices. This change has been forced upon us by the removal of Yorkshire Forward funding for the World Trade Centre Hull & Humber, whose offices we share on Hull's marina.

Fortunately, there are a number of options open to us and we have made expressions of interest to occupy some very good locations. We will make an announcement shortly, but are keen to find the most appropriate base to make a suitable, fitting, long-term home for THMA's bright future.

Once this is finalised we will be even better placed to carry on supporting members with the growth of their business.

## Graham Billany

[graham.billany@thma.co.uk](mailto:graham.billany@thma.co.uk)



## New brochure

The key roles played by THMA members in the commercial shipping and inland waterways sector come into focus in the latest Alliance brochure.

The eight-page publication is now available to promote members' interest in these two important areas.

It has been developed by members in conjunction with Peter Baker, sector champion, and provides an overview of commercial shipping and inland waterways design and construction, repair, maintenance and conversion services.

To obtain a hard copy or a pdf, contact the Team Humber office or Peter directly on 07801 181744, 01472 353532, [peter.baker@square5.co.uk](mailto:peter.baker@square5.co.uk)

## Wind powers on

There has been a lot to shout about in a hectic renewables sector with Team Humber present at a number of major shows.

UK Renewables 32 in Glasgow, November 2-4, saw the Alliance take centre stage with a huge stand attracting attention.

Speaking from the show, Sam Pick, THMA sector champion renewables, said that the industry was upbeat about business following the comprehensive spending review.

"It is surprisingly positive, there have been none of the horror stories that some people had been expecting, and business generally has been hectic," he said.

At the European Energy Forum, in London, October 19-21, it had been a similar story.

"Chris Huhne, secretary of state for energy and climate change, stressed that the new government was heavily committed to renewable energy," added Sam.

Positive noises were made about the UK wind sector at NEREC in Oslo on September 28-29, which has led to a visit to the UK by Mid-Norway Wind Energy. The Trondheim-based group visited THMA members BAe Systems and MTL in mid-October, which will be followed by a return visit to Norway in the new year.

Sam Pick was also in northern Germany for HUSUM WindEnergy 2010, the brokerage event for the wind energy sector, where Team Humber partnered with Enterprise Europe.

[See page eight for further show details](#)

## 'Portcentric' development is key

➔ The movement of freight using short sea, coastal and inland shipping came under the spotlight at a floating forum in Hull, held on the P&O ferry Pride of Rotterdam.

More than 170 delegates attended Freight by Water's third modal shift forum to hear about the development of sustainable transport solutions to road congestion and supply chain costs.

Peter Ward, executive director of the not-for-profit Freight by Water, said that further development of 'portcentric' logistics and 'nearporting' were key to the promotion of the Humber ports and to a reduction in the environmental impact of freight on the UK's roads.

Some of the presentations at the forum, held on October 19, demonstrated that, with the right levels of utilisation, the alternative maritime mode was not only greener, but also more economically viable.

There was also a call for greater collaboration in formulating logistics solutions between shippers, forwarders, logistics operators and manufacturers to encourage a shift to maritime transport.



Peter Baker, THMA sector champion for commercial shipping and inland waterways, pictured above, was optimistic about the role of the Humber ports.

"They can play an ever increasing role in handling more UK imports and exports to and from inland locations closer to the Humber than the current port of entry and exit, leading to shorter inland road hauls," he said.

The forum, following previous events in Liverpool and London, was sponsored by THMA member ABP, whose director for Goole and Hull, Matt Jukes, confirmed that the business was still keen to develop the Hull Riverside Bulk Terminal despite the decision by Dong Energy to withdraw plans for a wood-burning power station in the city.

## Myton helps Rix fix Finnish deal

➔ Myton Law has advised Rix Shipping Co on a multi-million pound contract for providing stevedoring and logistics services.

The long-term agreement will see Stora Enso Timber UK, part of the Finnish-Swedish Stora Enso company, use Rix Shipping's terminal at Alexandra Dock, Hull, as the main UK entry point for its timber products from Europe.

