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MARINE TRADER

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## COUNTDOWN TO

# IMPA **2011**

## Exhibition & Conference

### MAKE A DATE FOR MARINE PURCHASING'S MAIN EVENT

Few if any marine purchasing and supply professionals will need reminding of the biggest date in their business diaries – September 14-15 for IMPA's annual exhibition and conference. *See page 22*

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## Solstad returns to the Rock

Norway's Solstad Offshore has returned to Gibdock for the conversion and drydocking of the 84m long, 4500 dwt platform support vessel Normand Vester following the Gibraltar yard's conversion work on Normand Trym and Normand Vibran last year.

The latest project includes modifications to prepare the vessel for a new role under a four-year charter to Petrobras of Brazil. This contract requires the vessel to be able to supply offshore units with 1600m<sup>3</sup> of potable water and 1600m<sup>3</sup> of fuel oil.

Fresh water capacity is being increased by converting two of the stability tanks from water ballast – with two wing tanks being converted to void spaces to maintain stability. Meanwhile eight mud tanks are being converted to increase fuel oil capacity.

Malcolm Rosie, technical director of Solstad Offshore UK, explains: "Gibdock was chosen as they offered a very positive attitude to the project, were in a good location en route to Brazil and offered competitive rates. The yard also delivered excellent results with the Vibran and Trym conversions in 2010."

Another Solstad ship, the 127m long 9500 dwt offshore construction vessel Normand Cutter, docked at Gibdock in April for its second class renewal after operating in West Africa. The yard also carried out thruster, crane and general repair work.

Gibdock commercial manager Richard Beards says: "These latest dockings underline the close partnership that has been built up between us and Solstad. They are a major quality player and we are honoured that they continue to have such confidence in us."



## Pet food stays green

**P&O Ferrymasters – the logistics solutions arm of P&O Ferries - has renewed its contract with trimodal Euroterminal Coevorden, located 200km north-east of Rotterdam, as first base for a container train service moving Procter & Gamble pet food across Europe.**

The latest one-year deal extends an agreement dating

back ten years. The terminal is next to the IAMS pet food plant and runs up to five shuttle trains per week taking the goods to Rotterdam for pan-European rail connections as well as deepsea and shortsea shipments.

P&O Ferrymasters intermodal director Wim Blomme says: "The new contract marks a highly

successful decade of running this dedicated rail service. More and more forward-thinking businesses with their fingers on the 'green' logistics pulse are switching from road transport to pioneering intermodal solutions that move their goods in a reliable, cost efficient and sustainable manner."

## Oiling the wheels

**Castrol Marine has renewed its membership of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology to boost joint efforts on recruitment and training.**

These include the Sea Your Future careers guide and Continuing Professional Development initiatives such as the Castrol Academy, a

comprehensive assessment tool to improve crew skills and knowledge levels. The 11 modules cover subjects ranging from ship types to used oil analysis and will now be available through IMaREST.

Jonathan Hutchinson, Castrol Marine global marine marketing manager, says: "We are delighted to

renew our relationship with one of the world's leading societies for marine professionals. Together, we will continue to provide the highest levels of training standards at a crucial time for the maritime industries as they emerge from recession and look to expand."

## Hempel expands in India

**Coatings manufacturer Hempel has expanded its operations in India by opening a new manufacturing plant in Nashik, Maharashtra.**

The state-of-the-art factory covers 1500m<sup>2</sup> under one roof and will produce 1.5 million litres per year on a one-shift basis. If required, a two-shift operation can raise production capacity

to 2.4m litres.

"We are excited to expand our presence in the Indian subcontinent and supply not only India but also Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Maldives and Nepal," says CFO Kim Junge Andersen. "We've had very positive experiences with our organisation in India and the new plant will significantly boost our

ability to serve our growing customer base in this region."

South Asia director Umesh Singh adds: "The expansion will fast-track our growth in the region, where our goal is to double our 2010 turnover to above EUR18m by 2013 and triple it to more than EUR25m by the end of 2015."