Rix will discharge the timber, provide storage and manage distribution throughout the UK.

# The wind factor

## New work from renewables sparks refurbishment

Backed by healthy demand in the offshore wind market, Grimsby Slipways has experienced a strong first six months of the year with the new work from the renewables sector bringing a refurbishment programme on its two slipways.

The company has catered for ongoing aluminium catamaran repair work for MPI Workboats and WindCat Workboats, serving North Sea wind farms, says Dave Johnson, director. This has included

repainting, pressure cleaning and damage repair.

"We have had a lot of regular work for the catamarans as their aluminium hulls are quite soft and they can receive dents from knocking up against the wind turbines," he explained.

But it's not just offshore wind that has been a success for Grimsby Slipways as it has also been dealing with seabed survey vessels, tugs and fishing boats.

Seabed survey work has come in from Briggs Marine, fishing boats have included the 12-metre salmon farmer, the Celtic Eagle, and the Jubilee Spirit, one of a fleet of six in the Jubilee Fishing Company.

"We are pretty busy booked ahead, with six vessels scheduled," added Dave.

"We have gutted one slipway including adding 24 new wheels and are looking to modify one of them for the offshore wind farm catamarans, which can be quite light and awkward to deal with."

Investing in the business: Directors David Johnson, left, and Barry Morrison of Grimsby Slipways



# Still number one

## Humber ports handle 76.9m tonnes of cargo in 2009

Despite an expected reduction in cargo imports and exports in 2009, the Humber ports have maintained their number one position as the UK's largest ports complex.

Last year, the Humber handled 76.9 million tonnes of cargo comprising 59.4m tonnes of imports and 17.5m tonnes of exports.

This ranks the Humber as 69 per cent larger than the Port of London, its closest competitor by tonnage, and twice the size of Teesport, the nearest competitor on the east coast.

The region's pre-eminence came despite a 15.7 per cent decrease in cargo compared with 2008. Although there was an annual decline of 14.3 million tonnes, provisional figures for the first half of 2010 show a modest cargo increase.

The figures from the Department for Transport indicate that the Humber ports of Grimsby, Goole, Hull and Immingham and the rivers Hull, Ouse

and Trent account for 22.6 percent of all tonnage passing through ports in England or 15.3 per cent of UK port throughput.

The Humber ports now handle 19.6 per cent of UK imports and 8.9 per cent of UK exports. This accounts for a fifth of all iron and steel products, a third of all coal and a quarter of all ores passing through UK ports.

Grimsby and Immingham jointly maintained their position as the UK's busiest cargo port, handling 54.7 million tonnes of cargo, including 12.6 million tonnes of coal, 12.5 million tonnes of oil products and 23.6 per cent of all motor

vehicles passing in and out of the UK.

Hull remains busy for cargo and passengers, handling 9.8 million tonnes of cargo and 1.1 million passenger journeys to and from Rotterdam and Zeebrugge.

John Fitzgerald, port director at ABP Grimsby & Immingham, said: "The Humber has incredible potential for growth over the coming years, particularly in the development of offshore wind and other renewable technologies.

"The ports have long been associated with supporting the energy market and our future will also be linked to this key sector."

## Leading UK ports by tonnage (millions) in 2009



## Jobs blowing in on the wind

➔ **Associated British Ports has submitted proposals to the Transport Select Committee of MPs for a wind turbine manufacturing base in Hull that would create thousands of jobs. ABP's Green Economy Gateway concept will be launched in December, and follows a visit by committee MPs to Hull on November 2.**

Matt Jukes, ABP Port Director Hull & Goole, with Louise Ellman MP, chair of the Transport Select Committee



Year one completed: The apprentices at Fabricom

## Young hands on board

Eight apprentices have successfully completed their first year at Fabricom's virtual training facility at Stallingborough.

The THMA member, part of the Gaz de France Suez Group, provides services to the oil, gas and power industries and currently employs 44 apprentices at its five UK locations, including Immingham.

The 2009-10 intake on the three-year apprenticeship scheme is training for a career in either pipe fitting, welding, electrical, plating and mechanical fitting.

The apprentices have gained hands-on experience within the safe virtual environment of Stallingborough's Centre for the Assessment of Technical Competence Humber (CATCH). In years two and three, the apprentices will work with mentors at other Fabricom facilities and project sites.

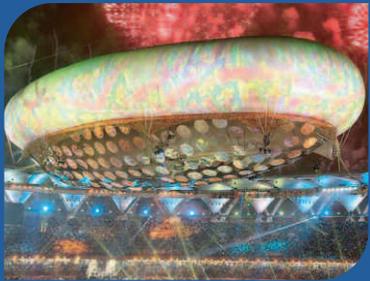
Nathan Phillips, a Fabricom apprentice pipe fitter from Grimsby, said: "I applied for the training programme because I wanted to have the skills for a career in the engineering construction industry.

"I am looking forward to the next stage of my training at the Immingham facility to start using what I have learned at CATCH."

The company's apprenticeship scheme, which started in 2000, has been developed in partnership with the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board.

➔ **Fabricom has been presented with an 'order of distinction' plaque from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. The order is awarded to companies that have achieved a minimum of 15 consecutive annual gold standard safety awards and Fabricom has now achieved the standard for the last 17 years.**





**Big balloon: Point work in Delhi**

## Up in the air

➔ A Hull THMA member helped engineer the successful and widely praised Commonwealth Games opening ceremony. Point Engineering manufactured parts that were used in the large balloon moored above the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. The job was for one of Point Engineering's biggest customers, which designs and builds big sets for ceremonies and concerts.

Jonathan Rollison, sales and finance director, said: "Our machining and welding capability and experience is ideal for the kind of work they do, and we are able to give customers confidence in our products and services."

"This was fantastic for us – just a small engineering company in Hull making some essential equipment for the Commonwealth Games and shipping it all the way to India."

The company also made parts for the Athens and Beijing Olympics, the Vancouver Winter Olympics, as well as numerous other arts and sports events.

# New tanker takes shape at Paull firm

## 'We've had 100 tonnes of steel to fabricate'

Paull-based THMA member Hepworth Shipyard has begun construction of a £3.5m, 1,000-tonne coastal tanker for its sister company Rix Shipping.

When completed at the end of 2011, the 53-metre long cruiser will bring to ten the number of ships in the Rix fleet.

"We've had about 100 tonnes of steel in to fabricate the two sets of cargo tanks," said Martin Stainton, Hepworth Shipyard's general manager.

"That has given us the base to start from and when we've completed that we'll move on to the engine room and then get the trades in for the rest of the ship, including accommodation and deckhouse."

Hepworth is a specialist builder, converter and repairer of small to medium-sized steel vessels, and a fully-owned subsidiary of JR Rix and Sons, employing 22 staff including two apprentices and three office staff.

The yard has also recently fitted out the Afon Las for the Holyhead Towing Company, to cope with harsh conditions in the Caspian Sea where temperatures can drop to -40C.

The Afon Las has joined the Caspian Sea fleet belonging to Holyhead

Towing's joint venture company, Caspinsky Buksir, based in Kazakhstan. She will work alongside eight other Hepworth-built tugs and multi-purpose vessels in the Kashagan oil field.

Another THMA member, North Sea Winches, supplied most of the deck machinery for the Afon Las including the main towing and anchor-handling winch, and is also to supply equipment for the new Rix coastal tanker.



**Metal work: the new Rix vessel takes shape**

# Cleaning up on oil spillages

➔ A small vessel that packs a big punch has been launched in the battle against pollution.

The nine-metre long aluminium, Envirocat Harbour, is set to tackle the problems of oil spills, floating timber and other debris in ports, sheltered coastal inlets and waterways. The multi-purpose catamaran can also be used for harbour surveys, diving, casualty rescue and fire fighting.

MMS Ship Repair of Hull designed and built the Harbour and has formed a subsidiary company called Envirocat to market this and larger sister vessels for use in coastal waters and at sea.



MMS managing director Rob Langton spotted the opportunity in a market that is set to grow as tighter regulations come into force to protect harbours and the marine environment.

Only the big oil spills make the headlines, but relatively small incidents are commonplace and the Envirocat family of anti-pollution boats will be well equipped to deal with them quickly and efficiently.

The prototype vessel, the Envirocat Harbour, collects oil and other liquid waste by means of

a skimming unit that feeds into five-ton capacity reception tanks.

Innovations include locating the MMS-designed propulsion unit centrally between the hulls to draw in floating debris and side rollers and heavy-duty fenders that allow the boat to operate alongside quayside walls.

The Harbour is fitted with a scoop, a crane and waste compactor containers for recycling materials such as plastic, glass and rope.

The Harbour is built for ease of use by a single operator and is transportable by road to where it is needed after purchase or on hire.

Two more boats, the 16m Envirocat Coast and 24m Envirocat Sea are also available, both meeting Lloyds and Maritime and Coastguard Agency standards.

The picture on the cover of this issue shows Rob Hicks, Humber ports manager, with the Envirocat Harbour.

# Neptune nightshift

## Tight deadline hit for energy trial

Point Engineering stepped into the breach, following an appeal from Neptune Renewable Energy for assistance with the second dock trials of its multi-million pound prototype tidal stream demonstrator Neptune Proteus NP1000.

Point's challenge was to complete a generator input shaft speed modification between lifting the unit out one Monday morning in mid-October and lifting it back in the following night, ready for trials on the Wednesday morning in Hull's Albert Dock.

This meant designing, building and painting four 7.5-metre, 1.2 tonne new bow extensions, which were then transported to the docks on a Point lorry. There was further work on Proteus's turbine and the flow diverters.

The whole task involved nearly all of Point's engineering departments, including design, fabrication, finishing, fitting, heavy lifting, project management, site installation and welding.

Jonathan Rollison, the Team Humber member's sales and finance director, said: "The amount of work, complexity,



**Against the clock: Point Engineering get to work at Hull's Albert Dock**



access and difficulty of the job was a serious concern for meeting the deadlines. However, despite some setbacks caused by mud and silt and seriously distorted steel on the hull, we managed to include some additional works requested and completed the job."

Point had also assisted on an earlier modification completed while the unit was in the water, which involved the machining and fitting departments. This was in response to a THMA request to all members to assist Neptune in a dock trials alteration.

In an encouraging sign of what's to come, Proteus subsequently managed tidal trial runs at between half a knot and two knots, assisted by another THMA member, SMS Towing.

Jack Hardisty, Neptune Renewable Energy's Technical Director said: "We are progressing to National Grid connected deployment in the Humber and confirm our plans for the production and deployment of a further five devices at the same site in the world's first tidal stream power array during 2011.

"I was extremely impressed by the way in which Point Engineering took on the design, fabrication and installation of the work on Proteus to a very tight timescale."

[www.neptunerenewableenergy.com](http://www.neptunerenewableenergy.com)

## New name same accreditation

➔ SC4 (UK) Ltd has maintained its ISO 9001:2008 accreditation after changing its name from Steel Centre 4, the British Standards Institute has ruled, following a visit to its Scunthorpe site.

## Seawise Masterplan the software option for Greenock site

➔ Software development company Seawise International Services has gone live with the first installation of its new real-time container vessel planning system.

The Masterplan 20 system has been specially customised for Peel Ports, part of the Manchester-based Peel Group, which introduced the product at its Greenock facility.

Chris Wise, director of Seawise, said: "We are now incorporating some additional features in preparation for the roll-out to Peel Ports' terminals in Belfast, Dublin and Medway ports. Our next project will be to develop our Masterplan 25 system to address the operational requirements for the short-sea trades operated by BG Freight Line, which is another Peel Group company."

Masterplan 20, a real-time version for medium-sized ports and terminals of its established Masterplan product, connects to computer systems used by vessel planners and terminal operators allowing instant port updates, including loading and discharging vessels.

Masterplan, first used commercially in 1982, has onboard loading instrument capability and can warn staff of improperly packed containers, dangerous combinations, poor segregation and provide advice on stowage requirements for hazardous materials.

Seawise, based at Sutton upon Derwent, East Yorkshire, creates applications for containerised terminals, ports, ships, barges and planning offices across the globe.

## Cosalt appointment

➔ Cosalt Wind Energy has appointed Adrian Macklin as operations manager.

Adrian will be responsible for developing the firm's growing team of wind turbine engineers. He joined Cosalt in 2003 as manager of the Grimsby branch.

To date, the business has hired 35 staff.



# Buoyant market

**'We understand the range and type of products our customers require,' says Cosalt's Nick Dennison**

Grimsby-based Alliance member Cosalt has won the supply contract for lifejackets and rope products on two new English Channel super ferries.

The specialist provider of critical safety equipment is to supply 2,998 Cosalt Premier 2010 lifejackets and about £75,000 worth of fibre rope products to P&O's Spirit of Britain and Spirit of France.

The order for a complete range of adult, child and infant lifejacket sizes was placed via the international shipbuilding group STX Europe, which is building the ships for P&O at its yard in Rauma, Finland.

The 49,000t, 213m-long Spirit of Britain is expected to be first in service,

in 2011, and will have capacity for 195 cars, 180 lorries and 1,750 passengers.

Cosalt's ground-breaking Premier 2010 lifejacket was one of the first inherently buoyant lifejackets to be approved to the more stringent Safety at Sea regulations, which came into force in July.

Cosalt will be supplying two 200m lengths of 64mm rope and equipping the ships with additional Dyneema back-up mooring ropes for use in bad weather.

"These ropes are as strong as wire rope," says Nick Dennison, Cosalt's sales director, who is upbeat about prospects in the cruise and ferry line sector.



**Upbeat about prospects: Nick Dennison**

"We understand the range and type of products our customers require and we enjoy excellent relationships with leading shipbuilders like STX Europe, which is helping us secure important contracts in the new build market."

The group has also secured a £30m contract to supply protective equipment to 12 fire and rescue services in the south-east.

➔ **Cosalt reported doubled interim pre-tax profits to £1m after refocusing on the oil, gas and marine industries. Sales in the six-months to May 2010 fell by £4.5m to £48.3m, reflecting caution in the UK oil and gas sector.**

## £100,000 funding for new access concepts

➔ The Carbon Trust is running a competition to encourage new concepts for improving access to offshore wind farms.

This includes methods of taking personnel and equipment to wind farms, safe transference to the turbines, and launch and recovery systems of vessels from mother ships.

Successful applicants will receive funding of up to £100,000 to support the design and development of their concept and the trust says that there is potentially several million pounds of funding to take concepts to full-scale demonstration.

The government-backed competition is part of the trust's offshore wind accelerator collaboration, which is looking to challenge the traditional approach to transferring personnel and equipment and drive down the cost of wind energy.

It says improved systems for operations and maintenance will become increasingly important as wind farms are developed further from shore in harsher sea conditions. The trust says that as many as 6,000 turbines will have to be constructed to meet the EU's 2020 targets and that by then offshore wind could be supplying a quarter of the UK's electricity requirements. Turbines will be huge, measuring 220m from the seabed to the tip of the blade, and some will be as far as 285km from the coast.

The competition is applicable to the planned round three offshore wind farm locations at Dogger Bank and Hornsea.

**Companies can submit designs until 5pm on November 26. See: [www.carbontrust.co.uk/access](http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/access) or call 0800 085 2005**



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## Valves across the world

➔ Shipham Valves has launched a promotional drive by attending three shows in Abu Dhabi, Germany and Singapore.

The Hull company is due to exhibit at Valve World Expo 2010, in Dusseldorf from November 30 to December 2, when technical director Ron Strang will speak on customer demand for quality and the emergence of epoxy resin composite valve products.

He will focus on what he sees as an increasingly strong trend in customer demand for quality products and materials. "Recent events in the Gulf of Mexico can only serve to emphasise this trend towards quality," said Mr Strang, who will also talk about the difficulties surrounding industry acceptance of epoxy resin composite valves.

"This will be a significant challenge, particularly as there are no material or valve standards in this area. The material is significantly different to the usual metallic materials and the demand for appropriate quality assurance is therefore difficult to satisfy."

Simultaneously, Shipham will exhibit at OSEA 2010 in Singapore, as part of the UK Pavilion after exhibiting at the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference from November 1 to 4 alongside local agent Mazrui Holdings.

## Metal works

➔ MTL has been at two leading international shows to promote its latest armour plating technology.

The THMA member exhibited at INDESEC 2010 in New Delhi, from September 6 to 10 and at AAD 2010 in Cape Town from September 20 to 25.

"We identified India and South Africa as key markets in which we can provide a high quality level of service while still being competitive," said Karl Stewart, sales director. MTL was promoting its lightweight IMPAS armour system as a cost-effective alternative to composite and add-on armour.

Mr Stewart added: "IMPAS is an innovative state of the art product which is suitable for both RHA and aluminium hulls. One of the benefits is that the level of protection can be quickly changed while in service, by replacing panel configurations, to meet various threat levels."

## Giving the industry a lift

➔ Towne Lifting and Testing is to show at LiftEx 2010, the only UK exhibition dedicated to lifting equipment, including cranes, automated systems and construction gear. The event, taking place at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry on November 18 and 19, is organised by the Lifting Equipment Engineers Association.

# Destination Stavanger for nearly 50,000

**'We held informal discussions with Navitas, a Norwegian network of around 500 businesses'**

ONS 2010 in Stavanger proved to be a happy hunting ground for THMA members.

ONS is one of the largest offshore oil and gas exhibitions in the world and this year attracted nearly 50,000 attendees from over 90 countries.

THMA members Broady Flow Control and Cosalt exhibited, while MTL attended as a visitor. Brian Bullock, THMA sector champion oil and gas, and Graham Billany, project manager, ensured the Alliance

had a presence at the show on an exhibition stand.

Brian said that the show, held from August 24 to 27, was a very good networking event not just for companies looking at the oil and gas sector, but also for renewables, in particular offshore wind.

"We held informal discussions with Navitas, a Norwegian business network alliance of around 500 businesses, and more formal discussions are planned to

explore how the two alliances can work together.

"MTL also established some other important contacts and has since visited Norway again, following up a number of opportunities," said Brian, who recommended that THMA members operating in the energy sector pencil the next ONS into their diaries.

"This is August 28-31, 2012, and for anyone keen to develop business in these sectors in Norway, it is a 'must visit' exhibition," added Brian.

➔ THMA is taking a stand at EWEC 2011, the wind energy conference and exhibition at Brussels Expo from March 14-17. Mary Green will be sending out information shortly, but to pre-register call her on 01482 485271 or email [admin@thma.co.uk](mailto:admin@thma.co.uk)



## THMA members in Glasgow

➔ Team Humber members were out in force at Renewables UK 2010 with ABP, Andrew Jackson Solicitors, Armstrong Hydraulics, Best Service, HETA, Marine Rescue Technologies, Mullion Manufacturing, Northern Divers, Point Engineering, and Teal and Mackrill all booked in for the Glasgow Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre from November 2 to 4.



**Team Humber**  
MARINE ALLIANCE

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